



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

November 2018
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Tel: 031 764 0588
Website: www.villagevet.co.za

Letter from Dr Mostert

This time of year is often the most busy as exams are happening, older children are looking at university and Christmas is upon us. Companies are rushing to finish off for year end and retail stores become busier. All in all it is a pretty manic time of the year.

There is also a higher than usual amount of sugary treats around. We used to issue warnings about chocolates and caution readers about raisin toxicity but there is now a newer bigger danger in town.



If you have visited our Facebook page lately, you will know what I am referring to, Xylitol. Xylitol is a sugar substitute and it is lethal to dogs.

As I write this, the post on Xylitol has reached 21667 people and has been shared 365 times.

Hopefully it helps to raise awareness on just how dangerous it is to dogs.

Please, if you have a product that is labelled 'low sugar' or 'diabetic friendly' or something along those lines, please check to see if it contains Xylitol.

Read the fine print. If it does, make sure it is kept away from dogs. If you suspect Xylitol poisoning do not wait, seek immediate treatment.

On a more positive note, a massive thank you for the tremendous support and encouragement you have given us for our parlour!

Daphne, Agnes and our team of highly experienced groomers are loving their surroundings and have so enjoyed this first month. The support has been wonderful and the feedback so positive, we are delighted. Our Parlour has its own Facebook page so please check it out.

On that note thank you for choosing our Village family to care for yours. Look out for our final edition of 2018 in next months December edition.

Take care,

Dr Craig Mostert



AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Hillcrest After hours 084 520 1417

Sherwood Emergency 031 207 1300



Hill's best buddy bed promo



This November, you will be able to spoil your pets with a FREE best buddy bed.

The new design beds are available for both large and small dogs and are free with the purchase of two selected bags of Science Plan, Prescription Diet and Ideal Balance dog food.

Regular grooming is important for your pets' well-being and hygiene.



We have a fully revamped parlour and professional grooming equipment, including an imported pet bath that makes the huge to the tiny feel confident and secure while being washed.



Not only is grooming a wonderful treat for your pet, it can also help identify potential health problems such as ear infections etc. Our highly experienced team will have your pet looking and feeling great and cuddle friendly!



Book an appointment for your pet to get their coat in tip-top condition. They will be so glad you did!

Contact Daphne on: 031 655

1257 / 079 626 6927.

Alternatively you can send an email to: petparlour@villagevet.co.za



Be prepared for thunderstorms and fireworks



With our thunderstorm season beginning, the recent firework celebrations and more in store for the end of the year, you need to plan well in advance and keep a stock of calming tablets for your pets.

Long before a severe storm approaches, dogs can be seen pacing, panting and behaving in an agitated manner. Even though skies are sunny, with their keen ears, canines can hear at much higher and lower frequencies than we do. A dog can hear a faraway rumble of thunder that you might miss. They are also more attuned to changes in barometric pressure than humans. A drop in pressure signals that conditions may be right for a storm to develop. So a dog may learn to associate the *feeling* of a pressure drop with the arrival of a storm.



For animals with more sensitive hearing than ours, these noises are deafening and they often run out of fear and sheer terror.

Dogs jump through glass windows, scale tall fences, snap chains and hurt themselves in numerous other ways trying to get away from the noise.

We have a wide range of both chewable homeopathic anti-stress tablets and stronger scheduled tablets for both dogs and cats. They help keep pets calm and relaxed and do not cause drowsiness.

Come in and chat to our receptionists for advice on the correct product to use for your pets.

Backhome microchip special

We are continuing our Backhome Microchip special for November where you can have your pet microchipped for R199.

At this time of the year the SPCA's are full with unclaimed dogs. These are pets who have somehow escaped from the property whilst their owners are away, under the care of a house sitter or from a thunderstorm or noisy fireworks.

The most permanent form of identification is an implanted microchip which is there for life.

All stray animals that come into our clinic are checked with a scanner for a microchip and the majority of them are reunited with their owners within minutes of being scanned. This is a very quick way of identification and can be useful if the pets collar has been removed.

