



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

June 2018

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Message from Dr Craig Mostert

As someone who is up and about very early in the morning, this is the time of year when it is still dark and very chilly. The bonus is that as I leave for the day I get to see amazing sunrises, each day different, but equally spectacular. If you are a morning person too, you will know what I mean. Each season has things to enjoy along with its drawbacks, the key is to make the most of the pleasures each season brings.



The same is true of owning pets. The younger years are full of energetic play and sometimes raucous behaviour and the older years are generally quieter and more sedate. Many health challenges are faced and a certain amount of discomfort can be experienced as well as they get older.

Pets live their lives out in front of us and we will no doubt be by the side of a few generations of pets. Thus it is important that we provide for them for the age and stage of the seasons of their life. We can do this by providing the correct food, toys and energy occupiers for the playful, if misguided younger years. This time requires patience and understanding and a lot of playtime!

As our pets get older we can review their diet, check their teeth make sure that eating is comfortable and that their mobility is not compromised by any discomfort. They may not be as playful as before, but the bonus is that your cushions are intact and the moles and birds are safe! As their characters and activity levels begin to mellow, gentler walks for dogs, and food that caters for their joints and lowered activity levels are needed. Cats need a change in diet too as their activity levels change. Whatever life stage your pet is in, we can help.

Please come and see us for advice on food, medical care and behaviour. It's important that we enjoy the 'wonderfulness' of every stage they are in and make every stage of their lives a happy and contented one.

We look forward to making each year for your pet a good year!

With thanks as always for your continued support,
warm regards,

Craig Mostert



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This is an exciting occasion because our newsletter turns 10 in this edition! Over the years we have told happy, sad and amazing stories of survival where tremendous courage and the will to live has been shown by our patients and unwavering commitment shown by their owners.

Our newsletters are a wonderful way to stay in touch, even if we haven't seen you in a while. You get to peep behind the scenes and read interesting and educational articles that help you to help your pet live a long and healthy life. You, our clients have shared your stories and we always welcome your letters sharing your news and updates on your pets.

Please email Mandy if you have any interesting stories about your pet or pets that you think our readers would enjoy reading.. Mandy's email is accounts@villagevet.co.za and she is always on the look out for new material to put in the newsletter.



The domestic cat (*Felis catus*)

Today's domestic cats are generally believed to be descendants of the *African Wild Cat*, which were tamed by the Egyptians over 8000 years ago to control rats and mice raiding their granaries. A genetic study in 2007 has confirmed this.

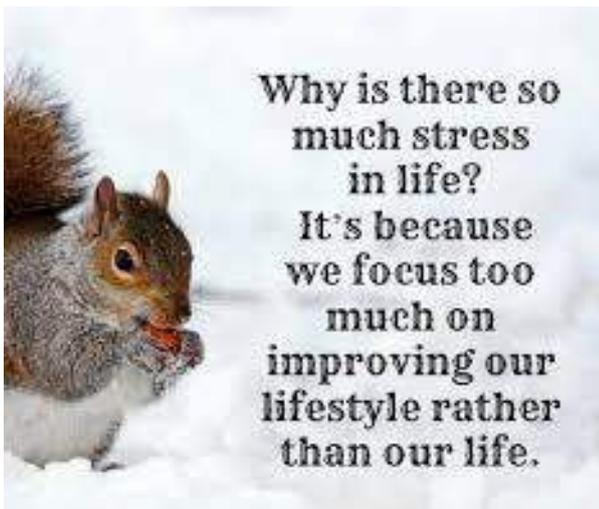


A pedigreed cat is one whose ancestry is recorded by a cat fancier organization. A purebred

cat is one whose ancestry contains only individuals of the same breed. Many pedigreed and especially purebred cats are exhibited as show cats. Cats of unrecorded, mixed ancestry are referred to as domestic short-haired or domestic long-haired cats, by coat type

Cats are obligate carnivores. Their physiology has evolved to efficiently process meat, and they have difficulty digesting plant matter. They have excellent night vision and can see at only one-sixth the light level required for human vision. Their hearing is also extremely sensitive and is amongst the best of any mammal - they can hear higher-pitched sounds better than either dogs or humans. This sensitivity is further enhanced by the cat's large movable outer ears, which both amplify sounds and help a cat sense the direction from which a noise is coming. Cats are very sensitive to pheromones which are used to communicate through urine spraying and marking with scent glands and they have an acute sense of smell. They also respond strongly to plants that contain nepetalactone, especially catnip

To aid with navigation and sensation, cats have dozens of movable vibrissae (whiskers) over their body, especially their face. These provide information on the width of gaps and on the location of objects in the dark, both by touching objects directly and by sensing air currents.



AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Highway After hours 084 520 1417

Sherwood Emergency 031 207 1300

How to make the most of your bird's visit to the vet

Always bring your bird to the practice in a cage or travel box and not on your shoulder. There are usually other animals in the waiting room and barking dogs may give the bird a fright and cause it to flap and fall or worse, fly away.



Bring your own clean towel for handling your bird. This should preferably be a towel that the bird is used to being wrapped and cuddled in at home, to reduce stress.

Do not clean the cage, as the vet will most likely need to collect a stool sample as part of the examination.

Bring a list of what your bird eats on a regular basis. Diet plays a large role in avian medicine and this may give the vet extra valuable information.

Birds, unlike humans and other animals, are experts at hiding symptoms of illness. Being "prey-species" they tend to pretend to be fine, until it is almost too late in the course of the disease to treat them successfully.

Any change in your bird's behaviour could signify illness. A bird that fluffs up its feathers and is quieter than normal may be very ill. Most diseases from gastro-enteritis, respiratory infection and liver disease will present in the same way. For this reason the vet will most likely have to keep the bird in hospital for observation and monitoring and to do some tests.

FREE DENTAL HEALTH CHECKS

For the months of June and July we are offering free dental health checks with one of our veterinary nurses. Our dental scale and polishes are at special rates for an extended period of time.

Dental disease affects up to 80% of pets over the age of three and just like humans, there can be serious consequences to poor dental health including heart, lung and kidney disease.

Have your pet's teeth checked sooner if you observe any of the following problems:



- Bad breath
- Inflamed gums
- Broken or loose teeth
- Extra teeth or retained baby teeth
- Teeth that are discoloured or covered in tartar
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat
- Pain in or around the mouth

Should you think your pet needs a dental, please contact us on (031) 764 0588 to book an appointment with one of our nurses for a free check-up. They can advise you and plan the procedure if it is necessary.

Tips for travelling with your pet

For most people, pets are family. Our dog or cat is always there, curled up next to us when we watch television late at night, trotting next to us when we take a morning walk, greeting us happily at the end of every workday. That's why many pet owners can't bear the thought of leaving a pet behind when going on holiday or a weekend getaway or even just a short trip to the shop.

Have you ever considered that your beloved family pet could suffer the same fate as an unrestrained child in a car accident? During emergency braking or a collision, an object is accelerated up to 30 timesso a 10kg pet effectively becomes 300kg on impact

Accidents do happen so if you're planning to travel by car with your pet, try and be prepared in advance. If your pet has never been in the car before, make some short trips first to see how it reacts. Some animals behave just fine, but others suffer from anxiety or even motion sickness. If this is the case for your pet, talk to your veterinarian about appropriate medications as well as make sure their vaccinations are up to date.



Most cats feel safer in the car if they travel in a carrier or small crate and don't run around inside the vehicle. You should use a seat belt to secure the carrier. To prepare your cat for carrier/crate time, leave the crate around the house for a few days so the cat gets used to it. The same can apply with your dog. If you plan on harnessing your dog or keeping it in a crate in the car, get it familiarized with the confinement and secure the crate.

It might seem fun to let your dog hang its head out the window, but this practice is dangerous as he could be hit by flying objects. The wind and cold air can also cause inner-ear damage and lung infections. Excitable dogs can also unexpectedly leap out of an open window or off the back of a bakkie, leading to serious injury or death.



The safest way to secure your dog in the car is through a restraint system. You can purchase a harness that attaches to your regular seat belts, or car hammocks. Choose restraints that offer your pet some mobility, the animal should be able to move and turn around. If you are traveling out of the province, take your pet's health records along and make sure all your pets are microchipped or have an id tag. Also take a small first-aid kit for your pet, with nail clippers, bandages and F10 disinfectant. Feed your pet at least three to four hours before your trip to minimize motion sickness and don't feed in a moving vehicle. Should your pet need to eat or drink during the duration of the trip, stop at a rest stop and give it time to digest its food and water and walk around.

Owner compliance

In order for our patients to fully recover from an illness or surgery, it is necessary for owners to listen closely to the instructions given to them during the discharge appointment for their pet.

