



## VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

July 2018

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### Message from Dr Craig Mostert

Hello everyone!

As I write the July school holidays are in full swing, there is less traffic on the roads in the morning and I am grateful to be working in the warm indoors.

Winter is a challenge for elderly pets, especially those that suffer with arthritis. Keep them warm and comfortable, add an extra layer of bedding to their kennels and speak to us if they are showing signs of discomfort.

This is also a good time of the year to spay and neuter all the young new additions to your family and to check that all vaccinations, deworming and health checks are up to date. With time passing by ever faster you may be surprised to find the vaccinations you thought had been given "just the other day" were actually done over a year ago. If you are not sure you are welcome to call and ask when your pet is due for vaccinations. We do send out reminders but if your details have changed you may not have received one.

On that note, if you have moved, had your number changed or if one of your pets has passed away at home, please let us know. We like to keep our records current so we can stay in touch and avoid sending you vaccine reminders etc, for pets that have passed away. Please call us on 031 7640588 to update any details.

Take care and thank you for your continued support.

Regards

Dr Craig Mostert



### RABIES - PLEASE DO NOT BE COMPLACENT - VACCINATE TODAY !!

Following on from April's article on rabies, another stray dog was captured by the SPCA in the Kloof area last week and has tested positive for rabies.

Two people were bitten by this dog before it was captured and were told by the SPCA to seek immediate medical attention.



Please do not be complacent about vaccinating your pets. Just because you live in an urban area where your pets are protected by walls and fences does not mean they are not at risk. A rabid dog will run down the street, get through fences, fight through gates or lick other dogs, thereby passing on the disease. Mongoose, bats and meerkats can also carry the disease.

The rabies virus is present in the saliva of the affected animal and is transmitted to humans through bites, scratches or other wounds that break the skin and allow the infected saliva to enter the body.

The only way to ensure your family and pets are safe is to have them vaccinated.

The Kloof and Highway SPCA is urging all members of the public to exercise caution when approaching any stray or unknown animals and to rather contact their nearest SPCA. They are also reminding owners that it is their responsibility to ensure their pets vaccinations are up to date and that it is a legal requirement to have an annual rabies vaccination.

### Unusual visitor to our clinic

The common duiker, (*Sylvicapra grimmia*), also known as the grey or bush duiker, is a small antelope found in west, central, east, and southern Africa - essentially everywhere in Africa south of the Sahara, excluding the Horn of Africa and the rain forests of the central and western parts of the continent. Generally, they are found in habitats with sufficient vegetation cover to allow them to hide — savanna and hilly areas, including the fringes of human settlements.

This baby duiker was found in Giba Gorge and brought into the Clinic. He was only a few days old and starving. Sr Paula is giving him his first drink of goats milk which he is very happy about. We believe his mother had been found a few days earlier caught in a trap.

C.R.O.W is now nursing him back to health and we hope he survives his ordeal.





**Keep your pets warm in winter**

Please think of your pets in the cold weather. We are able to keep ourselves warm by lying in front of the television cuddled up in a nice thick warm blanket with a cup of hot chocolate or a glass of wine.

**Dogs and cats** - Our pets are a different matter and whilst cats and small dogs can come inside and snuggle up in front of the fire or on your bed at night, a lot of owners do not allow their big dogs inside the house. A fur coat offers protection but when the temperatures drop, even dogs feel the awful chill. Please make sure that outside dogs have a kennel and/or warm bedding in a sheltered spot to snuggle into. Short-haired dogs, small or large and especially elderly dogs all feel the cold and need some protection from the chill.



**Continue using flea and tick control during winter**

We mention flea control in every issue of the newsletter because it is such an important part of keeping your pets healthy and happy. Pets that are full of fleas spend their lives scratching - this must drive them crazy and in turn irritate their owners. Fleas also transmit worms and if your pets have worms your family is sure to have them as well. Our KZN winters are not cold enough to kill off the flea eggs and larvae, with the result that once the warmer weather comes around, so the fleas start hatching. If you have not treated your pets throughout the winter months, you could have a flea invasion once the warmer weather begins.

Come in and visit our shop where we have a selection of jerseys and jackets for all sizes as well as nice warm beds, blankets, duvets and mattresses. If you can't find what you're looking for, we can order it in for you - just ask at Reception.

**Exotic Birds** - Most pet bird species come from areas with warm, tropical climates and because their bodies are built to endure heat, cold weather can mean big trouble for an exotic bird with no protection.

Move the cage away from doors and windows and away from icy drafts. Cover the cage at night to help maintain a comfortable temperature within your bird's environment. Try to seal off doors and windows to temporarily insulate the room, keeping cold air out and the warm air in. The smoke and fumes from wood burning fireplaces and gas heaters can wreak havoc on a bird's respiratory system and many electric heaters contain non-stick coating, which is notorious for causing birds acute illness and death. Monitor closely for signs of exposure. A chilled bird is a bird with a lowered immune system. Keep an eye out for common symptoms of illness, such as puffing up, runny stools, loss of voice etc. This can help prevent any weather related health problems from snowballing.