Virbac will provide you, the pet owner, with access to the details of your pet on the BackHome database. This will allow you to add alternative contact details such as when they are going on holiday or if they are moving to another province or country.. The BackHome database is available on www.backhome.co.za..



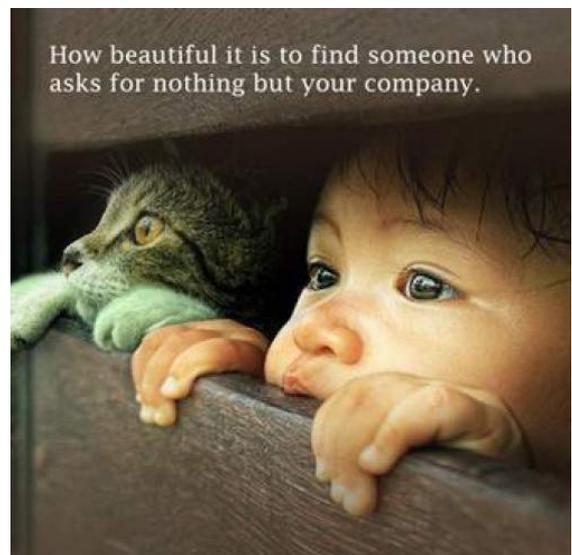
CHARTER OF PATIENT AND OWNER RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Every client, on behalf of their pet, has the right to:

1. Access to safe health care.
2. Emergency care in life-threatening situations.
3. Confidentiality and privacy.
4. Be treated with courtesy and consideration.
5. Be informed about their pet's illness/condition and treatment.
6. Exercise choice in health care.
7. Participate in decision-making that affects their pet's health.
8. Be referred for a second opinion.
9. Complain and have complaints investigated.
10. Refuse treatment or information about their pet's illness.

Every owner has the responsibility to:

1. Take care of their pet's life and enable their pet to live a healthy lifestyle.
2. Care for and protect the environment.
3. Respect the rights of other patients and owners.
4. Respect the rights of the veterinarians and staff of this facility.
5. Provide the veterinarians and staff with relevant and accurate information for diagnostic, treatment, rehabilitation and counselling purposes.
6. Provide their instructions in writing for their pet's treatment.
7. Advise the veterinarians and staff about their wishes for euthanasia and handling of remains.
8. Comply with the prescribed treatment and/or rehabilitation procedures.
9. Ask what the related costs of the treatment would be and to pay for this treatment.
10. To participate in communications in a rational, co-operative and productive manner.



Rabbits as pets

Rabbits are very social, active and playful animals and they often form a close bond with their owners. They do have a long life span, on average 10 years, so be prepared to care for your pet rabbit through the long term. As long as you know what to expect from a pet rabbit, they have the potential to be great pets.



Being social, rabbits need a great deal of interaction with their owners and/or other rabbits to be happy. Daily playtime and exercise outside of their cage is a necessity. They are not low maintenance—it takes a good deal of work to care properly for a rabbit.

While they are generally quiet pets, rabbits are not a good match for active young children who may not be careful enough when picking them up or playing around them.

Rabbits like to be near their people, but they often would rather not be held.

They will likely require veterinary care, which can be expensive and should be spayed or neutered (by a vet experienced with surgery on rabbits) as well as having regular checkups to avoid common health issues such as dental disease.

Diet

Fiber is vital for the normal function of the digestive system in rabbits. Fresh grass and hay should make up the bulk of the diet for house rabbits and feeding a good quality hay will reduce the chance of dental problems.



Depending on the size of the rabbit, 2-4 cups of fresh veggies should be given per day. A variety must be fed daily to ensure a balanced diet. Suggested vegetables include carrots, carrot tops, parsley, broccoli, mustard greens, dandelion greens, turnip greens and endive. Avoid lettuce.

What cage?

