

Nose to tail

Companion animal newsletter



Pet Holiday Care

Summer is a great time for us to get away for a break. Unfortunately most holiday destinations aren't all that pet friendly, which often means our furry friends are boarded in kennels/catteries or left in the care of friends and family while we are away. To ensure a smooth and stress free holiday there are a few important things to organise well in advance.

Pet Accommodation

If using a kennel or cattery remember to book your space early. The good ones fill up fast over the summer period and most places are at full capacity at this time of the year.

Vaccinations

Ensure these are up to date and your pet has the correct ones needed especially if they are boarding, as reputable kennels and catteries will not take your pet unless their vaccinations are current and they are fully vaccinated. It pays to check at the time of booking what their vaccination policy is and which vaccinations are required to avoid having to cancel holiday plans if your pet doesn't meet the criteria for boarding.

If you are unsure of your pet's vaccination history or have misplaced your vaccination booklet then give us a call as we can issue you with a new booklet if needed or alternatively email through a copy of your pets vaccination history.

Parasites

Ensure your pet is up to date with parasite treatments covering fleas, ticks and worms prior to and during your holiday to ensure they aren't spreading or picking up these nasties while you are away.

Medications and Special Diets

If your pet requires medication or is fed a specific diet please make sure you have enough to get you through the holiday period while you are away and especially over the Christmas and New Year's break. Many wholesalers close down for a short break over this period. There are limited couriers available during this time also which can also cause supply issues.

Illness/Accidents

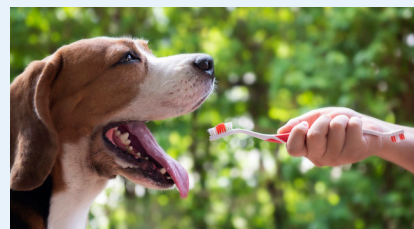
Sometimes the unexpected happens while you are away and a pet can become ill or have an accident that requires veterinary attention. If you are planning to be away for some time and/or not easily contactable it can be helpful to let us know that those looking after your pet have the authority to bring them to us and can make decision on your behalf for treatment if needed.

Food/Beach/Scrounging Pets

Please keep an eye out for your pets this summer and ensure they aren't getting into anything they shouldn't. Keep a watchful eye out when at the beach as pets can be poisoned if they ingest certain fish, sea cucumbers and algae. Please don't share your food with your pets and make sure others aren't. Often times we have leftovers this time of the year (such as chicken and ham) which can cause digestive issues for our pets – if it's not fit for you to eat then it's not fit for your pet to eat. Remember chocolate is poisonous to our pets (the darker the chocolate the more toxic it is to them) so please store it out of their reach.

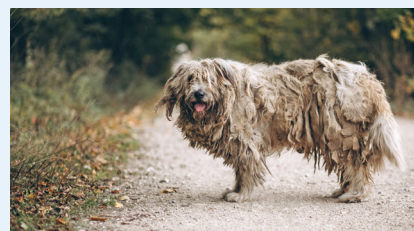
Advantage Promo

Bayer's next promo for Advantage, Advocate and Seresto starts on the 9th November 2019. Receive a free notebook with each purchase – whilst stocks last.



Dental Promo

20% off dental procedures during February 2020.



Clip Promo

Summer comfort clipping special – 20% off price of clip during December 2019, offer applies to cats and dogs only and does not cover any other treatments or products.



Summer Heat Awareness

This summer is already shaping up to be a warm one! This hotter summer weather can cause serious problems for our pets. Our pets are very susceptible to heat stroke as their bodies are covered with insulating fur and they are not able to sweat to dissipate heat as we do. Heat stroke occurs when your pet's core body temperature rises more quickly than they can cool themselves. This increase in core body temperature is serious and can lead to fatal complications, including seizures, damage to internal organs and blood clotting disorders, which can in severe cases lead to death.

To prevent heatstroke occurring, all pets require access to cooler areas with plenty of water and airflow. If inside, they need adequate ventilation and if outside they must have access to shade. Some breeds especially brachiocephalic (short nosed cats and dogs) are more at risk of heat stroke due to their anatomy.

A common cause of heat stroke occurs when pets are left unattended in cars. Pets should NEVER be left in cars, even with the windows cracked, even for only a few minutes as temperatures in cars can reach very high levels on warm days in a very short period of time.

Exercise should be in the morning or evening to avoid the heat during the middle of the day. This is to try and prevent heat stroke but also avoid paw injuries due to hot asphalt/concrete as these can reach very high temperatures causing burns and damage to your pet's paws. A simple rule to remember is if it's too hot for you to walk barefoot then it's too hot for your pet's paws.

Longer furred pets can be clipped to remove thick fur coats and allow them to cool more effectively. Clipping also allows them to dry quicker after swimming and can help to prevent hotspots from developing. Other options to cool pets include

making large ice blocks out of water, providing water baths or hosing down your pet. Inside pets can benefit from a fan or having a heat pump on a timer set to a cool temperature.

Heat stroke is a medical emergency and can be life threatening if left untreated. Any animal suspected of having heat stroke should receive immediate veterinary assessment.

Feline Microchipping

We highly recommend microchipping of all felines as microchipping allows permanent identification of a cat allowing us to find their owners if they become lost, are injured or become caught in a trap. Collars can be lost and can also cause injury to cats if they become caught up.

Microchipping involves implanting a small transponder under the skin over the neck/shoulder area. When scanned by a microchip reader, it gives a unique number which is linked to your pet. Microchipping is available at any of our clinics, is quick and easy and most cats tolerate the implantation really well.

For a microchip to be most effective it needs to be registered with the nationwide database - The NZ Companion Animal Register. This is the best way to ensure that your cat's microchip is linked to your contact details and gives the best chance of a safe return if they go missing.



Puppy School

Puppy School is available at The Vet Centre. The course covers basic obedience training, healthcare, nutrition and socialisation. It is held at our Waipu Clinic and run by our Vet Nurse/Tech Kylie. The next class starts at the end of January 2020.

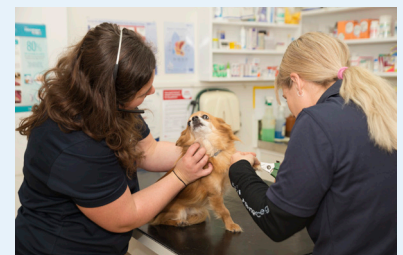
Please call our Waipu branch (09) 432 0693 for details and to book a place.

Summer Holiday Opening Hours

Our clinics are closed for the Statutory Holidays (25th and 26th December 2019 and 1st and 2nd January 2020) only with all clinics open 8am to 5pm for the rest of the weekday holiday period. Our Waipu and Mangawhai clinics are also open as usual on Saturday mornings.

Our vets are available on call outside of our normal clinic hours during the entire holiday period for any emergencies.

Wishing you and your pets a happy and enjoyable Christmas and New Year from all of us at The Vet Centre.



Staff News

We would like to welcome the following staff:

Mangawhai: Mel Geerlings (vet nurse/receptionist/technician) and Finn Maloney (graduate vet)

Waipu: Sue Crow (companion animal vet) and Steph Clark (nurse/tech/receptionist)

Ruawai: Sara Taylor (companion animal vet)

We sadly farewell:

Waipu: Meaghan Grundy (companion animal vet). We wish you a complete recovery

Jess Brannan (tech/nurse) We wish you success in your new business venture

And a belated congratulations Michelle Stodart (vet at Maungaturoto) on the birth of a baby girl in August.