



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

March 2018
2 St Mary's Road, Kloof, 3610
Tel: 031 764 0588
Website: www.villagevet.co.za

Message from Dr Craig Mostert

Welcome to our March Newsletter.

March marks the start of Autumn and those who enjoy the cooler temperatures it brings are breathing a sigh of relief.

There will no doubt still be a few scorches coming up, so please watch your pets, dogs especially, for signs of heat distress.

We still see ticks and fleas at this time of year, but thankfully, due to long acting tick and flea control this is becoming less common.

For those that have older pets, this is a good time to get their teeth and general health checked out. Bacteria in the mouth that gets into the blood stream via compromised gum tissue can cause serious health issues that you may not at first connect to poor dental health.

Cooler temperatures also make getting around more difficult for those with mobility issues. If any of these concerns are relevant to your pet, you are welcome to bring them in and we can see how best to keep them comfortable.

Before I end off I'd like to welcome all the newcomers to our practice. We are delighted to meet you and your pets and look forward to working together with you to make sure that your pets live the best quality life possible so that you can enjoy many years together. Please go ahead and 'like' our Facebook Page if you haven't already so you can keep up to date with us there.

To all our existing clients, thank you as always for your support. It is much appreciated. Have a fabulous March everyone and see you soon.

Dr Craig Mostert
Practice Principal



Take care of your pet's kidneys



Have you ever watched your pet eat its meal and thought, "Wow, did they even taste it?" Though some pets require more energy than others, it is important to know your pet's normal eating and drinking habits so you are more likely to detect any dietary abnormalities. Being familiar with your pet's standard schedule of urination and defecation is also important, as any continuous irregular activity could be a sign of an illness.

One of the most common ailments in dogs and cats is kidney (renal) disease, a broad term that applies to any disease process that leaves the kidneys unable to effectively filter toxins out of the blood and maintain water balance in the body. In acute kidney disease, signs can occur quickly and can be very severe, while chronic renal issues include non-specific signs and the disease develops slowly.

Common signs to look out for are:

- Excessive thirst
- Decreased appetite
- Weight loss
- Vomiting
- Increased urination
- Pale mucus membranes
- Breath smelling of ammonia



If you notice your older pet drinking more water than usual, please seek veterinary help rather than waiting for your pet to collapse.



Find us on:
facebook®

Easter trading hours

Easter 2018 falls at the end of this month - our trading hours over the holiday period are as follows:

Good Friday 30 March - closed

Easter Saturday 31 March - OPEN 8.30am - 12pm

Easter Sunday 1 April & Family Day 2 April - closed

In case of emergency phone: Hillcrest Afterhours 084 520 1417 or Sherwood Emergency 031 207 1300

Listeriosis and your pets; the lowdown

Hill's Pet Nutrition South Africa addresses pet parents' Listeriosis concerns

The latest nationwide Listeria outbreak has naturally got pet parents concerned about what they should and shouldn't be feeding their pets. Listeriosis is a serious but treatable disease caused by *Listeria monocytogenes*, which is widely distributed in nature and can be found in soil, water, and vegetation. "Risks of infection in pets, while possible, is less likely. Pets with underlying disease conditions, weakened immune systems and those who are older are at an increased risk," explains Dr. Guy Fyvie, Nutritional Advisor at Hill's Pet Nutrition, South Africa.

Discussing raw food diets vs prepared food choices, is a bit like discussing politics or religion at a dinner party, but when it comes to Listeriosis you need to know the facts. The American Veterinary Medical Association and the American Animal Hospital Association, as well as the FDA, have all come out with official positioning statements cautioning against raw food diets.

In one study scientists evaluated 480 samples of dry and semi moist food and found only two incidences of contamination. One was positive for Salmonella and the other for *Listeria greyii*. This comes to a 0.4% contamination rate. On the other hand, of the 196 samples of raw dog and cat food, a total of 88 were found to be contaminated — 65 for Listeria, 15 for Salmonella, and 8 for E.Coli – a 45% contamination rate.

Dr. Fyvie says you can prevent your pets from exposure to Listeria infections by following these tips:

- **Pay attention to the news.** Any food that is unsafe for you is also unsafe for your pet. Make sure you discard contaminated products properly, you don't want your pet finding the item later.
- **Stick to safe treats.** Stick to nutritious Hill's stews rather than giving your pet viennas, sausages or cold meats as a reward.
- **Cook meat thoroughly.** If you feed your pet meat make sure it's been cooked, no matter what it is. Listeria is very heat sensitive, a core temperature of 70°C will kill the bacteria.

If you're worried your pet may have come into contact with any Listeria contaminated products; then look out for the following symptoms:

Diarrhoea
Nausea
Fever
Vomiting
Weakness
Lack of co-ordination

As a pet parent you may be wondering if your pet can pass the disease onto you? Dr. Fyvie says this is highly unlikely, however. "You have a greater chance of contracting Listeriosis from pets eating raw diets."

According to Dr. Fyvie pet parents have no need to be concerned if their pets' food is made by a reputable manufacturer under strict quality control measures such as Hill's Pet Nutrition. "Hill's ethical sourcing of raw ingredients from limited certified vendors and the processing and controls in place during manufacture, packaging and shipment means the chances of Listeriosis is practically non-existent."

