



# VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

October 2019

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Website: [www.villagevet.co.za](http://www.villagevet.co.za)

## Letter from Dr Mostert

Hello and welcome to our October newsletter!

I volunteered at the Sanctuary Project's clinic that they held at Maphepheteni Community Hall last Friday. Their goal is to sterilise 2025 animals by 2025. For animals in an underprivileged area, veterinary care is a rarity and to be able to extend some help to the community was a heartwarming experience. Village donated Frontline as well so that in addition to being sterilised, the dogs could be tick and flea free when they went home. You can see photos on our Facebook Page and you can donate to the Sanctuary Project so that their invaluable work can continue. Their website is [www.brighterfuture.org.za](http://www.brighterfuture.org.za) or contact Chantalle on 082 857 5004.

Closer to home we are starting to see flea allergies cropping up already. Please remember to get your tick and flea medication soon, before they spread into your whole environment making them difficult to eradicate. Please remember that if your pet has had fleas, chances are they have worms too, particularly tape worm, so please deworm regularly to prevent worms being passed on to family members.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients that have booked their pets in for dental cleaning. It really is such an important part of pet care and can prevent severe health issues down the line.

That's it from me for this issue, I see the shops are starting to stock up on Christmas goodies so we are definitely heading into the home stretch of 2019. For all our clients that have children writing exams soon, we wish them the best of luck.

Take care and warm regards,

Dr Craig Mostert



Find us on  
**facebook**

### AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

**Westville Veterinary Hospital**

**031 267 8000**

**Hillcrest After hours 084 520 1417**

## Village Pet Parlour is 1 year old!!



Its been a busy year for the Parlour and we are very grateful to all our clients for their continued support and encouragement with our new endeavour. A big thank you to you all and especially to our happy and enthusiastic parlour team who do the pampering and beautifying of all your pets. They love their jobs and all the furry guests and clients that come to visit them.

## Vet Nurses Day - Friday, 11 October 2019



**Paula**

Veterinary Nurse Day was established to raise awareness of those men and women who work alongside the veterinarians every day to help heal, comfort, and protect our pets.

Whether they're working in the field on large animals like horses and cattle, or carefully handling the smallest of pets like mice or lizards, they're a vitally important part of the care our pets receive. So what exactly does a veterinary nurse do?



**Pat**

Veterinary nurses are your first contact in the clinic when it comes time for care. They speak to you about what issues your pets are facing and help to prepare them for treatment, keeping them calm and comfortable.

When your pet has to stay at the Clinic, the Vet Nurse is the one who makes sure their bandages are changed, they're fed and watered. They also spend time giving them love and attention so they aren't lonely during their stay.



**Cheryl**

Even more importantly, they work with the vet during surgeries to make sure that everything goes smoothly. In short, they're just as important to your pet's welfare and happiness during treatment as the vets themselves! That's why Vet Nurse Day was established to celebrate and thank these incredible members of our veterinary staff.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our own three nurses, Paula, Pat and Cheryl for their hard work and dedication to their patients.

They are loved and much appreciated by us all.

## Breed Specific - The Shih Tzu

The Shih Tzu is a small compact dog with a short muzzle, large dark expressive round eyes and a soft, long double coat.



Their drop ears are covered with long fur, and the heavily furred tail is carried curled over the back. The coat may be of any colour, though a blaze of white on the forehead and tip of the tail is frequently

seen. The Shih Tzu is slightly longer than tall, and a very noticeable feature is the under-bite, which is required in the breed standard.

The temperament of a Shih Tzu can vary widely from dog to dog; some are calm, gentle and quiet while a puppy from the same litter could be feisty, dominant and partial to zooming all about the house. But generally they are happy, friendly, affectionate, trusting and loyal little dogs that love to play. They have an outgoing side as well that is alert, extroverted, vivacious, confident, dignified and somewhat cheeky.

The Shih Tzu will adapt to whatever living arrangement you provide, be it a mansion or apartment. However they are too small, too human oriented, and too heat/cold sensitive to live outdoors, thus they are definitely indoor dogs. They are also one of the best all-around breeds as they make excellent pets for families and single people as well as ideal companions for the elderly.

These little dogs are very alert, vigilant and will reliably bark when someone approaches the house. This makes them an excellent watch dog, but because of their friendly nature they tend not to make great guard dogs.



Shih Tzus are by no means active, outdoorsy dogs but they still need a certain amount of exercise. If you have a yard a good game of fetch will help burn some energy, however it is always recommended to take them on daily walks

around the neighbourhood or to a dog park where they can run off lead. This will not only burn energy but also stimulate them mentally.

