



# VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

February 2018  
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## Message from Dr Craig Mostert

Welcome to our February newsletter. We trust that your new year is off to a great start and for those of you that welcomed new additions to your pet family, that they have adjusted and are settling in well.

February is one of our hottest months and a time when we see cases of heat distress in animals. For those that are away from their pets during the day, please make sure there are multiple bowls of fresh water in shady areas that they can access.

February is also the month that there is a lot of chocolate in circulation. By now I'm sure that you all know chocolate is toxic to pets. Please make sure that children and anyone else that may be tempted to "share" chocolate with your pets, know that it is not safe to do so.

Rabies is in the news once again. KZN has a high incidence of rabies and for this reason pet owners are urged to vaccinate annually. Please speak to us if you are unsure about anything. If your pet has not been vaccinated for rabies within the last 12 months, please make an appointment to do so.

That's it from me, we look forward to seeing you online on our Facebook page, or in person soon.

Dr Craig Mostert

## HILLS FOODIE BIN PROMOTION



**FREE large Goodie Foodie Bin** when you buy 2 Hill's Canine bags between 9.5kg and 13.6kg

**FREE small Goodie Foodie Bin** when you buy 2 Science Plan or Ideal Balance Canine Mini bags between 1.8kg and 3kg, OR

Buy 2 Prescription Diet Canine small bags between 1.5kg and 4kg, OR

Buy 2 Hill's Feline bags between 2.7kg and 6.8kg

## RABIES ALERT

There has been an increase in confirmed rabies cases in the Upper Highway area and we have had one case at the clinic.



A stray dog picked up in Old Main Road, Everton, last week was brought into the clinic for treatment. Due to the fact that it had bitten two of the ladies trying to capture it, and was showing very aggressive behaviour, the

decision was made to euthanase the dog. The lab report confirmed rabies. All our staff have had their rabies injections and boosters but because of the seriousness of the disease, the five staff members who had been in contact with the dog, each had to have two more rabies injections.

Rabies is a deadly viral disease that is spread via the saliva of an infected animal. It causes inflammation in the brain in humans and other mammals. The virus is transmitted to humans most often from infected domestic pets. The exposure may include bites, but it is important to note that small cuts that break the skin or even licks to the eyes, nose and mouth are regarded as exposure.

Rabies is a progressive disease and once a person starts developing symptoms it usually takes no more than two weeks for them to slip into a coma and die. People and animals endure an agonising death.

It is very disturbing to us that so many of our clients do not have their pets vaccinated for rabies on a yearly basis. Just because your pet does not leave your property does not mean they are not going to be exposed to rabies. Stray dogs roam suburban streets at night and fight with dogs through fences or gates. The dog that is bitten by the rabid dog then turns on the family, usually the children as they are the smallest.

We urge you not to put yourself or your family's lives at risk. Make sure your pets are up to date with their rabies vaccinations.

KZN has the highest prevalence of the disease in South Africa and it is a legal requirement to have your pets vaccinated against rabies on a yearly basis.



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## Meet our new vet - Dr Tony Zugravii



Dr Tony Zugravii joined the Village Veterinary team in January 2018.

He qualified in 1996 and started his veterinary career as a large animal veterinarian in Chishinau, the capital city of Moldova (a small country in Eastern Europe).

Since his student years his special interest was bovine reproduction and embryo transfer. He spent five years in the field and participated in a number of

scientific conferences and training courses in Europe and the USA. After a number of years in the large animal reproduction field, he realised that the career had become too scientific and too far removed from clinical veterinary work.

In 2001 Dr Zugravii joined a small animal emergency clinic and found this type of veterinary medicine much more rewarding.

He moved to South Africa in 2003, and after passing the South African veterinary council registration examination in 2004. practiced in the Johannesburg area.

In 2009 he married his wife Arina, who is also a veterinarian. They have a 6 year old son, Arseni, 2 dogs and an African Grey parrot.