**New BROADLINE Top Spot for Cats**



**Broadline Top Spot** is an easy-to-use, all-in-one external and internal parasite control product for cats. It is proven to be safe for cats and kittens older than 7 months, weighing more than 0.6 kg. It will kill newly acquired fleas between 8 to 24 hours and also rids cats of tapeworms, hookworms and roundworms and is effective in killing biting lice and mange mites.

Broadline is a cat-only product and should be applied externally as a top-spot. It should be applied in one spot on the skin of the cat. The exact position is on the back of the neck, between the shoulder blades of cats after parting the hair. Care should be taken not to allow contact with the human skin and it is recommended to wash hands after use. For more information, refer to the directions supplied with the packaging.

Broadline is available from veterinarians and vet shops.

**Rabbits and guinea pigs** - They are hardy pets and enjoy cooler temperatures but should not be exposed to any extreme weather. If you keep your rabbit outside place the cage in a protected spot away from the wind. The back and sides of the cage should be covered to protect them from the wind and rain. Add extra hay to the nest box for extra comfort and insulation. Ideally your rabbit should be brought inside when the temperatures plummet. Keep the cage away from heaters in a cool part of the house. The area should be well ventilated and free from any fumes. It is important that the cage is cleaned regularly and your rabbit has fresh water and extra food available to keep him warm. If its too cold for you its probably too cold for your rabbit.

**AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:**  
**Hillcrest After hours 084 520 1417**  
**Sherwood Emergency 031 207 1300**

## Breed Specific - Neapolitan Mastiff

The slow, rolling gait of this unique breed might be described as lumbering, but there's no mistaking the power in each stride. As he approaches, his massive size, loose skin, and thick facial wrinkles evoke speechless awe, followed by the question, "What type of dog is that?" This striking gentle giant is the Neapolitan Mastiff, also known as the Mastino.

The Neapolitan Mastiff is history come to life. His ancestry is thought to date to 3000 BCE, the beginning of the Bronze Age, the time when Upper and Lower Egypt were unified and mastiff-like working and guard dogs emerged in Tibet.



While his appearance is unnerving, looks are deceiving. The Neo, as he's often nicknamed, has a reputation for being an affectionate 91 kg lap dog. He is a constant guardian with an intimidating stare that he directs toward strangers, but he's far from being a fighting dog. Steady and loyal, his primary goal is to be with his people. He'll defend them with ferocity if need be, but he's typically not aggressive without reason.

Like all puppies, young Neos are active, but they mature into adulthood with a preference for lounging around the home or yard. Although they're pretty mellow indoors, Neos aren't especially suited for life in an apartment or condo unless

they have room to sprawl. Otherwise, they're likely to shove your furniture out of place or knock objects over in their attempts to find a comfortable resting spot.

Older children will find the Neo to be a warm and comfortable backrest while watching television or doing homework. He may be too large and clumsy for younger children, however, accidentally knocking them over or stepping on them.

When it comes to living with a Neo, neat freaks need not apply. The Neo drools after eating or drinking or when he's nervous, and he's notorious for passing gas. Keep a small hand towel for wipeups and a can of air freshener nearby at all times. On the plus side, he's a quiet dog who rarely barks.



For the family who can provide this large and strong-willed dog with the firm, loving, and consistent guidance he needs, the Neapolitan Mastiff is a wonderful and unique companion who will provide protection and love for everyone in his family. A dog who will protect you, your family, and your home with all the strength and love it possesses.

## When to say goodbye

This is a question that no-one can really answer for you. Not all pets will pass away gently in their sleep when their time has come (though we wish they all could). Because you know your pet better than anyone else,

you will probably have a gut feeling when the end is approaching. One general guideline is to look at the "good days" versus the "bad days". If your pet is experiencing more bad days



than good and your vet cannot offer any further treatments, then the time is near. Or, if treatments for a disease are so hard on your pet that they are hurting their quality of life, it may be time to consider humane euthanasia. This will be a difficult time that requires a lot of soul searching but remember, it is all because you love your pet. If they could, they would thank you for being their advocate.

Now the process of grieving will begin. Grief is a little different for everyone and there is no right or wrong way to do it. Remember the good times you had with your pet and know that they would thank you for relieving their suffering. Consider doing something special to memorialise your unique and much-loved companion. You may wish to plant a tree or other plant in remembrance of your pet. Another therapeutic exercise during grief is to write about your pet. A poem, story or written tribute can help you say goodbye to your beloved companion.

