



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

January 2019

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Letter from Dr Mostert

Happy New Year! We hope your New Year was a happy and peaceful one and we hope that 2019 is kind to us all.

This year looks set to be a tumultuous one all around the globe and so we hope that, come what may, we can meet it with a positive spirit. We would like to welcome all our new clients to Village and for those that have moved here from further afield welcome to the neighbourhood, we hope you and your pets feel at home as soon as possible.

For our long time Village clients thank you all for your support, friendship and encouragement. It is appreciated. So this is it folks, 2019 is upon us, we wish you a fabulous year from our family to yours, let's make it a great one!

See you soon

Warm regards,

Dr Craig Mostert

 Find us on
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To book an appointment to pamper your pet and get their coat in tip-top condition phone Daphne on:

031 655 1252 or 079 626 6927



Happy New Year from the Village Team!

We hope that your festive season was a safe and happy one and that your year is off to a good start

Staff News - Goodbye Vicky

It is with regret and sadness that we say goodbye to Vicky Matthews who is leaving us at the end of this month. Vicky and her family are emigrating to Ireland and will be settling in Cork.

Many of you will know Vicky as she has been working at our reception for 12½ years. She has been an integral part of our Village "family" and will be sorely missed by the team. Her "Lets Learn" Puppy School will also be closing but puppy training will still continue with "Edu pup" which is run by our new receptionist, Janine Joubert.

We wish Vicky, Rene and James the very best of luck and happiness in their new life.



Thank you so much to the many clients that brought gifts for the staff over the Christmas period.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the delicious sweets, biscuits, cakes, chocolates, mince pies, etc., which we consumed over the festive season.

Thank you for supporting us during 2018. We are truly blessed to have such awesome clients.



Foreign body ingestion can threaten your pet's life

Dogs are naturally curious, but sometimes their curiosity gets the best of them. This is especially true for dogs with mouths like vacuum cleaners – they tend to eat a lot of strange things. As connoisseurs of life, many dogs don't hesitate to sample all sorts of objects from toilet paper to rocks, shoes to sticks, clothing, and even garbage. While many of these things somehow pass through the intestinal tract without incident, sometimes a dog's appetite for life can cause problems.

If you know your dog has ingested something he or she shouldn't have, call your veterinarian immediately.

Causes and Symptoms

When something is ingested by your dog, it usually takes between 10-24 hours to move through the entire digestive tract. Some objects, however, can take much longer – even months!

Sometimes, objects are too big to progress through the digestive tract, and when this is the case, they cause an obstruction. If the foreign body has made it to the colon, it's likely to pass, however, there's still the possibility that it will be painful, especially if it is sharp (like a stick). In cases like this, you might need veterinary assistance. It is important to follow this rule: never pull a foreign object that is protruding from your pet's rectum! If still lodged inside, this can cause damage to the internal tissues.



If you happen to watch half of a football disappear down your dog's gullet, watch for these common symptoms to determine whether you need to seek veterinary attention:

- Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal tenderness or pain
- Lack of appetite; anorexia
- Straining to defecate; constipation
- Lethargy
- Behavioural changes such as biting or growling when picked up

Treatment

If your dog did eat a foreign body – stick, rock, or shoe – there are a few possible treatment options depending on the condition of your dog.

- x-rays will be used to confirm the diagnosis.
- If the foreign body is still in the stomach your vet could induce vomiting to allow the dog to rid itself of the object.
- An endoscope could be used which is inserted through the mouth and used to pull the object from the stomach.
- If the object has made it to the intestine, then surgery is imminent. Time is of the essence because blockage in the intestine or stomach can cut blood supply to the stomach and intestinal tissue. After a few hours it is possible for the tissue to become necrotic or die. This can be very dangerous to your dog's recovery.

Hills
Puppy School

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PUPPY SCHOOL
FOR YOUR BEST FRIEND'S AGONY

WE OFFER THE FOLLOWING:

6 week Course on
- Puppy Socialising
- Basic Obedience

Owner Education on
- Puppy Health
- Puppy Behaviour

TO GIVE YOUR PUP
A GREAT START

Janine Joubert
084 514 8370
for more info

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Healthy Pet Club A simple and affordable way to budget for your pet care!

Join our in-house Healthy Pet Club scheme that allows you to pay monthly for set treatments plus qualifies you for a 10% discount on all professional fees.