Like a lot of small breeds the Shih Tzu is prone to developing Small Dog Syndrome, this is where the dog believes that they are the boss. This is due to the fact that the owner is too lenient with them and lets them get away with more than they should. This can lead to behavioural problems such as separation anxiety, guarding, growling, snapping, biting, excessive barking and distrust of children and sometimes adults.

To prevent this you need to give this dog rules, and limits to what they are and are not allowed to do; be firm and consistent.

## October is Pet Obesity month

It is generally accepted that the prevalence of overweight and obese pets has increased in recent years. Excess weight is the most common medical condition in companion animals and has a number of health and wellness implications for both pets and their owners. This increasingly common condition decreases a dog or cats life span by up to 2.5 years, increases its risk for various cancers, heart and kidney disease and arthritis, to name a few. It is common in pets of all ages but it usually occurs in middle-aged dogs and cats and generally in those that are between the ages of 5 and 10. Neutered and indoor dogs also tend to have a higher risk of becoming obese.



Pets may become overweight for many reasons. Whether the obesity is due to simply overfeeding or as a result of a disease process, the bottom line is the same: the pet is taking in more calories than it is using. Regardless of the cause of obesity, the owner is ultimately responsible for regulating the pet's food intake and in seeking veterinary assistance to maintain the pet at the optimal weight. Apart from the conditions mentioned above, your pet's quality of



life is affected. The ability to play, even to breathe, are diminished when overweight. They may become more irritable due to being hot, in pain, or simply uncomfortable. Overweight dogs die at a younger age than those maintained at an optimum weight!

We know that love is blind and many pet parents don't see that their pet is overweight but it is clear that we are not contributing positively to our dogs health when we allow them to become overweight. The next time those big brown eyes ask for

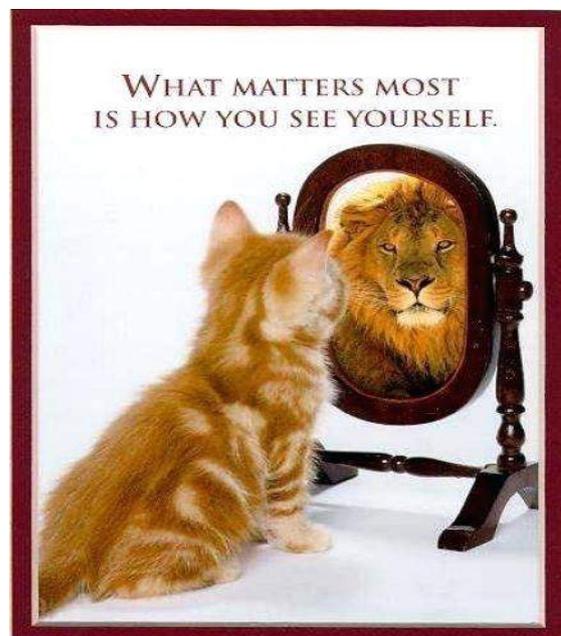
a treat, we urge you to think very carefully before giving one.

**If you are not sure if your pet is overweight, please bring your pet in for a FREE appointment with one of our nurses.**

**For the month of October we are offering:**

- **FREE weight checks**
- **FREE Assessments and advice on ideal target weight and appropriate weight management food**

**Please phone for an appointment on 031 764 0588.**



## Skin conditions in dogs

Nothing is worse than when our pets are not feeling well and we are not quite sure what's wrong with them. Even though our pets may be able to communicate with us, they still can't tell us exactly where it hurts.



Animals can face some of the same illnesses, conditions, and allergies that humans do, but are limited in their ability to communicate their feelings. This is why it's important that we take extra precautions when it comes to the care of our beloved pets.

Although some issues may be temporary and go away on their own, other conditions may be permanent or lead to more serious health issues if not given proper attention and care. It's important to keep an eye out for changes in outward appearance and/or behaviour in pets to ensure they are kept safe.

Everyone has had to deal with a scratching dog at one point or another, but many chalk it up to fleas or "just being a dog". Although that may very well be the case, there are several other types of skin conditions your pet may be suffering from, which can cause this incessant itching. Let's take a look at a few of the most common skin conditions in dogs.

**Allergic Dermatitis:** "Allergic dermatitis" is just a fancy term for skin allergies. Your dog may have an allergic reaction to grooming or bathing products, a change in food or treats, or environmental factors like insects or pollen. If your dog is constantly scratching and is starting to show signs of redness or rashes, he may need to be treated for allergies.



**Ringworm:** Ringworm is one of the more prevalent skin conditions dogs can get. Contrary to its name, the condition itself is not an actual worm, but a fungus. It is noticeable by its ring shapes that show up on the head, paws, ears, or legs. In addition to hair loss, your dog may experience inflammation or scaly patches where the fungus lives. You should seek treatment for ringworm right away, as it can easily spread not only to dogs or other pets, but also to humans.