## Poo breath - what to do about it !

There can be few things worse than being greeted by a dog that has just dined on dog faeces or seeing your dog making a beeline for the cat tray after your cat has visited the cat box. Poo breath is not a pleasant thing to be greeted with. This behaviour of eating faeces is called coprophagia.

There are a number of medical and behavioural causes for coprophagia. The medical conditions are mainly caused by dogs not digesting and therefore not absorbing their food properly. Therefore it is very important to take the dog whose faeces are being eaten as well as the dog who is eating faeces to a vet for a clinical exam to exclude any medical reasons.

There are many behavioural causes for coprophagia. These include boredom, lack of attention, maternal instinct or poor eating habits. Many dog breeds were originally bred to perform a job. However these days most dogs live in a yard and are not given a job to do. So they relieve their boredom by eating faeces and often this does cause a reaction from the owner. The owner will often get angry with the dog and so the dog gets attention. Even if this is negative attention, it is still attention.

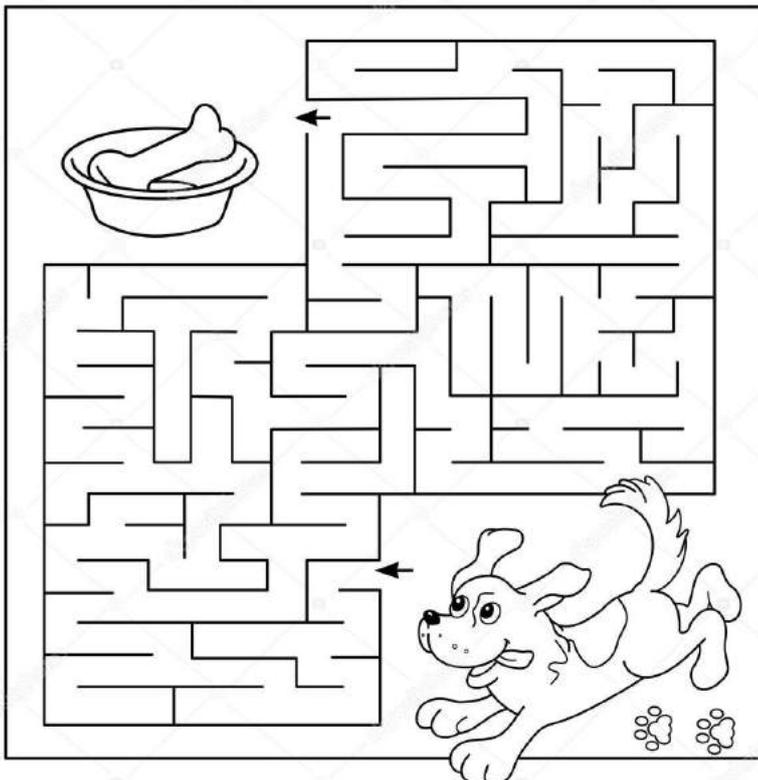
In the case of cat faeces being eaten, owners need to try and put the cat box in a place that dogs cannot get to and in the case of dog faeces being eaten the owners need to clear up faeces as often as possible to limit the access. Then finally the dog needs to be persuaded that dog and cat faeces do not taste nice. This is done by making the faeces unpalatable for dogs.

Copronat was developed by a French company and contains an extract of the Yucca Schidigera plant which grows in the deserts of Arizona, California and Mexico. It is sprayed onto the food of the animal whose faeces is being eaten. Therefore if the cats faeces is being eaten then the cat must be fed the Copronat and if the dog is eating dog faeces, then the dog whose faeces is being eaten must be fed Copronat.

# ANIMALS

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

- |          |          |           |       |
|----------|----------|-----------|-------|
| CAT      | HIPPO    | MOUSE     | TIGER |
| DOG      | SQUIRREL | MONKEY    |       |
| BIRD     | GIRAFFE  | ALLIGATOR |       |
| ELEPHANT | FISH     | LION      |       |



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			4	
5			2	4
2	6			5
		2		
3	6			

Daily SuDoku for Kids: Tue 10-Jul-2018 medium

	2				9	
		7		6	8	2
	9		1	5		
	6	8			1	
3						7
	9			3	2	
	2		4		8	
6	3	5		8		
7						2

Daily SuDoku: Tue 10-Jul-2018 medium

		4	9				
		3				5	4
		6		5		9	2
				3			
3							9
				8			
2	7		3			5	
6	1					9	
					1	2	

Daily Squiggly SuDoku: Tue 10-Jul-2018 medium

		2	5	1	6	4
	6	7		9		5
1	5	3	4	6		7
4					5	
5		6	9	4		2
	2					8
2		4	6	8	1	9
1		9		5	3	
8	9	1	3	7		

Daily SuDoku: Sun 8-Jul-2018 easy