



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

December 2017
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Message from Dr Craig Mostert

Welcome to our December edition. In this newsletter we share stories that our clients send us, we update you with news and information that you may find useful in caring for your pets, we write about the things we have in common and the animals that we love and care for.

For my contribution to this edition, I'd like to take the time to talk exclusively about people. You see, people think that vets and veterinary practices are about pets, and of course that is true, but people bring the pets in, and it is people that treat the pets. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both these groups. To our Village clients, thank you for choosing us. We aim to practice the best medicine that we can, with care and compassion. We are so grateful to partner with dedicated owners who have become family and because of our shared interest, the pets we love and care for benefit.

To our amazing team, thank you for going the extra mile, every day. Our kennel staff, admin staff, front desk staff, nursing sisters and our veterinary surgeons do their very best every single day. No matter what role a team member plays, they are all important. Our continued growth and success is not in the hands of one personality but in the collective strengths and contributions made by every person here.

So as this year draws to a close, and we cast our eyes towards 2018 thank you all for whatever role you play in "Team Village". You are important and valued. The 'something special about Village' is the people and the relationships that have developed around caring for the animals that we hold so dear.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year everyone and may 2018 be kind to us all.

Dr Craig Mostert

THE GREATEST GIFT YOU
CAN GIVE SOMEONE
IS YOUR
TIME.
BECAUSE WHEN YOU
GIVE YOUR TIME,
YOU ARE GIVING A
PORTION OF YOUR LIFE
THAT YOU WILL NEVER
GET BACK.



**The Vets and Staff of
Village Veterinary Clinic
would like to wish
everyone a
happy festive season and
to thank you for your
support during
2017**



We are once again making up our special Christmas packs for dogs and cats - filled with chews, treats and toys. The packs come in different sizes to suit cats and small to large dogs. They range in price from approximately R90 to R130.

It's a great idea, especially if you have young children. They love the chance to hand out gifts to your pets.

If you are interested, please phone your order in to reception on 031 764 0588 or come into our shop and view our range of Christmas toys.

Nitros survives emergency surgery

I had the privilege of meeting Nitros and her sister, Pippa in July 2017 at their first puppy check-up and vaccination. They were 8 weeks old, the size and weight of a 1kg bag of sugar and just as sweet. They were generous giving kisses and loved getting cuddles. They filled the waiting room with happiness and smiles.

At the age of 19 weeks and weighing 2,9kg Nitros came to see me looking very sorry for herself. She was very lethargic in contrast to her sister Pippa who was still bright, cheerful and wriggly. Nitros had gradually gone off her food. She had started vomiting and passing bloody diarrhoea. My first concern was that she might have Parvo Virus. This is a very serious, debilitating disease that all puppies are susceptible to. It is one of the important viruses that we vaccinate against in the 5 in 1 vaccine. Puppies are only fully protected from this virus after three boosters. I tested a sample of her stool using a Parvo Snap Test. This is a 10-minute in-house test that can detect the parvo virus in the stool. Her test was fortunately negative for the Parvo Virus. Further examination of her stool ruled out internal parasites but confirmed an overgrowth of 'bad' bacteria. Dogs have a balance between 'good' and 'bad' intestinal flora in their guts. The aim is for the 'good' bacteria to outcompete the 'bad' bacteria. Sometimes the 'bad' bacteria numbers increase too much and this causes inflammation in the gut, vomiting and diarrhoea. This is commonly caused when dogs eat something that doesn't agree with them, like something strange in the garden. This is common in puppies that are exploring their new environments and using their mouths like a fifth hand to check things out. Creepy crawlies, stagnant water and smelly things are usually very tempting but not always good for their tummies.



Nitros bravely stayed overnight in hospital. She was given a drip of intravenous fluids because she was dehydrated and very flat. Small puppies are very prone to dehydration and low blood sugar when they continue to vomit and have diarrhoea. She was also given anti-nausea medication and antibiotics. The next morning, she was her barky, bright happy self again and was able to go home.

A week later Nitros was back with Pippa for her final puppy check and vaccination. Although her diarrhoea had cleared up, she was not putting on weight or sizing up to her sister. She still weighed 2,9 kg whereas her sister weighed a generous 3.5kg. During her clinical exam I had a good feel of her tummy. I felt something abnormally firm and sausage shaped inside her stomach or intestines.



After an x-ray and abdominal ultrasound, I confirmed that Nitros had an intussusception. This is a rare complication after an episode of gastroenteritis. The ultrasound image looked both beautiful and terrifying because I knew the implications of this diagnosis. An intussusception is when a section of the intestines telescopes into itself. This can cause a blockage preventing food from passing through. It also compresses the blood supply to that section of intestine putting that tissue at risk of dying off.

Tiny little Nitros had to have emergency abdominal surgery to remove the area of telescoping guts. This was quite a challenge for her young, little system but she recovered very well after surgery. We kept her in hospital for a few days to monitor her and give her special feeding while she healed. When she was eating well and passing normal stool she was able to go home to be reunited with her family and sister.

We were secretly sad and reluctant to send Nitros home. The village vet team have become very fond of her, sneaking visits and cuddles with her during the day while she was in hospital with us.

We were very happy to see Nitros and Pippa again in November when they came for their spay surgery. Nitros weighed a 'whopping' 3.7kg and well on her way to catching up to her sister, Pippa. We all made sure we got our dose of puppy love and cuddles from Nitros and Pippa before they were discharged that afternoon.

