



VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

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In June, 14 years ago, we published our first newsletter. Over these 14 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 about. Mandy's email is accounts@villagevet.co.za and she is always on the look out for new material to put in the newsletter.

IT'S DENTAL PROMO MONTHS AGAIN!

Our dental scale and polishes are at special rates for an extended period of time. During June and July we will be adding free dental checks with our veterinary nurses and 20% off all dental related products. The 20% will be given as a voucher to all clients whose pets have had dental procedures during these two months. For our bunny patients we are offering health and dental checks with one of our vets at R295 which is 60% off our normal consult fee.

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.

New faces at the Clinic



My name is Thembelihle and I qualified in Animal Welfare through Unisa in 2021. I met Sr Charnell Ruth whilst I was waitressing and she introduced me to Dr Mostert. I started doing my practicals at Village Vet under the mentorship of Sr Paula, Sr Pat and Sr Cheryl. Later on I was offered a position as a Nurse Assistant, and the day I received that call changed my life. It has been an amazing experience that is a learning and growing process for me. I am forever grateful for the opportunity given to me. I love to hike, read novels and cook. I also have a beautiful daughter whom I live for.



My name is Maxine and my friends and family call me Paxmax or Max. I was born in Johannesburg and moved to Durban with my parents and two sisters when I was 8 years old. I have always had a love for animals and been an avid animal rights activist for many years. Prior to working at Village Veterinary Clinic as a Receptionist, I studied physiotherapy at UKZN Westville. I am also a qualified nail technician, mom of two young boys and lots of fur animals. My hobbies include pole fitness, gardening, xbox gaming and spending time with my family.



My name is Georgia Gifford, I am 23 years old and a recent graduate with a BA degree majoring in English and Psychology. I have always been an animal lover, earning my nickname Snow White and causing my family to roll their eyes at my habit of picking up the 'waifs and strays'. That said, I will never not be the crazy bird lady. The travel bug bit me young and I have been incredibly lucky to have explored numerous countries on several continents. I also enjoy going on adventures, reading, writing and knitting. Thanks for welcoming me to the Village Vet family!



My name is Molemo, I am a 38 year old family man who has two children, Bahlakoana aged 10 and Bohang aged 6. I am happily married to my wife Mabahlakoana. I have a small holding with sheep and cows but I am enjoying learning and working with small animals at Village Vet. I enjoy many sports and singing. Molemo's quiet and gentle demeanor is valued at Village Vet

Apology letter from Lily the cat written On her behalf by her Dad, Eugene van de Lingen

Dear Village Vet people,



My name is Lily and my Dad said I need to write you a letter because I have to say sorry for my behavior. *rolls eyes*

Apparently... when I was in your hospital I was very rude and may have (innocent until proven guilty) hissed, growled, scratched and bitten one or more of the doctors and people who were helping me. In my defense, I was very sore and unhappy and you pushed all sorts of sharp needles into me. I was also missing my home and my Dad.

Not to mention YOU SHAVED MY TUMMY! So embarrassing. And then I heard you tell me Dad that I was a fatty and I need to go on a diet. The shame! My Dad says he is also gonna go on a diet with me cos we both fatties, so that helps a bit. But he's more of a fatty than me, but don't tell him I said that!



But I am very very sorry for my bad behavior. I was not myself and I've learnt from this, I promise.

Right now I am feeling much better so thank you for fixing me. I have already been running around and playing with my favorite toy.

My Dad works at home so I have been helping him with that. Some of my favorite things to do are:

- ◆ Push all the pens off his table (they look better on the floor)
- ◆ Stand on his keyboard (It makes funny things happen on the computer monitor. Dad doesn't find it as funny. Weird.)
- ◆ Stand in front of the monitor (He needs to look at me more)
- ◆ Stand in front of the camera when he is on a Zoom call (everyone needs to look at me more)
- ◆ Sleep on his arm and watch him try and type with one hand (so many giggles. His left hand is useless)

Anyway, thank you again for fixing me and making me feel better. And sorry for being grumpy and fighty.

Love you,
Lily



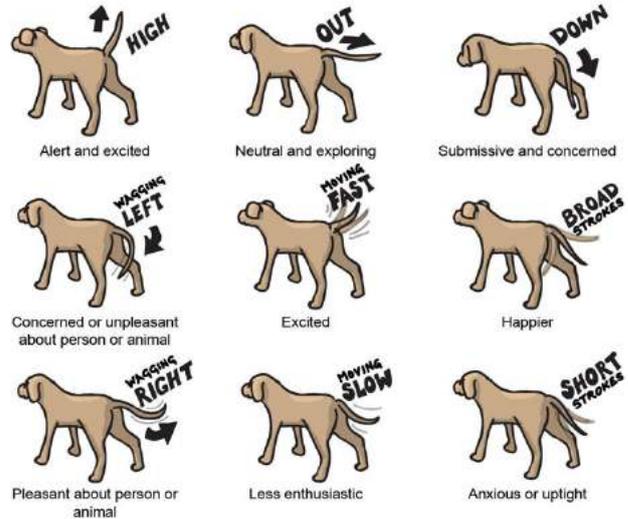
Bliss is the result
of a silent
conversation
between me
and my dog.
- Author Unknown

Tails

"They wag, they point, they tuck between legs, they thump on the floor. They can tell us a lot about the personality and mood of the dog they're attached to. But how much do you really know about your dog's tail?"

