



**The Vet Centre**

Maungaturoto • Waipu • Ruawai • Mangawhai

Spring 2017

# Nose to Tail

## Companion Animal Newsletter



### New Arsenal for Itchy Dogs

The weather is starting to clear up and the pollens and allergens are out in full force. Those with itchy allergic dogs might be noticing them scratching a lot more lately. As the weather continues to improve, our itchy dogs will be getting worse. Luckily we have a few new weapons in our arsenal against allergic skin disease, or atopy.

Apoquel, which is a safer alternative to prednisone, has been on the market for the last year or so. Apoquel works as effectively as prednisone but without all the nasty side effects that are common with long term prednisone use. Apoquel targets the cellular pathway that causes our animals to itch, while having minimal side effects on the rest of the body. It can be used as a daily treatment for severe allergies, or on an as needed basis for milder allergies.

Cytopoint, the newest allergy medication to come on the market, is a useful tool for atopic allergic dogs. Cytopoint is a fast acting injection that starts working within a day and is given every 4-8 weeks depending on response. It targets and neutralizes the specific chemical compound, or cytokine, in the body that is responsible for inducing itchiness in allergic dogs. It can be used alone or in combination with Apoquel to control atopic dermatitis but atopy must be diagnosed before. Come in and see one of our vets today to discuss the options available for your itchy dog.



### Obesity in Dogs and Cats

Just like us, our furry friends can suffer from obesity and weight problems. Thankfully we can have complete control over what our pets eat and how much they exercise. Obesity is the most common nutritional disorder our pets face, and can lead to a number of health problems including diabetes, hip dysplasia, arthritis, and cancer. Obese and overweight animals live an average of 3 years less than non-obese dogs and cats.

The best way to get our pets to lose weight is to increase the exercise they get and to reduce the amount of food they eat, including cutting down on treats and table scraps, or to switch to a weight loss diet such as Hill's Metabolic. We have a number of weight loss foods available in clinic and we are happy to devise a weight loss plan for your pet, including regular weight checks.



**We will be running our  
summer comfort  
clipping special again  
this summer. Watch  
this space for more  
details!**

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**Summer Comfort  
Clipping Special**  
(cats and dogs)



## New Flea and Tick Control

We have a few new flea and tick products available in clinic now and a couple of promotions going on as well.

Simparica is a highly palatable chewable flea and tick control similar to Nexgard. It lasts for 5 weeks instead of 4 and seems to be a bit more palatable than other chewables. It comes in a number of weight ranges to suit all sizes.



Bravecto is a chewable flea and tick control for dogs which lasts for 3 months.

It is now available as a 3 month spot on treatment for cats and a 6 month spot on treatment for dogs!



From September 1st until December 29th when you purchase any 3 or 6-pack of Frontline Plus, Nexgard Chewables, Nexgard Spectra OR purchase 3 packs of Broadline spot on you will go into the draw to win one of 3 prizes worth up to 15,000\$!

A Spa Pool  
A Jet Ski  
Or an outdoor furniture set

**NexGard™**  
(afoxolaner) Chewables

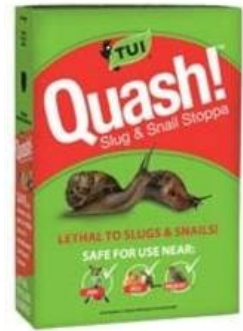
**Broadline**  
spot-on solution for cats

**FRONTLINE Plus**  
Recommended by Veterinarians

**NexGard SPECTRA™**

## Slug Bait Toxicity

Slug bait is unfortunately a common poisoning seen by our Vet Centre Clinics especially at this time of year when our gardens are in full swing. Slugs can be a pest but the traditional commercial slug baits available are unfortunately extremely toxic and even fatal to your pet dogs.



Typical early signs to look out for after slug bait ingestion include incoordination (they may look and act drunk!) and increased anxiety. You may notice your dog pacing and acting very strange and wobbly. This typically starts 30 to 60 minutes after they eat the bait. The signs quickly progress to severe muscle twitching, seizures, and increased drooling (more than usual for a big drooly dog!).

If your pets are not treated by this stage they can go in to comas and even die. Sadly slug bait can kill our furry friends within 2 to 12 hours depending on how much they have eaten. Your pets can survive slug bait ingestion if attended to immediately after ingestion or commencement of symptoms.

If you have seen or suspect your pet as eaten slug bait or notice any of the signs above they should receive immediate veterinary attention. Dogs that are treated early and survive the first 24 hours can make a full recovery in several days to weeks.

## The Vet Centre News

The Waipu Clinic has welcomed a new full time receptionist, Tracey Woodward, who started on the 4th of September.

It is a bittersweet farewell to our lovely vet Erin Grundy in Maungaturoto who is moving down to Blenheim in the coming months to join her husband. We wish them all the best in the future.

We have just finished our dental promotion month in August and it was a huge success with lots of pets getting nice clean teeth and more comfortable mouths.

The Waipu clinic had a great turn out to our annual Tartan Pet Parade. Lots of prizes given and sausages eaten! And we raised a total of 130\$ for the Whangarei SPCA which is fantastic.



## Clinic Locations

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