Written by Dr Anuschka Smith

What is spaying and neutering and is it necessary?

Spaying and neutering is the surgical removal of reproductive organs of dogs or cats.

It is necessary because every year thousands of unwanted dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens are needlessly destroyed. The good news is that every pet owner can make a difference. By having your dog or cat surgically sterilised, you will do your part to prevent the birth of unwanted puppies and kittens and you will enhance your pet's health and quality of life.

Both operations lead to improved long-term health, prevent unwanted litters and eliminate many behavioural problems associated with the mating instinct. A dog or cat can be surgically sterilised at almost any age.

The procedure has no effect on a pet's ability to learn, play, work or hunt and will not make your pet fat.



Five of the newest Cat Breeds

American Curl

These beautiful cats sport an interesting trait – their ears curl backwards! American Curl kittens are born with straight ears, which begin to curl within forty-eight hours. After four months, their ears will not curl any longer, and should be hard and stiff to the touch at the base of the ear with flexible tips. The breed originated in Lakewood, California, as the result of a spontaneous mutation in 1981.



Cheetoh Cat

The United Feline Organization gave recognition to this breed in November, 2004. The Cheetoh cat was developed by crossing the Bengal Cat and the Ocicat, producing a distinctive spotted coat. The Cheetoh is a very muscular cat that is athletic, graceful and lithe. This cat will have the stalking, low-shouldered walk that is common both in the Ocicat and the wild jungle cats, but is not typically exhibited in other domestic cats.



LaPerm

The name certainly suits the cat! LaPerms look just as their name suggest – like they've had a perm! These curly-coated felines all go back to a single kitten born in 1982 out of a regular barn-cat litter, which sported the mutation for a soft, wavy coat. Born with either short hair that turns curly, or with no hair that soon grows in, LaPerms certainly offer a unique look.



Minskin

The Minskin is a very interesting breed for a number of reasons. Not only does he sport no fur, he's also a dwarf cat with Siamese markings! Developed in 1998 in Boston, Massachusetts, it was created using Munchkins for their short legs and Sphynx for their hairless characteristics.



Peterbald

The Peterbald is a Russian breed developed in St. Petersburg in 1994. It was an experimental mix between a Donsky and an Oriental Shorthair, which produced the four kittens that founded the breed. Peterbalds can be bald, or have flocked, velour, brush or straight coats.



Keep your pets safe during the festive season

- ◆ Beware of giving bones to your dogs as they can cause blockages in the digestive tract and often splinter into small pieces that can cut or rupture the lining of the intestines. This also applies to sosliti sticks as they can be swallowed whole which will result in surgery to remove them.
- ◆ Keep electrical cords, Christmas tree lights, etc. out of the way of puppies and kittens. Chewing on lights and cords will cause electric shocks and burns in the mouth.
- ◆ Don't give chocolate to your pets - it is extremely toxic to them.
- ◆ Don't leave your pets in a hot car when shopping - the temperature rising inside the car can be deadly to your pet.
- ◆ Keep your gates closed at all times to prevent your pets from straying into the road.
- ◆ Pets should have some form of identification, either i.d. tags on their collars or better still microchips. The SPCA and most veterinary clinics have microchip scanners to enable them to identify your pet and return it home safely.

Tips for travelling with your pet

Have you ever considered that your beloved family pet could suffer the same fate as an unrestrained child in a car accident? During emergency braking or a collision, an object is accelerated up to 30 times. So a 10kg pet effectively becomes 300 kgs on impact.

- NEVER keep your pet in your lap or on the front seat. Put your pet in a well-ventilated crate or carrier, or secure them to a seatbelt attached to their harness.
- Plan plenty of stops for walks, food and water.
- When travelling long distances, pack your pet's leash, food and water bowl, plastic bags for waste, medication, vaccination records and a favourite toy for a sense of familiarity.



AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Highway After hours 084 520 1417

Sherwood Emergency 031 207 1300

 Find us on Facebook





Christmas Tree Maze



The rules for different size and shape puzzles are pretty much identical: each row, column and group of squares enclosed by the bold lines (also called a box), must contain each number only once. In some cases the boxes are not simple squares.

8	2					4	6
				9			3
	7				5	1	
				8	3		5
	4						6
5		8		3			
	3	2					5
7			6				
4	6					3	1

1	2				3	8	
		6	9	8	2		
		8		1	7	6	9
	3	4			1		
	5						2
			6			1	3
	8	9	2	6		5	
			1	5	8	2	
	1	5				8	6

Santa Word Search

XURSCCTXBOJIWWIY
 SOWXHOQTOCNFFIQ
 LWKTIYMTQOASFQDQ
 RFFBMSAQAIUCYZB
 VEKYNRSRHSOHLK
 KYIVEXLIULGQQCC
 THCNUEELUGISKI
 MDCEDSKEDXHEEZN
 JOLLYEBUGCVEOLT
 FUOJDHEHPLODURS
 ZEUCGTDRENKOWXQ
 WFIIGQJZGEHWCMD
 DXELOYPJHIWKXZY
 NLNORTHPOLEOSLZ
 STYRVUDMQAWKUZA

- Chimney
- Elves
- Fairies
- Jolly
- North Pole
- Reindeer
- Rudolph
- Sled
- Sleigh
- Sleigh Bells
- St. Nick
- Toys