Dr Zugravii travelled extensively through South Africa and fell in love with the coastal part of KZN, so when the opportunity arose to move to the sea, he and his family moved to Durban in 2016.

### AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Highway After hours 084 520 1417

Sherwood Emergency 031 207 1300

## Ear problems in dogs

Dog ears: Deep, dark, moist and twisty. They are a perfect breeding ground for various nasties. Many breeds have hair growing in their ears, trapping debris and promoting health issues. Regular cleaning keeps your pup's ears healthy and problem-free.

Numerous things can work their way deep into your pup's ears and cause problems, including bacteria, ear mites, tiny seeds and grass bits he collects as he plays in the yard. If your dog's ears are bothering him, you'll notice him whimpering, scratching and shaking his head in an attempt to alleviate the discomfort.



Although all dog breeds are susceptible to ear infections, those with floppy ears are more likely than their shorter-eared counterparts. Moisture is a necessary ingredient for many infections, and the floppy ears on some breeds prevent proper air circulation. No circulation means no evaporation, and the moisture trapped in the ear provides the perfect breeding ground for yeast and bacteria growth.

Even though cleaning is a necessary inconvenience, dogs generally don't like to have their ears cleaned.



Starting while he's young helps your pup learn to tolerate it. Use cotton balls and a veterinary ear cleaner once a week to wipe any dirt or excess wax out of your pup's

ear. Do not use cotton buds, as they can push wax and foreign debris further into his ear, not to mention that one wrong move by either of you can injure his eardrum.

If the idea of poking around in your pup's ears makes you uncomfortable, see your vet for a lesson in ear cleaning. They can show you how to do it properly without hurting your dog.

## Pets die when left in hot cars



On a 25°C day, the inside of a car will heat up to 50°C in minutes **even with the windows open.**

When parked in the shade on a warm day, animals can succumb to heatstroke or death if left in the car unattended. Sadly, it happens every year.

Dogs are particularly at risk as they cool themselves by panting. If the air around them is too hot, particularly if they do not have access to water, dogs are physically unable to regulate their body temperature. In the time it takes to pick up a few things for dinner at the supermarket and get through the check-out, a dog left in a hot car could have already died an agonising death.

**PLEASE PROTECT YOUR PETS THIS SUMMER, DO NOT LEAVE THEM IN THE CAR, EVEN FOR A MINUTE!**

## Breed Specific - The French Bulldog

Bat-eared but oddly beautiful, the French Bulldog has a unique appeal. Aesthetically, other breeds undeniably are more glamorous and showy, but beauty is in the eye of the beholder and what many behold in the French Bulldog are the attributes that make this breed one of the best companion dogs in the world today.

The French Bulldog is small but substantial in build with a powerful muscular body. He sports a short easy-care coat to accompany his easy going personality. The Frenchie likes to play, but he also enjoys spending his days relaxing on the sofa. That love of play and relaxed attitude carry over into their training sessions. French Bulldogs are intelligent, and training them is easy as long as you make it seem like a game and keep it fun. They are free-thinkers so are not an ideal breed for competing in obedience or agility although some have risen to the challenge. This free thinking approach can also lead to a stubborn nature, and if they decide to dig in their heels there is no budging them.

Frenchies are loving companions who thrive on human contact. If you want an outdoor dog who can be left alone for



long periods, the Frenchie is not the breed for you. This is a dog who enjoys lavishing love on his human companions as much as he loves the same treatment in return. They generally get along well with everyone, including children. They can, however, be territorial and possessive of their people, especially in the

presence of other dogs. Socialization is a must for this breed, but with their easy companionship this is an enjoyable task.

With a nature that is both humorous and mischievous, the French Bulldog needs to live with someone who is consistent, firm, and patient with all the antics and idiosyncrasies that make him both frustrating and delightful. French Bulldogs make excellent watchdogs and will alert their people to approaching strangers, but it's not their style to bark without cause. They can be protective of their home and family and some will try to defend both with their life. French Bulldogs do not need a lot of room and do very well in apartments or small dwellings. A couple of 15-minute walks per day should keep them from becoming overweight.