Easter and chocolate toxicity

Many of us have a deep and abiding love for chocolate in all of its forms, but this is not a passion we should share with our pets.

Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine, that are toxic when ingested in large quantities. Because humans are fairly large and have a high tolerance for these compounds, chocolate poisoning is an extremely rare event in human medicine. In veterinary medicine, however, this type of poisoning is fairly common.

If your dog has eaten chocolate the risk of poisoning depends on the type and amount of chocolate consumed plus the weight of the dog.

How much chocolate is toxic for dogs:

Baking chocolate : approx. 15g for a 4.5kg dog, 30g for a 9kg dog and 45g for a 13.5kg dog

Dark chocolate : approx. 45g for 4.5kg dog, 90 for 9kg dog, 130g for 13.5kg dog

Milk chocolate : approx. 115g for 4.5kg dog, 210g for 9kg dog and 315g for 13.5kg dog.

(Milk chocolate includes M&M's, Mars, Kit Kat, Cadbury, Toblerone, Kinder and Ferrero Rocher.

White chocolate is almost non-toxic.

Symptoms usually appear between 6–12 hrs after ingestion and may last for 72 hours.

They include vomiting, diarrhoea, restlessness, increased urination, tremors, elevated heart rate, seizures and collapse.

Older dogs and dogs with heart conditions are more at risk.

Interesting facts about cats

- ◆ On average, cats spend 2/3rds of every day sleeping. That means a nine-year-old cat has been awake for only three years of its life.
- ◆ Some cats have survived falls of over 65 feet (20 metres), due largely to their "righting reflex". The eyes and balance organs in the middle ear tell it where it is in space so the cat can land on its feet. Even cats without a tail have this ability.
- ◆ Two members of the cat family are distinct from all others: the clouded leopard and the cheetah. The clouded leopard does not roar like other big cats nor does it groom or rest like small cats. The cheetah is unique because it is a running cat: all others are leaping cats. They are called leaping cats because they slowly stalk their prey, then leap on it.

Taiwan's clouded leopard



Siberian Forest Cat

History

From Russia with love: that's the Siberian, a glamorous native cat from the taiga of Siberia, a forested area with a subarctic climate that no doubt contributed to this cat's long, thick, protective coat. The cats have been known in Russia for some 1,000 years and often feature in Russian folktales. As in every culture, the cats were prized for their hunting ability by householders and shopkeepers. They

kept mice and rats well away from stores of grain and other foods.

Personality

The Siberian's heart is as warm as his homeland is cold. He loves people and wants to be near them, so expect this affectionate cat to follow you around, including to the bathroom, and to "help" you with all of your reading, TV viewing, computer work and meal prep. Sitting in your lap while you comb his fur may well be the highlight of his day. When you come home from work, he might not have a martini waiting, but he will be pleased to tell you all about his day in quiet, pleasant trills and chirps, interspersed with a few meows and purrs. Guests will find him to be a genial host; this is not typically a cat who is shy in the presence of strangers.

Besides being loving and attentive, the Siberian is also active and playful. He will instigate games of fetch by bringing you a favourite toy to throw. Any item can become a plaything for this clever cat, so keep jewellery or other potentially intriguing items out of his sight. Teaching him tricks is a fun and easy way to challenge his agile brain.

Because of his heritage as a forest dweller, he likes playing with water—perhaps it's a genetic memory of going fishing for his supper. Don't be surprised if he enjoys splashing you in the tub, drinking from a fountain or faucet, or making puddles by batting his paw in his water dish. As befits a working and hunting cat, he's highly athletic and you may find him balancing

atop a doorway or propelling himself to the highest point in the room.

Activity and noise won't bother him a bit. His calm nature gives him the potential to be a therapy cat. If nothing else, he will be happy to snuggle with you when you're down with a cold or other illness. And although he loves attention, he's not needy and will wait patiently until you have time to devote to him.

Children And Other Pets

The Siberian has a bold temperament, and nothing much ruffles his composure. These characteristics make him an excellent choice for a family with kids. No night time monsters will get past the Siberian on guard at the foot of a child's bed. He is happy to live with other cats and cat-friendly dogs, too, as long as they recognize that he's in charge. Introduce pets slowly and in controlled circumstances to ensure that they learn to get along together.

Meet Melissa Fae Smith our new afternoons receptionist

From a young age I developed a love and respect for all animals, having grown up with creatures covered in fur, feathers, scales and fins. I currently share my home with two dogs (Mae-Ling and Jazz), four budgies and some fish as well as the monkeys who seem to love invading the kitchen.



I grew up in the Waterfall area but have been fortunate enough to have travelled a bit thanks to my parents' support and my abilities in Karate. This has taken me overseas to compete in the SA Championships three times.

My passion for animals and animal welfare has led me to get involved with various rescue organisations where I volunteer in the hopes of making a difference. It has also led me to work in a few places revolving around animals. I worked in a pet store where I managed the kennel department, a small veterinary practice where I acted as a veterinary assistant temporarily and my last job was as a sales consultant in a Vet Store. I have also studied basic dog behaviour, interspecies telepathic communication and reiki which have helped me deepen my understanding and connection with animals.

I joined Village Veterinary Clinic in the middle of January 2018 and it has been an incredible learning curve! My multitasking skills have been put to the test but with the amazing support and training of everyone at the clinic, I have begun to settle in well.



