



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

November 2017

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Message from Dr Craig Mostert

Hello Everyone!

November already! This year has truly whizzed by. It has been a busy year with much change, which is always a fabulous motivation to grow and adapt, redefine everything and forge new paths.

Speaking of forging new paths, our thoughts are with all our clients who have children writing matric, or perhaps leaving home to go to university, here or abroad.

It is a time of year where we behave like ducks, our eyes are looking ahead to next year whilst our feet are paddling furiously to get through the studies, the holiday plans, Christmas get togethers and more. When things get too much, take many, many deep breaths and find an animal who loves you and give them a long cuddle. It won't bring an end to all the paddling that needs to be done, but you will feel better able to do it.

In closing, thank you all for your continued support. As we look back on this year we have had more people join our 'Village Family' and we have so enjoyed meeting all of you. To all our clients that are 'part of the furniture', thank you for your continuous support, we are so glad you continue to choose us to care for your pets.

To everyone 'old' and 'new' I hope that this year has been a good one and as we look forward to 2018 may it be one full of peace and love for both you and yours.

Warm regards

Dr Craig Mostert

Remember you can support Village Veterinary Clinic when you shop at ePetstore.co.za by using our unique store code **VIL3** when you register.

It's the same as buying in our shop except you do it online and they deliver to your door!

The advertisement features the ePETstore.co.za logo in a green box at the top left. The main text reads 'Black Friday' in large, bold, black letters, with '24 NOVEMBER 2017' in smaller green text below it. A large green '20%' is followed by 'OFF' in white. At the bottom, it says 'WHEN YOU BUY 2 OF THE SAME FOOD AND/OR HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS' in green. On the right side, there is a black and white French Bulldog sitting and looking to the left.

World Diabetes Day is on 14 November 2017



Diabetes is not only a human medical condition but often occurs in dogs and cats as well. The body needs insulin to use sugar (glucose) from the diet for energy. Without insulin, sugar accumulates in the blood and spills into the urine. Sugar in the urine causes the pet to pass large amounts of urine and to drink lots of water. Levels of sugar in the brain control appetite and without insulin the brain becomes sugar deprived. This makes the pet constantly hungry yet they may lose weight due to improper use of nutrients from the diet. Untreated diabetic pets are more likely to develop infections and commonly get bladder, kidney or skin infections.

Always be concerned about your dog's health and safety by checking it its condition every so often. Sad dogs are sick dogs. Whenever you think that your pet is not doing things that it normally does, take him to the vet for a check up. Most diseases are controllable if treated in their early stages.

Mr Peabody (affectionately known as Nutty)

I brought all 4 of our Bunnies into the Village Vet to have their nails clipped and their teeth checked.

As Dr Odendaal got to the last bunny, Mr Peabody, (affectionately known as Nutty), he discovered a very large lump in his abdomen, and though he was certain it was not an impacted bowel, asked to do an ultrasound.

Dr Odendaal found 2 large growths in his abdomen. I consented to surgery and we decided that if it looked like they were malignant and there was no hope that we would let Mr Peabody go to bunny heaven before he suffered.



Mr Peabody is my daughter Kendra's bunny and she is very passionate about her animals. It was also the day before her birthday, so I was rather tense as I had not yet told her.

I was so happy to get the best news from Dr Odendaal after the surgery; the lumps were both abscesses, one next to the intestines and the other on the stomach wall.

The surgery had been very difficult because of their location and trying to get them out without bursting and causing other complications. But they had succeeded.

Nutty had to stay for a few days as he was not out of the woods yet, but we were very happy to bring him home about a week later. He had lost a lot of weight and we had to isolate him from the others till he was stronger. He looked very sad and wasn't eating much so with Dr Odendaal's consent I added one of his friends to his cage and he started to eat immediately.

A few days later we put him back with all his friends and he is now happy, cheeky and back to normal. His hair is growing back but I think he is enjoying the short hair in this weather anyway.

Thank you to Dr Odendaal and all the staff at Village Vet who did everything in their power to make sure Nutty is healthy again. I know all our fur babies are in very good hands with you.

I feel confident because they all know what's going on at all times and the regular updates are awesome.

Much love and appreciation

Tracey Lynch

Choosing a puppy

If you are deciding to get a puppy you should do some research about the breed you are planning to get. The following should be considered:

1. The size of the dog when it is an adult - will it be too big for your home? Some puppies grow into very big dogs.
2. Is it a very boisterous breed - will you have time to exercise the dog if it is very energetic?
3. Is it a dog that requires a lot of grooming.? Can you afford regular parlour visits?
4. Is it a breed that is known to have inherent genetic problems? Will you be able to cope with them?
5. Is it an aggressive breed? If so will you be able to cope with it when small children visit? Will it be compatible with other animals in the family?
6. Do you go away from home a lot and do you have someone who can look after it? Kennels are costly.
7. Can you afford to have the puppy, to feed it properly, vaccinate annually, deworm three monthly, use flea treatment monthly and pay for any unforeseen problems it may have?



