

“Moments Of Awesomeness Award”

Callum Bettington from Darfield was the recipient of a VetEnt “Moments of Awesomeness” award last month for his excellent work during a roadside emergency. This is a monthly company wide award which recognises staff who go above and beyond the scope of their role.

The bottom of a horse float had given way, causing a horse inside to get stuck in the boards. The horse was in a very dangerous situation: distressed and doing everything to get out. There was serious potential for major damage to be done to the horse, and while Callum is not experienced with equine and found this out of his usual comfort zone, there was no equine vet available so he went and attended to the horse until an equine vet could get there.

It was no small ordeal. In addition to the vets, the Fire Brigade, some friends of the owners, and local farmers with tractors were all needed to work together to eventually get the float cut and the horse out safely.

A week later the owners have let us know the horse is comfortably walking around with all swelling gone in the affected leg.

We received this lovely feedback from the Owner: “Yesterday we had a horrible experience where my horse had put his foot through the floor in the float. I would like to say a massive thank you to the vet who attended, I know it was out of his scope but he did an amazing job and organised everyone extremely well. If it wasn't for his quick response to sedate my horse, I think the outcome would have been a lot different”.

Well done Callum!



Patient Profile: Tawahi the Kiwi

VetEnt Queenstown have been working hard helping our furry friends of all species. Tawahi the Kiwi, one of Queenstown Birdlife Park's two breeding females, was brought in for a rare emergency C-section late last year. Tawahi was suffering from “egg binding” which meant she was unable to lay the egg.

Tawahi was rushed into the VetEnt Queenstown clinic, where Dr Orla Fitzpatrick was on hand to perform a tricky operation; “Even with a healthy kiwi there's a risk they won't survive the anaesthetic or surgery.



She was a really sick kiwi - she already had aspiration pneumonia, she'd inhaled some of her stomach contents because she was pushing, and that makes it a massive anaesthetic risk.”

Dr Fitzpatrick, assisted by Vet Nurse Georgia Affleck, worked into the night to give Tawahi the best chance at recovery, “It was a real team effort. Her heart became weak twice during recovery but Georgia was able to administer emergency drugs - she was brilliant. Any time that

we're operating or involved with a native bird like a kiwi, which is so important, it's kind of stressful.”

Park manager Paul Kavanagh, who was with the kiwi from her arrival at 3.30pm right the way through to 1.30am when the VetEnt team finished the surgery, praised the VetEnt team, in particular Dr Fitzpatrick: “She goes above and beyond to help save animals, especially when it comes to our native wildlife.”

Since Tawahi's ordeal she has recovered well and we are so excited to hear she has just laid a healthy egg! With the Kiwi Birdlife Park and VetEnt teams on high alert in the days leading up to laying, Tawahi needed no intervention and she delivered a healthy egg to full term.

The wait is now on for 70-80 days for the egg to hatch!



A sleepy Tawahi waking up post-operation.



13 Things We Can Learn From Our Pets:

1. Forget Multitasking: When dogs have a job to do, they give it their undivided attention. It turns out people should probably do the same. Stanford researchers found that attention and memory suffer in those who juggle work, email, and web-surfing, compared to those who focus on one task at a time. Other studies suggest employees actually lose time when multitasking.

2. Take Naps: You don't catch your pet going from dawn to dusk without any shut-eye. There's good evidence humans can benefit from catnaps. Short naps can enhance alertness and job performance.

3. Walk Every Day: Whether you've got four legs or two, walking is one of the safest, easiest ways to burn calories and boost heart health. Taking regular walks can also help you:

- Fight depression
- Lose weight
- Keep your mind sharp

4. Live In The Moment: Living in the moment may be one of the most important lessons we can learn from our pets. In a study called “A Wandering Mind Is an Unhappy Mind,” Harvard psychologists conclude that people

are happiest when doing activities that keep the mind focused.

5. Don't Hold A Grudge: Part of living in the moment is letting bygones be bygones. Let go of old grudges, and you'll literally breathe easier. Chronic anger has been linked to a decline in lung function, while forgiveness contributes to lower blood pressure and reduced anxiety.

6. Drink Water When You Are Thirsty: Dogs don't lap up sports drinks when they've been playing hard – and most people don't need to, either. During a typical workout, drinking water is the best way to stay hydrated. Water gives your muscles and tissues critical fluid without adding to your calorie count. Be sure to drink more than usual on hot days or when you're sweating a lot.

Continued On The Next Page...



In this issue

- 13 Things We Can Learn From Our Pets
- Patient Profile: Luna
- Caring for Kittens
- Patient Profile: Tawahi the Kiwi
- VetEnt MOA Award

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Continued...

7. If You Love Someone, Show It: Pets don't play hard to get – when they love you, they show you. It's a good approach for people seeking to strengthen their relationships. A study published

in the Journal Of Personal Relationships suggests small, thoughtful gestures can have a big impact on how connected and satisfied couples feel.



8. Play: Goofing off is not just for kids and kittens. In his book, Play, Stuart Brown, MD, writes that playing is a basic human need along with sleeping and eating. Play enhances intelligence, creativity, problem-solving, and social skills. Take a cue from your pet and devote yourself to an activity that has no purpose other than sheer fun.

9. Enjoy The Great Outdoors: A hike in the woods may be a dog's idea of bliss, but it has plenty of benefits for the human mind and body, as well. Spending time outdoors can enhance fitness, increase vitamin D levels, and reduce stress.