Keep the Frenchie in cool, comfortable surroundings. He's susceptible to heat exhaustion and needs an air-conditioned environment. This is not a dog who can stay outside on a hot day.

French Bulldogs are wonderful companion dogs with a gentle nature. If you work at home, the Frenchie is happy to lie at your feet all day or follow you from room to room. People who love them describe them as mischievous goof balls and can't imagine life without them. They are a constant presence, and they'll love you with all the strength in their small bodies, proving time and again that beauty is on the inside.



## How to make the most of your bird's visit to the vet

1. Always bring your bird to the vet in a portable cage or travel box and not on your shoulder. There are usually other animals in the waiting room and barking dogs may give the bird a fright causing it to flap and fall or fly away.

2. Bring your own clean towel for handling your bird. This should preferably be a towel that the bird is used to being wrapped and cuddled in at home to reduce stress.

3. Do not clean the cage as the vet will most likely need to collect a stool sample as part of the examination.

4. Bring a list of what our bird eats on a regular basis. Diet plays a large role in avian medicine and this may give the vet extra valuable information.



Birds, unlike humans and other animals, are experts at hiding symptoms of illness. They pretend to be fine until it is often too late to treat them successfully.

Any change in your bird's behaviour could signify illness. A bird that fluffs up its feathers and is more quiet than normal, may be very ill. Most diseases from gastro-enteritis, respiratory infection to liver disease will present in the same way. For this reason the vet will probably want to keep the bird in hospital for observation, monitoring and running tests.



## Jungle Animals Word Search



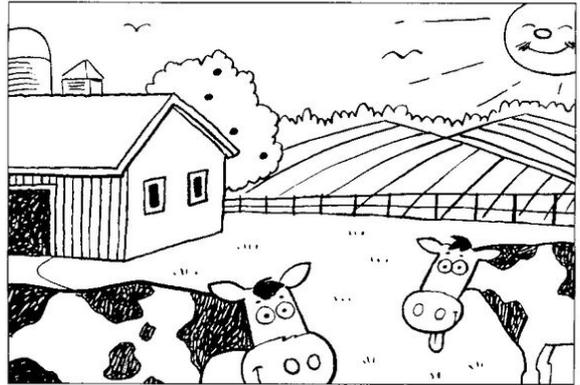
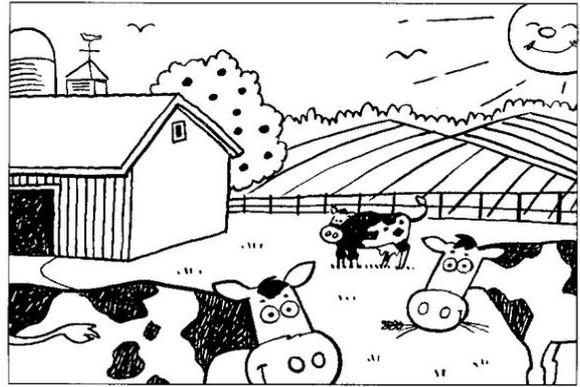
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 Y B R A C K C C I P  
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 W P Q J L O T E F G  
 T P Z W D T B W F E  
 F D C U Y R Z O N R  
 G O R F A Q N M F H



- crocodile
- elephant
- frog
- giraffe
- lion
- monkey
- snake
- tiger
- toucan
- turtle
- zebra

## What's Different?

Find 8 things that are different in the second picture.



## Animal Crossword

1. Rabbit  
 2. Snake  
 3. Parrot  
 4. Dog  
 5. Cat  
 6. Goat  
 7. Fish  
 8. Cow  
 9. Horse  
 10. Mouse  
 11. Sheep

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6	8		4	5				
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