Dog Tail Translation

doghealth.com
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When we think of a dog's tail, we normally think of it wagging in the air as a sign of happiness. But happiness isn't the only emotion that a dog's tail conveys. Dog tails can communicate feelings all the way from curiosity to agitation. When a dog wags his tail high and wags it back and forth, he's usually feeling pretty good. When he is interested in something, his tail is usually horizontal to the ground. A tucked tail indicates the dog is frightened or submissive. When the tail goes from horizontal to upright and becomes rigid, he is feeling threatened or challenged. A tail that is low and wagging indicates the dog is worried or insecure.

The tail has another vital role in communicating. Every time your dog moves his tail, it acts like a fan and spreads his natural scent around him. One of his most important odours comes from the anal glands, two sacs under the tail that contain a smelly liquid that is as unique among dogs as fingerprints are to us.

For some dogs, the tail acts as a counterweight to help them balance and make their turns more precise.

July school holidays

The July school holidays are just around the corner and you need to start preparing for the safe keeping of your pets whilst you are away.

It is not easy to leave your beloved pets behind but it is comforting to know that they are in a safe, comfortable place while you are gone. If you are considering boarding your pets, ask your friends and your vet who they recommend and book them in as early as possible. If you wait too long, the facility may become fully booked.

If you don't want to put your pets into boarding kennels, consider hiring a pet sitter either to come in and feed your pets on a daily basis or alternatively to house sit for you. Knowing that your pet receives individual attention in your own home adds peace of mind. Remember to have your pets vaccinated at least 3 weeks in advance and this is particularly important with Kennel Cough vaccine.

Boarding Kennels will not accept an unvaccinated pet so make sure your pet's vaccinations are up to date.

Contact our ladies at reception for kennel recommendations and appointments for vaccinations.

Please 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. Our pets are a different matter.

Dogs and cats



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.



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. To make sure that winter weather doesn't put your pet's health at risk, keep the following tips in mind when preparing for the changing seasons:



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.

Rabbits and guinea pigs — They are hardy pets and enjoy cooler temperatures but shouldn't be exposed to any weather extremes. If you keep your rabbit outdoors, 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 wind and rain. In a severe storm, the top of the cage should be covered making sure your rabbit has enough fresh air to breathe. Add extra hay to the nest box for extra comfort and insulation. Ideally, you should bring your rabbit indoors when the temperature plummets or during storms. Just make sure the cage is away from any heating elements and keep your rabbit in the coolest part of the house, your garage or shed.



A word of caution though, be sure the area is well ventilated and free from any fumes. Whatever the weather, the cage needs regular cleaning. It's very important for your rabbit to always have fresh water available and extra food to keep him warm. If it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your rabbit.

Surgical procedures at Village Vet

At Village Veterinary Clinic we pride ourselves in the care we take of all our patients undergoing surgical procedures, whether it is a spay a neuter or more intricate orthopaedic surgery. All surgical cases are given premedication and an analgesic (pain killer) prior to the anaesthetic. They are then given an initial intravenous anaesthetic through an intravenous catheter; just enough to allow an endotracheal tube to be passed into the throat so that a safe gas anaesthetic can be introduced.

The whole time the patient is in theatre, its heart rate, respiration and anaesthetic levels are monitored by one of our nursing staff. Once out of theatre, the patient is individually monitored



until fully awake and able to return to its cage. All patients are sent home with analgesics to see them through the periods they are likely to be in pain after the surgery. Depending on the procedure, the patient will go home with antibiotics as a precautionary measure. On discharge the owner is given information on post-operative care and shown how to medicate the patient should it be necessary. We believe in giving our patients the best treatment possible and so our costs may be a little higher than elsewhere.

All spays and neuters at Village Veterinary Clinic are subsidised, which is our contribution towards assisting to reduce the number of unwanted animals in KZN.

The human - animal triangle

When an animal is taken ill and is under veterinary care there should be a triangular connection between the animal, the owner and the veterinarian. Everyone needs to work together to make the animal well again. If this connection is not happily in place, then the restoration of the animal to health is compromised.