The surgery or procedure done on the pet is only half of the battle towards your pet's recovery - the recuperation at home is just as crucial.

Instructions about care of bandages, dispensing of medication, wearing of collars (to prevent self mutilation), restriction in mobility, to name a few, must be strictly adhered to. There can be possible complications if instructions are not followed, resulting in prolonged discomfort and suffering for your pet and of course, higher costs.

If you have any questions or are not sure of any of the instructions, please do not hesitate to contact one of our nurses



Scheduled drugs - dispensing regulations



We frequently have problems and misunderstandings associated with the continuous re-dispensing of certain scheduled medication. Our dispensary, just like pharmacies and hospitals, is strictly regulated by the Medicines Control Council. Drugs are rated from Schedule 1 to 7. The lower schedule drugs may be dispensed freely however higher up the scale, the MCC has stipulated that certain scheduled drugs may not be issued for long periods without the patient being re-examined every six months. Only a prescription consult fee is charged at these visits provided there are no other symptoms or problems.

The law protects both us and the patients and is imposed upon both human and veterinary medical practitioners. Failure on our part to observe this law may lead to us losing our license to practice medicine.

We would therefore appreciate your understanding and co-operation in this regard.

HILLS CAT SCRATCHER PROMOTION

Give your furkid some feel-good playtime with a **free** Cat Scratcher (with catnip) worth R230!
All you need to do is buy any bag of Hill's cat food .

Scratchers have the power to unlock a range of health benefits for your cat such as increased stretching, claw health, reduced stress and more.

We still have quite a few cat scratchers available at the vet so remind reception when you purchase your bag of feline Hills food.



PUZZLE PAGE

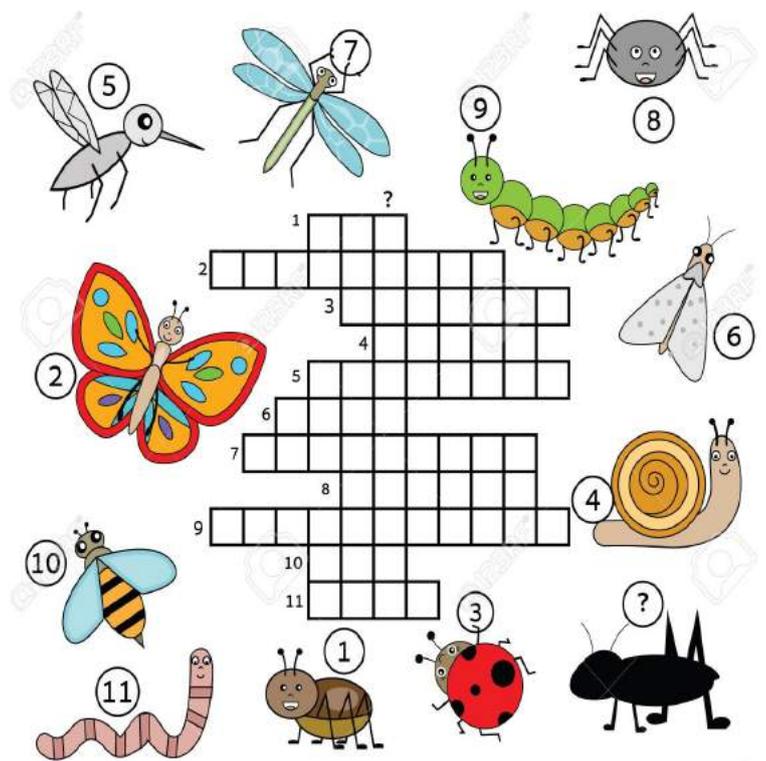
The rules for different size and shape puzzles are pretty much identical: each row, column and group of squares enclosed by the bold lines (also called a box), must contain each number (from 1 to 9) only once. In some cases the boxes are not simple squares.

SQUIGGLY SUDOKU

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

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

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



Answer: 1.bug 2. butterfly 3. ladybug 4. snail
5.mosquito 6.moth 7.dragonfly 8.spider 9. caterpillar 10.bee 11.worm
DOWN: grasshopper

Zoo Animal Word Search

Directions: Circle the zoo animal words hidden in the puzzle.
The words are spelled vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and even backwards!

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

Word Box:

zoo	rhinoceros	koala
lion	kangaroo	gorilla
tiger	cheetah	seal
zebra	meerkat	hippo
bear	giraffe	ostrich
fox	panda	elephant