**Hot Spots:** The clinical term for hot spots is "acute moist dermatitis", which refers to sections of the skin that are red and inflamed. Most often, they're found on your pets head or chest and feels hot to the touch.

Hot spots can result from allergies, infections, or excessive chewing or licking of the skin. It's important to keep the area as clean as possible, but if this condition continues, your best option is to pay your vet a quick visit.

Allergies may develop over time or may change with the seasons. Knowing your dogs habits is what will help most to control issues and prevent conditions and diseases from developing further.

**Please do not hesitate to contact the vet if you think your dog has a skin condition.**

## Beautiful calendars available at reception

### 2020 Limited Edition Wildlife Calendars



**C.R.O.W.**  
2020  
Walk on the Wildside

Tent Calendar: R80 Wall Calendar: R180 Desk Calendar: R50  
Prices exclude postage

Support the rescue, rehabilitation and release of orphaned and injured wildlife by purchasing our stunning 2020, A2 size wall calendar, which comes in an elegant gift box. It is also available as an A5 tent calendar and CD size desk calendar.

Tel: 031 267 9700  
crowcalendars@compass.za.net  
www.compasswasteservices.co.za/calendars

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cares

## Choosing a pet bird

Birds can make wonderful pets. They come in many gorgeous colors and have great personalities. They are also quite hardy and many can live a very long time. Bring a pet bird into your home and you will have a loving, social companion that can talk up a storm, or fill your home with beautiful song. Birds simply make great pets!



There are many different types of birds that make great pets. Choosing a pet bird is a composite of many factors. Gather bird information about all the different types of pet birds. Then analyze what you want from a bird and what you're willing to work with in a pet. Putting these together will help you determine which type of birds will fit into your household and lifestyle.

As you learn all about the different types of pet birds, you'll quickly start figuring out which bird species you really like. You may fall in love with a particular bird for its colour, or maybe you really want one that you can train to talk or perform tricks. Maybe you just love to listen to birds, or want to watch their crazy antics.

Each bird species is unique in characteristics and behaviours. Some birds like handling, yet others are simply fun to watch. Some are great talkers while others have a beautiful song. There are exotic pet birds that are loved because they are very colorful, others are enjoyed because of their entertaining characters.

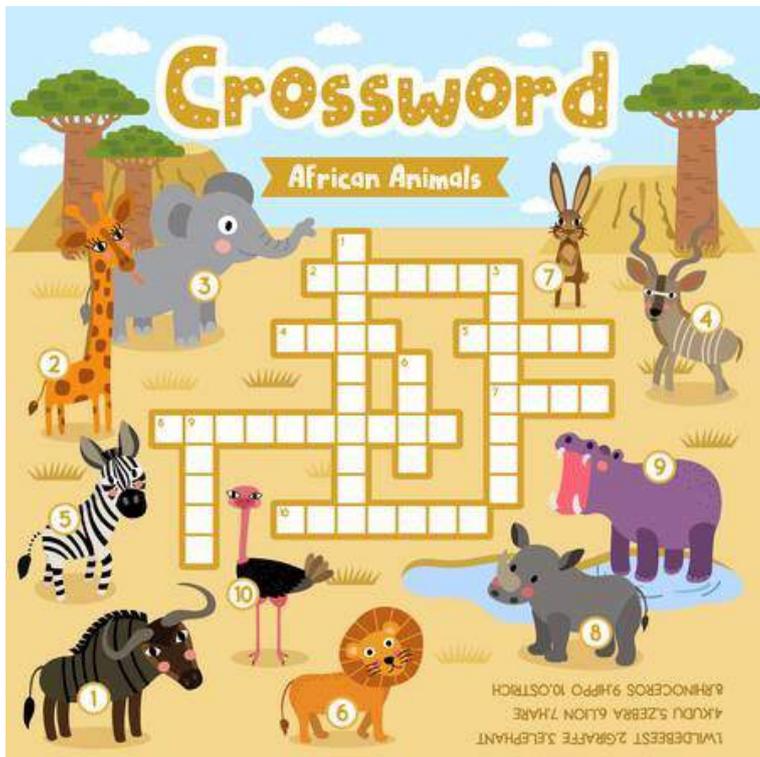
Knowledge of the characteristics and behaviours of different types of birds is invaluable in choosing the right one. The right bird is also one that will fit into your household and lifestyle. Do an in-depth analysis of you and your family and take a close look at the space in your home and yard. Now ask yourself, what bird is right for me? When you are ready to get your first pet bird, putting all this information together gives you the tools to help you make the right decision.

# PUZZLE PAGE

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## Wild Animal Word Search

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### Words

- Lion
- Giraffe
- Elephant
- Leopard
- Zebra
- Hippo
- Rhino
- Crocodile
- Flamingo
- Camel