10. Make Time To Groom: Aside from the obvious health benefits of bathing and brushing your teeth, grooming can have a number of positive effects on your life.

Good personal hygiene is vital to self-esteem. A tidy appearance can also help you get, and maintain, a job.

11. Be Aware of Body Language: Dogs are excellent at reading each other's intent from body language. Humans, not so much. While most of us do reveal our emotions through posture, speech patterns, and eye contact, other people generally aren't very good at reading those cues.

12. Stretch Often: Stretching will keep you limber, but the benefits don't stop there. In a 10-week study, volunteers who did no exercise other than stretching experienced surprising physical changes. Besides improving flexibility, they increased their muscle strength, power, and endurance. Although the study was a small one, the results suggest stretching may be a good alternative for people who have a condition that rules out traditional strength-training.

13. Seek Out Shade: When you're at the park or the beach, and your pooch is ready for a break, they will probably find a nice shady spot to relax. Dermatologists recommend you follow suit, especially between the hours of 10a.m. and 4p.m. That's when you would soak up the most UV rays, particularly during late spring and early summer. While you're sheltered in the shade, it's a good idea to use a broad-spectrum sunscreen on exposed skin.

Caring for Kittens

Kitten season is upon us. If you are getting a new kitten, or have a cat who will be having kittens, it is important you know how to care for them.

During the first few weeks of life the mother provides the necessities of warmth, nutrition and stimulation. Mother cats have a habit of moving kittens from one place to another, especially nervous mothers that may feel threatened. Generally moving from one nest to a new one is more frustrating for the owner than any danger to the kittens, but as the owner you must still keep the kittens under careful observation in order to detect problems before they become serious. Factors to observe in the first few weeks include:

Warmth: the room temperature should be about 24 degrees C and the kittens kept off the floors and in the nest the mother cat has made. Don't let draughts flow through the house.

Nursing: a well fed, healthy kitten has a round full stomach and seems content after feeding and is not crying and mewling.

Eyes: kittens eyes open at 10 to 14 days of age.

Feeding:

During their first four weeks of life, healthy kittens should be eager to nurse. During this time the mother provides all their nutritional needs. Kittens not receiving sufficient milk cry constantly, are restless or very inactive; if you notice these symptoms contact your Vet.

Kittens should be encouraged to begin eating solid food at four weeks of age. Good quality kitten food mixed with milk or water as a thick gruel (one part of dry food blended with three parts of liquid, or two part of canned food to one of liquid). The gruel should be placed in a shallow bowl and the kitten encouraged to eat it by smearing some of the gruel on the kitten's lips. Take care not to smear and block the nose.

Once the kitten is eating well the amount of liquid in the gruel should be gradually reduced until it is consuming solids only. As soon as the kitten has learned to eat and drink readily it can be separated from its mother.

Most kittens are weaned at six to eight weeks of age. Early weaning and separation from litter mates can result in behavioural problems such as slowness to learn and more suspicious, cautious and aggressive actions. Cow's or goat's milk is often fed to kittens after weaning and is good food source provided it does not cause diarrhoea. A soy based kitten milk is available in clinic if dairy milk causes tummy upsets. Milk should never be given in place of fresh water.

Free access to feed, or at least three feeds a day should be provided during a kittens' growing period. Once a cat has reached maturity and stopped growing, this type of feeding is not recommended. Instead, two meals a day should be provided, and when a suitable time for the cat to eat its fill has passed (10 to 15mins maximum), then the remaining food should be removed. This method of feeding helps to avoid obesity and associated problems.

Vaccinating:

The vaccine we use in kittens and cats gives protection against several cat diseases. The most important one is *feline panleucopenia*, often referred to as cat flu, which is a killer, viral disease in cats. Also included in the vaccine is protection against several of the common causes of snuffles or head colds.

Worming:

The mother cat should be dosed for roundworms two weeks before kitting. Kittens and mother should be dosed again when the kittens are four weeks of age. After this, the kitten should be dosed fortnightly until 12 weeks of age, then monthly until six months of age. Adult cats should be dosed once to twice each year for roundworms.

More of a problem in adult cats are tapeworms. These worms have to be treated with tapeworm tablets. They do not pose a health problem to humans, but the cat may become re-infected by swallowing an infected flea, while grooming, and then the worms can appear again in as short a time as three weeks.

Controlling Fleas:

Care must be taken when treating a kitten less than 12 weeks of age. You can't use flea collars and most of the suitable sprays and powders are of limited efficacy.

Pop into your local VetEnt clinic with your new kitten for the best advice on which flea and worm products will suit your needs.

We want to ensure your kitten is fully protected, stop by your local clinic and get your kitten vaccinated during July and receive a free worm tablet.



Patient Profile: Luna



Meet Luna, a wee pup who at the age of 10 days old, was brought into the Riverside clinic with swelling to one side of her face. The Riverside team worked swiftly to help reduce the swelling and monitored her healing progress over the next few weeks.

The nurses woo'd her on arrival of each visit, one in particular developing a strong bond with her. As the weeks past she continued to grow and do all the things puppies

should do, however her face due to the earlier problem, looked slightly less than perfect. There was also no guarantee future issues wouldn't occur so the owner was keen to see her go the right home. One of our team, - yes the nurse who fell in love with her at first sight, - adopted her. She is now part of a family, growing fast, developing normally and loving the attention she still gets on her vet visits.