A fixed monthly payment by debit order covers your pets for the following:

- Annual vaccination and health check
- Second health check
- A year's supply of deworming dispensed quarterly
- A year's supply of flea, tick and mite control dispensed quarterly
- Packs prepared for you on a quarterly basis - all you need to do is collect them

Our Healthy Pet Club is proving to be very popular and we would like to encourage our clients to join up —there are no strings attached!!



Breed Specific - The LaPerm

When a brown tabby barn cat named Speedy produced a litter of kittens in The Dalles, Oregon, in 1982, one of them was bald, with tabby markings on her skin, and big ears that were spaced wide apart. She looked like a little alien from outer space. When her coat began to develop, she looked even more different: it was curly. And that was the name she was given by owner Linda Koehl. Curly eventually produced her own kittens by various males in the area, including a Siamese and a Manx. All of her kittens shared their mother's curly coat, the result of a dominant mutation.



Eventually, status as a breed was sought for the curly-coated cats. They were given the name LaPerm. and achieved recognition from The International Cat Association in 2002.

The clever LaPerm has a sense of humour. Often described as clownish, he is something of a mischief-maker who makes talented use of his paws to open doors, swipe things he wants or tap you on the shoulder for attention. He's not clingy, but he likes to be with you and will follow you around, sit on your shoulder or the top of your computer, or sit in your lap, whichever option is most convenient for him. He



is moderately active and enjoys retrieving items that are thrown for him.

Despite his reputation for getting into things, the LaPerm is pleasant to live with. He rarely uses his voice, and he is affectionate, gentle and patient with his people. Most are also welcoming to visitors as long as they were well socialized as kittens.

The LaPerm's coat is their outstanding feature, which has loose, bouncy curls making it light and airy to the touch. The coat is easy to care for and usually doesn't mat or tangle if it is combed or brushed one to three times a week. To keep the cat looking his curly best, mist the coat with a little water or fluff it with damp hands to set the curls. The coat sheds little, and shedding is further reduced with regular brushing. If you give the LaPerm a bath, press a towel against the coat to soak up moisture and then let him air dry in a warm, draft-free spot. Using a blow dryer will give him a bad case of the frizzies.



Mites and your pets

Parasitic mites can be introduced into the home environment in numerous ways. A vacated bird's nest is just one scenario.

The family cat could bring home an infested bird or rodent. Used furniture, carpeting, and clothing can also be a harbinger of mites.

Bird mites tend to wander away from a vacated birds nest in late spring and early summer, looking for a new appropriate host. To avoid being the host to unwanted bird mite guests, trim overhanging tree limbs and branches in spring. Also, trim shrubs and over-growth near windows. Use screening to cover chimneys, broken eaves and other places where birds can build nests on the home. When picking up stray injured birds always wear protective gloves or a cloth that can be discarded afterwards.



Mites are tiny eight-legged arthropods. The most common types of mites, which could affect your feathered friend, are scaly-faced mites, air sac mites, feather mites and red mites. Some of these mites remain on your bird, feeding on her blood, whilst others such as the red mite only feed on your bird at night, running off and hiding in crevices around your home during the day. Mites can cause a variety of health conditions for your bird, including itchiness, scaly lesions, anaemia, feather damage and trouble breathing.

If you are concerned that your bird may be suffering from these nasty little parasites, bring it to the Vet for immediate treatment.

Interesting facts about parrots

1. Parrots are members of the order Psittaciformes which includes over 350 bird species
2. There are many types of parrots but they all have a few things in common, such as a curved beak and zygodactyl feet (four toes on each foot, two of which point forward and two backwards)
3. Males and females of most parrot species look exactly alike. An exception is the eclectus parrot, the males are vivid emerald green and the females are crimson and royal blue.
4. A third of the World's population of parrots are endangered.
5. The largest parrot species can weigh as much as a house cat.
6. Parrot feathers contain natural antibacterial agents. The brilliantly coloured feathers on parrots come equipped with a bacteria-resistant pigment called Psittacofulvins. It's a pigment only parrots produce and it gives feathers their colourful hues.
5. Many parrots are long-lived. Macaws and cockatoos typically live from 35 to 50 years.
6. Many species of parrots mate for life and the mated pair work as a team to raise their young.

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Highway After hours 084 520 1417

Westville Veterinary Hospital after hours 031 267 8000

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CHICKEN
COW
DONKEY
GOAT
HORSE

PIG
RABBIT
SHEEP
TURKEY