We fully understand that an owner may be very stressed about their sick or injured animal. However they must understand that for the vet to be able to help the animal, a certain amount of interaction with the owner is paramount, particularly when the animal is first brought into the hospital. The seemingly endless unimportant — to the owners — questions asked by the vet are all questions that are crucial in assisting the clinician to come to a diagnosis which then aids in planning a course of action.

An overly concerned owner who does not listen to what they have been told by the nurses or vets and telephones many times a day for an update is counter productive. An in-hospital patient, not in an intensive care situation, is very unlikely to change from one hour to the next. Telephoning multiple times a day to ask about a pet is very disruptive, and prevents our staff from treating patients needing immediate care.



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Tips for converting your avian pet to pellets

As with any pet, a balanced nutritional diet is of utmost importance. The ideal would be to mimic their natural diet but in most cases this is not possible. Due to variations in species, avian diets can differ. For example, budgies and cockatiels can do well on seed-based diets where parrots perform poorly. With a balanced pellet diet, vegetables and some fruit should also be on offer.

Diets consisting of predominantly sunflower seed are deficient in more than twelve nutrients. These include calcium, vitamin D, vitamin A, vitamin K, amino acids (lysine and methionine), B vitamins, manganese, zinc, iron, iodine and selenium. Sunflower seeds also contain very high amounts of fat that can lead to obesity, arteriosclerosis, poor feather quality, seizures and an increased susceptibility to disease.

A formulated pelleted diet is the best way to provide a nutritionally balanced diet for your pet. If your bird has been eating the same seed-based diet for years it could be a daunting task. Some birds take to a new diet quickly but some could take months. Every bird is different and some require a different approach

1. Birds are flock feeders and usually eat what the "flock" eats. Pretend that you are eating the new pellets and offer / hand-feed your pet.
2. Try putting a few of the new pellets in their normal food. Every week take a bit of their old food out and add a few more pellets steadily over a couple of weeks. Most stubborn birds will throw the new pellets out or ignore them but over time will get curious. As soon as they start crushing the pellets the battle is half won.



As soon as they start crushing the pellets the battle is half won.

3. Try feeding pellets only in the mornings when they are hungry. If they have

not eaten anything by midday, give them some of their regular food. Continue this for a few days. If they do not take to this method after two weeks, or start losing weight, try some of the other methods.

4. Try feeding pellets only and nothing else. This method is not ideal but has worked in some birds. If they have not taken to the new diet in two days consider some of the other methods.
5. Soak the pellets in water or fruit juice to make them more appealing.
6. Try making toys out of the new pellets by hiding them in small boxes that the birds can destroy, or string them into chains to play with.
7. Try different brands as some birds have taste preferences.
8. Mix some pellets with vegetable baby food such as sweet potatoes, carrots, peas or green beans. (Do not leave in the cage very long due to the risk of bacterial or fungal growth.)

Ensure you monitor your birds weight during the conversion period. A healthy bird can withstand losing 10% of their weight. Lastly don't give up too quickly – the benefits far outweigh the effort.

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:

Westville Veterinary Hospital 031 267 8000

CANCER AWARENESS

EARLY WARNING SIGNS OF CANCER IN CATS: & DOGS

- ◆ Enlarged or changing lumps and bumps
- ◆ Sores that do not heal
- ◆ Chronic weight loss or weight gain
- ◆ Change in appetite
- ◆ Persistent cough
- ◆ Persistent lameness or stiffness
- ◆ Unpleasant mouth odour
- ◆ Difficulty breathing, eating or swallowing
- ◆ Difficulty urinating or defecating
- ◆ Bleeding or discharge from any opening



Make an appointment with us if you have noticed any of these warning signs in your pet.

Vaccinations save lives

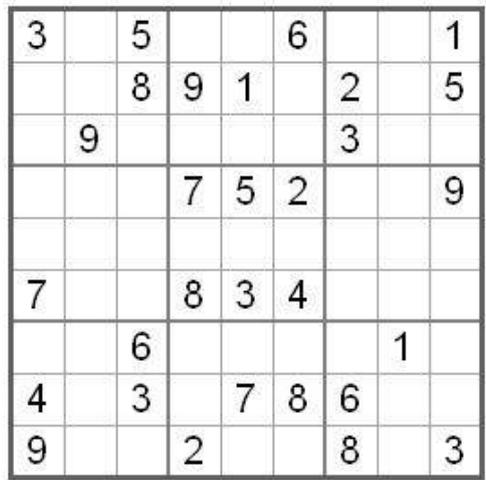
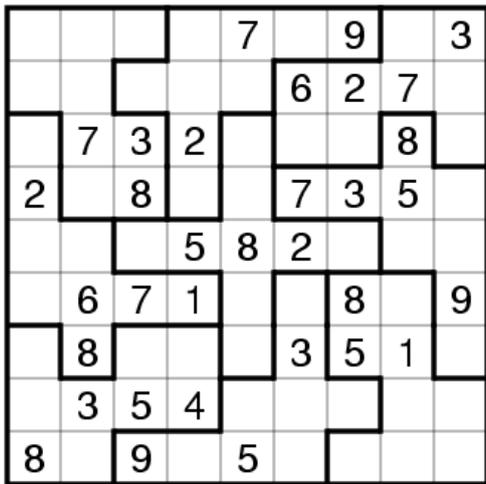
As much loved and loyal companions, your pets depend on you to keep them healthy. Vaccinating is one of the most important preventative measures you can take for the health of your dog or cat. They help protect them from viral and bacterial diseases. Whether your pet spends time indoors or outdoors, at some time in his life he may be at risk of exposure to infectious diseases. Vaccinating your pet is the least costly way of preventing disease and is less costly than treating for a serious illness that could have been prevented.