Keep people in your life
who truly love you,
motivate you, encourage
you, enhance you, and
make you happy.



Preventing problems

From time to time we have clients that bring in their pets that have been poisoned by a preparation that the owner has used around the house for killing rats, ants, cockroaches and the like. They have used the product liberally but have not thought about the effect on their pets.

If you are tempted to use a product to get rid of a pest of one sort or another, read the instructions that come with the product carefully before it is used. Remember that not all poisons need to be ingested; some can be absorbed through the feet of the animal. Cats are far more susceptible to poisoning than dogs and most poisonings in cats are not ingested.



A common poisoning amongst dogs is the consumption of rat poison. If your dog has just eaten rat poison - owners often see it happening - then take the animal for immediate veterinary attention. Your vet will give it a drug to make it vomit up the poison before it does any harm.

Breed Specific - Boston Terrier



The Boston Terrier may have been bred to be a ferocious pit-fighter, but you'd never know it today. The little American Gentleman, as he was called in the 19th century, is definitely a lover, not a fighter, although males have been known to show their terrier ancestry with a bit of posturing when they feel their territory is being invaded by another dog.

Boston Terriers are known for being very intelligent — sometimes too much so. Their lively, affectionate nature makes them extremely loveable, though their sometimes stubborn nature or spurts of hyperactivity can land them in hot water with their owners. Any angst about their

behaviour, however, soon melts when they look up at you with those huge, round eyes that seem to say "I love you."

Although Boston Terriers are small, they're sturdy and muscular. They have a sleek, shiny, straight coat with crisp white markings in a pattern that resembles a tuxedo — part of the reason they gained the name American Gentleman. Boston Terriers' distinctive ears naturally stand erect and are quite large. And then there's those big, beautiful eyes that are set quite apart to add to their outstanding good looks.

Boston Terriers have a broad, flat-nosed face without wrinkles. They belong to a class of dogs called brachycephalic (brachy meaning short, and cephalic meaning head). Like other brachycephalic dogs, the lower jaw is in proportion to the body, but they have a short upper jaw to give them a "pushed in" face.

Boston Terriers' carriage give them a presence that goes beyond their size. They have a slightly arched, proud neckline, a broad chest, and a sturdy, boxy appearance. Their tail is naturally short (docking is forbidden) and set low on the rump.

The Boston Terrier's small size and lively, affectionate nature make him a great family pet and companion. They love children and amuse people of all ages with their antics and unique, appealing expression. They are especially good companions for older people and apartment dwellers. Although gentle and even-tempered, they can have the spunky attitude of their terrier ancestors.



Wing Clipping

Most birds moult once a year, normally during spring and early summer. Some birds, especially members of the parrot family, lose and replace small numbers of feathers throughout the year.



Energy requirements increase as much as 15 to 30 percent during a heavy moult so birds need increased nutrients at this time. They need

more calcium, protein and fat so attention to their nutrition is essential to provide for their additional needs. A diet containing only seed will not be sufficient.

Baby birds should not be clipped until they have learnt to fly. Learning to fly gives birds confidence, enables them to properly develop their chest muscles, teaches them balance and enables them to learn how to turn and to land safely. Being able to manoeuvre and land properly is very important. Birds have very light, fragile bones which can easily be injured by a clumsy landing or a fall.

Birds should be clipped when their feathers have grown back enough so that they can fly more than a few feet.

After clipping, a bird should still be able to fly a few feet and to glide to a safe landing. If clipped too drastically, he won't be able to manoeuvre to avoid hitting something dangerous or to break his fall. As a result he may injure his beak, breastbone or wings or even break a leg as he plummets to the ground. The only feathers which should be clipped are the primary flight feathers. How many primaries one needs to clip varies by species and bird.

It is advisable to have your bird's wings trimmed professionally. If clipped incorrectly it can take months for them to re-grow.

Saturday mornings at the Clinic

We would appreciate it if all our clients would bear in mind that Saturday mornings are usually very busy for us. Our two vets are usually fully booked by the end of Friday afternoon and any emergencies that come in also have to be attended to.

On most Saturdays there are clients who do not keep their appointments for various reasons and do not phone in and cancel with our receptionists. If you have made a booking to bring your pet/pets into the clinic on a Saturday morning and can't make it, please let us know as soon as you can so that we can cancel your appointment. Our vets would then be able to see another patient in need of attention.

Advanced notice of cancellations help us to keep our Saturday mornings running smoothly which in turn allows us to provide the best possible care for your pets.

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Dog Word Search Puzzle

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 E T R A I N I N G K C E G T H
 E E U Y A I R E I L D R E N L
 D T F I C G A W L A O I N O E
 S P A D O G S H O W S N Y A A
 T E O M Y A T I L H E A L Y S
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| BARK | PET |
| BONES | PLAYFUL |
| BREEDS | PUPPY |
| DOG SHOWS | SLOBBER |
| FRIENDLY | TAIL |
| FURRY | TRAINING |
| GROWL | WAGGING |
| LEASH | WALKS |
| LOYAL | WET NOSE |

Animal Crossword

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