Pet rabbits can be quite readily kept in cages in the home, with some freedom to run free in the house (after thoroughly rabbit-proofing, of course). They are also better off indoors where they can be more social with their family and safe from predators and extreme weather. If your bunny will spend most of its time in a cage, then get the biggest cage that is practical in the home.

Rabbits can make absolutely delightful pets, but as always, having the right expectations will help you develop a strong bond with your pet. Find out all you can about the care of rabbits as well as the pros and cons, before choosing one as a pet.

Medical Aids and Insurances

There are a number of Pet Medical Aids and Insurances available, do your research to select the best option for you and your pet. Medical expenses can be unexpected and frightening, be proactive and be able to provide the best possible care for your pet when the unexpected happens. We recommend the following:

Medipet - www.medipetsa.co.za

Oneplan - www.oneplan.co.za

Biliary

Biliary, also referred to as “tick bite fever”, is a disease that is caused by a parasite named *Babesia canis rossi*. Certain types of ticks transmit this parasite to dogs when they take a blood meal and remain attached to your pet for over 24 hours. The parasite enters the red blood cells and damages/destroys them while replicating and spreading rapidly throughout the blood stream.



The first signs that are most commonly noticed in dogs with biliary are lethargy and loss of appetite. These dogs can also have pale gums and inner eyelids.

Complicated biliary cases with multiple organ involvement will need hospitalisation with more intensive treatment such as blood transfusions, drips, cortisone treatment, tube feeding, oxygen supplementation, sedation, etc.



Prevention of this potentially life threatening condition is simple and can be achieved by using reputable tick control products on your dog. We have a wide range available in our shop at the clinic. Our ladies at reception will be able to advise you on the correct product to use for your pet.



It is also recommended that you avoid tick habitats or areas where you know wild or larger domesticated animals inhabit. Keeping grass and weeds cut short, sealing off cracks and crevices within your dog's sleeping areas and regular washing of bedding can also help with the prevention.

If you would like to receive a monthly copy of our newsletter, either by email or post, please advise our receptionists or email Mandy at accounts@villagevet.co.za

We would also love to hear about any stories you might like to share about your pets or, if you have lost a beloved pet, email us a memorial for our “Old friends and good memories” column.

*When life knocks you down,
roll over and
look at the stars.*

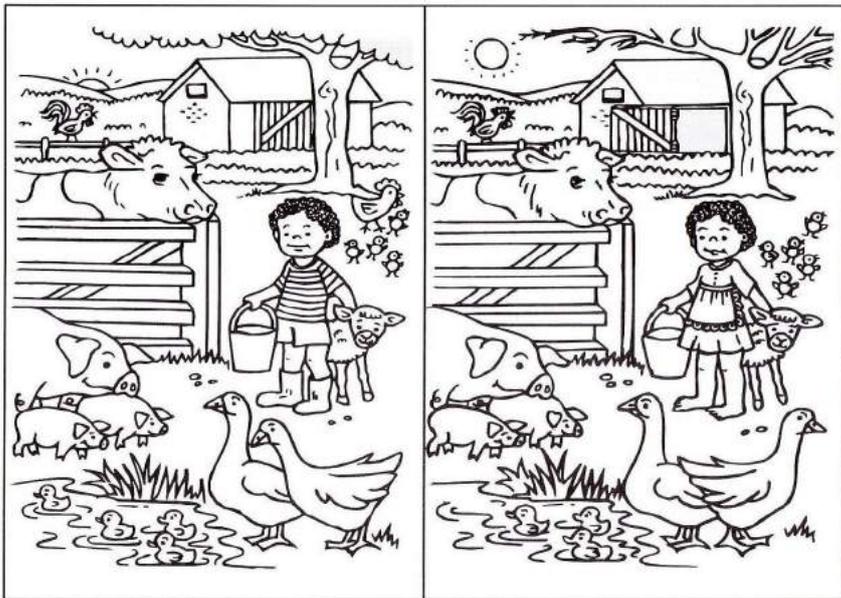
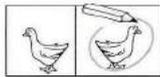


PAWedu

Puzzle page



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chicken
cow
duck
goat
horse
pig
sheep