Puppies and kittens are as vulnerable as they are adorable and their immature immune systems can't fight off diseases as well as older dogs and cats. That is why puppies and kittens need vaccinations several times during the first few months of life namely at 6-8 weeks, 12 weeks and 16 weeks during their first year.

By law all dogs and cats in South Africa have to be vaccinated against rabies. This disease is a killer and a terrible way to die. By protecting your pet you also protect your family against this devastating disease. Remember, once infected there is no cure for rabies and it is fatal.

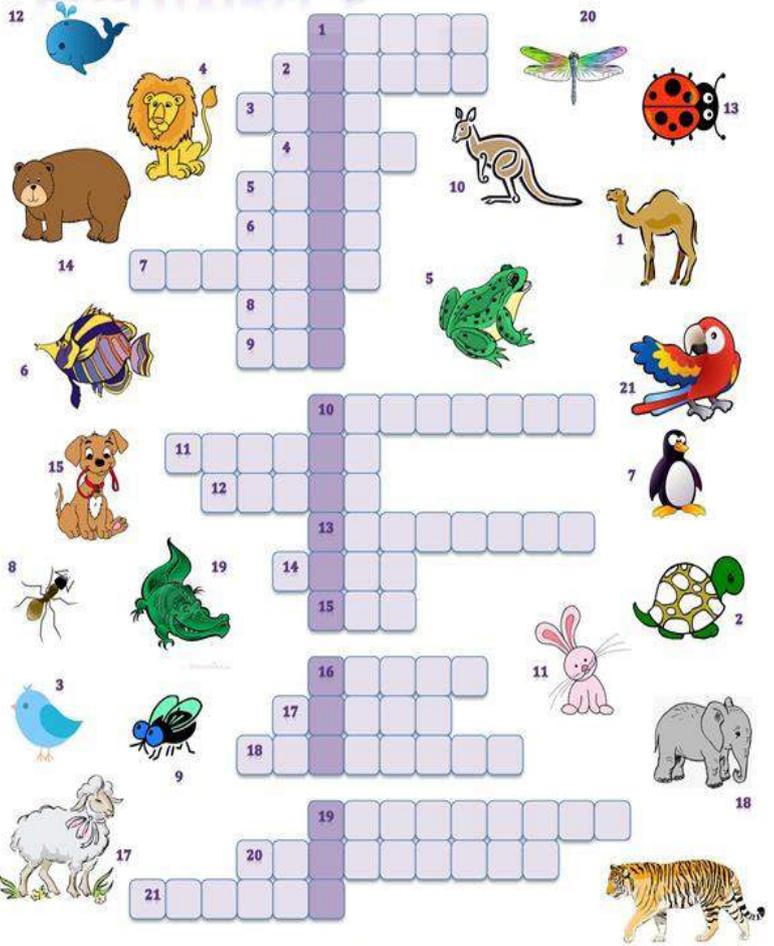
As responsible pet owners we need to realise that there are some things that our pets should not be without:

1. Annual vaccinations
2. Good nutrition
3. All year round flea control
4. Regular deworming



ANIMALS

Fill in the animals into the grid and read a proverb.



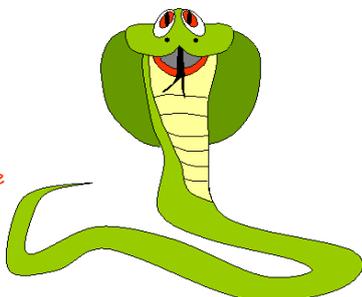
Word bank

Crocodile bird dog Camel kangaroo tiger ant turtle penguin
 fly parrot rabbit whale fish bear dragonfly lion sheep
 elephant fly frog ladybird ISLCollective.com

Snake Word Search

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

- boa
- cobra
- coil
- copperhead
- fangs
- mice
- predator
- reptile
- rocks
- slither
- snake
- tree
- venom
- vertebrate
- viper





VILLAGE PET PARLOUR

To book an appointment to pamper your pets and
get their coats in tip-top condition phone

Daphne on:
031 655 1252 or 079 626 6927