

Hello and welcome to our winter edition of Snippets. We hope your family are staying warm, especially your older pets who can be sore and stiff on these cold mornings.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DENTAL MAINTENANCE



Dental health is not just about creating a white smile and pleasant smelling breath in your cat or dog. Bacteria associated with dental disease can cause illness and disease elsewhere in the body, especially if bacteria circulate in the bloodstream and lodge on heart valves or in the kidneys and liver.

These risks are greater in animals with other problems such as diabetes, heart or kidney disease.

Periodontal disease is an inflammation of the gums and soft tissues surrounding the teeth.

Bacteria lodge in these tissues and on teeth in plaque, slowly causing inflammation and infection plaque mineralizes on the surface of the teeth over time and forms a hard deposit called tartar. The rough surface harbours even more bacteria.

You may notice red gums, bad breath and brown discolouration of teeth. Deterioration of periodontal ligaments, pocketing of gums about the tooth and decay cause tooth loosening and pain.

Early intervention is the key to prevention. What can be done?

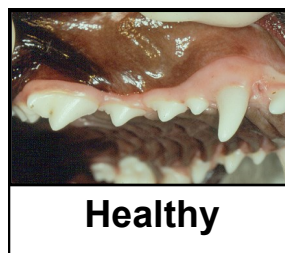
Ideally we prevent tartar build up on teeth to start with:

- Brushing is the best way, and there is flavoured toothpaste for cats and dogs, applied with thimble or long handled tooth-brushes. Ask at the front desk if you think your pet would allow this.
- Hills T/D (Tooth diet) is formulated as a bigger kibble requiring the proper chewing, and has vegetable striations to aid plaque removal when eaten.
- Plaque and tartar prevention just became easier; A new plaque control product which therefore reduces tartar has just been released for dogs and cats - "Healthymouth" is an all-natural product which is added to your dog or cats drinking water. Approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) it has shown promising results in trials, (74% plaque reduction), and proven safe for daily use. Ideal if you need to use a prescription or tailored diet for some other health issue, but would also like to guard oral health.
- The worst candidates for tartar/plaque we see are small dogs and cats, and for these pets 'Healthymouth' is most cost effective too.

Once tartar has built up on the teeth we need to:

- Perform a dental scale and polish under anaesthetic to return to the smooth enamel surface of the tooth. There are now set prices for this procedure at the clinic dependent on the size of your pet – call to check.
- Address ongoing prevention after the dental with the products mentioned earlier.

Call the clinic now to book in for a **FREE NURSE DENTAL CHECK** for your pet.



## WINTER ACHES AND PAINS?

Trocoxil<sup>®</sup> is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medication we commonly use for dogs with arthritis needing long term treatment. Being a monthly single dose tablet, the slow release formulation helps to even out the peaks and troughs in pain control for daily medications. Inflammation and pain are better controlled with the slow release cover in most dogs.

To find out whether the symptoms of your dog may be suspicious of arthritis go to [www.caninearthritis.co.nz](http://www.caninearthritis.co.nz) and look at the easy questions to determine if this is possibly a cause. There is a free trial offer for the second dose of Trocoxil (following a consultation with examination and checks to see that Trocoxil is suitable).



Cats can also be medicated for arthritis with Metacam, a liquid medication that has been formulated especially for cats. It is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) given once daily on your cat's food.



If you notice any of the following symptoms

- ✓ Loss of interest in playing
- ✓ Reluctance to jump
- ✓ Decreased grooming
- ✓ Increased sleeping

Make an appointment to see us. We will give your cat a full examination, find any problems, and if we think it is indicated, discuss the use of Metacam Cat or other treatments that may be indicated.

## NEW IN STORE

Flax Seed Oil is a natural supplement containing 60% Omega 3, an Essential Fatty Acid known to possess anti-inflammatory properties that has many health benefits.

Supplementing your dog or cat's daily feed with Flax Seed Oil can help to rectify the imbalance of Omega 6 and 3 in the body, promoting optimum health and mobility as well as supporting the immune, circulatory and digestive systems.

Some common problems that maybe helped with Flax seed oil supplement:

- Dry, itchy skin or hair loss
- Allergies and allergic reactions
- Inflammation
- Joint pain and reduced mobility, particularly in older animals
- Slow wound healing
- Gastrointestinal disorders



Omega 3 rich Flax Seed Oil is perfect for promoting optimum overall health for your pet - it's easy to feed and tastes great!



**Chicken, turkey & liver:**  
**High quality animal protein sources\***

For cats that crave the best

DISCOVER EUKANUBA VITAL HEALTH SYSTEM

100%  
HIGH  
QUALITY  
NUTRITION

STRONG  
DEFENCES

STRONG  
BONES

HEALTHY  
DIGESTION

SKIN & COAT

DENTALCARE

URINARY  
HEALTH

\*Eukanuba Adult Chicken & Liver food contains 35% high quality protein.

Eukanuba cat food is scientifically formulated to meet recommendations of veterinarians and nutritionists to keep your cat healthy and strong.

The Eukanuba Vital Health system provides an holistic approach to diet—Eukanuba never compromises—Make Every Ingredient Count. That's how it earned the rating as the #1 cat food in Europe. In store now.



# Introducing the **K9000 Dog Wash**



**NOW at Town & Country Vet -  
Richmond.**

**Coin operated do it yourself Dog  
wash!**

**Heats own water and has a warm  
air dryer.**

**Open 24 hours - 7 days a week.  
It's easy and it's fun.**

## **SUPERBUGS!**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently released a warning to doctors, vets and healthcare workers about the increasing number of cases of bacterial resistance to antibiotics. The basic problem stems from the fact that bacteria have many ways of becoming resistant to antibiotics and are consistently evolving and sharing their resistant characteristics with other bacteria, aided by their quick generation time. Additional contributors are antibiotic overuse, misuse, and the fact that very few new antibiotics have been researched and developed in the last 10 years. Town & Country Vet is aware of this problem and we want to do our bit towards responsible use of antibiotics. Where possible we will try to control infections by other measures, using antibiotics only if deemed necessary.

Skin infections, for instance, can sometimes be superficial and controlled with clipping, cleaning and preventing self trauma.

From our patients point of view, you can help them out by-

- ◇ Finishing antibiotic courses completely, even if the animal seems fine
- ◇ Not sharing medicines with other animals as they may not be appropriate for their problems
- ◇ Observing cleanliness in animal housing/bedding
- ◇ Keeping parasites controlled, eg, flea and worm control, prevents self trauma leading to skin damage/infection

With awareness of potential problems and careful use of antibiotics there is hope for control of resistance to preserve the power of our arsenal against disease, in humans especially.



## **POISON - BEWARE**

Over winter we see 3 types of poisoning more regularly than others:-

- **Rat Bait** – usually seen in dogs, from inadvertent access to unsecured baits. Seek advice early if seen consuming bait. Use bait stations which prevent access.
- **Anti-freeze** spillage which can cause kidney failure. It has a sweet taste that attracts both cats and dogs, causing rapid onset of symptoms and although an intravenous drip and intensive care can save some cases, it is often fatal. Please dispose of this product correctly.
- **Slug bait** – seen in cats and dogs, usually requiring hospitalisation and supportive treatment. Many of these baits have pet repellent but this may not stop a determined pet! Restricting access is the best prevention.

