



North Shore Veterinary Hospital

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Contents

New Landlord

Puppy classes

Electronic cigarettes

Feline Cognitive Dysfunction

Cats' Purr

Dog and cat Fun Facts

Holiday Hours

The sign proclaiming SOLD on the auction notice outside our clinic has resulted in a fair number of concerned phonecalls.

Rest assured there will be no visible changes to the clinic or staff- our friendly nurses will still be there, as will I, to serve you and your pets' needs. We have a new landlord but all else will stay the same.

Thank you to all who have emailed or phoned in to express support for us. We do appreciate your loyalty.

Well it is that time of the year again when many of you will be making holiday preparations and we would like to remind you to make sure your pets are catered for. Do please check with the cattery or kennel that they are booked into

and check your vaccination records to ensure they are all up to date. If you are not sure a quick call to the clinic can set your mind at ease.

Congratulations to all of you who have recently added a new pup to the family. Lyn has been busy running puppy classes to help owners over the early hurdles that a new addition to the family can present. We find that pups who attend these evenings regard the clinic as a fun place and love visiting us.

We need a minimum of 3 pups for a class which consists of 3 evening lessons. Please contact the clinic if you are contemplating acquiring a new pet and would like to join in.

Fun Facts About Dogs

Dogs sweat from their pads on their paws so the only way they can discharge heat is by panting.

Dogs have about 100 different facial expressions, most of them made with the ears.

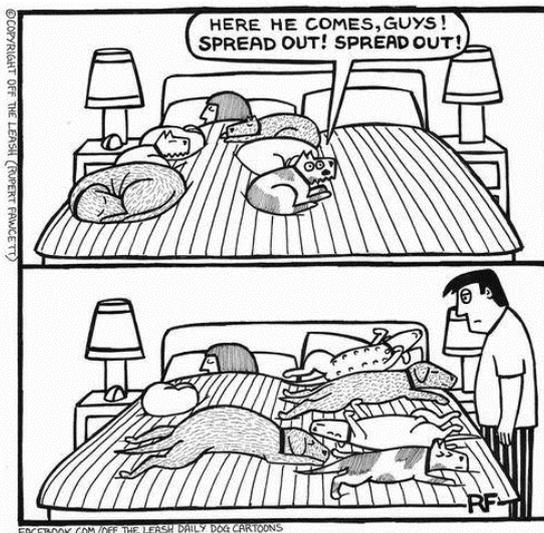
Dogs have about 10 vocal sounds.

Dogs do not have an appendix. There are more than 350 different breeds of dogs worldwide.

Dalmatians are born spotless: at first pure white, their spots develop as they age. Contrary to popular belief, dogs aren't colour blind;

they can see shades of blue, yellow, green and grey. The colour red registers on a greyscale in a dog's vision. Most domestic dogs are capable of reaching speeds of up to about thirty kilometers per hour when running at full speed.

Experiments have shown that dogs can locate the source of a sound in 6/100ths of a second using their swiveling ears like radar dishes. The dog was one of the first animals domesticated by humans over 10,000 years ago.



FACEBOOK.COM/OFFTHELEASH DAILY DOG CARTOONS

Cognitive Dysfunction

Cognitive dysfunction, sometimes called senility, is a frequently confusing disorder that mostly occurs in elderly cats over the age of 15. Litter box problems may be the first sign, followed by aimless wandering, confusion, getting stuck in corners, and an inability to recognize familiar people or family. These behaviours are sometimes medically caused by a waxy protein known as beta amyloid deposits in the brain. This is precisely what causes Alzheimer's disease in humans. Anxiety, fear, tremors, vocalising, licking the floor or objects, disrupted sleep cycles, and changing interaction with family or pets may become evident.

Therapy with Selegiline has been the traditional approach approved for use in dogs, but researchers have found that it dramatically helps about a third of cats with feline senility. One third of cats tested showed moderate improvement and the final third showed no improvement.

Selegiline is unfortunately classified as a non-consented medication in New Zealand meaning veterinarians do not have ready access to it. It can however be obtained by a compounding pharmacy if needed.

Mental stimulation, puzzle toys and entertainment such as bird feeders that cats can watch are also helpful tools to keep your cat mentally alert. Giving cats places to lounge and climb, hiding treats around the house so they have to "hunt," and even teaching your cat to walk on a leash for outdoor stimulation can keep their minds limber and healthy.

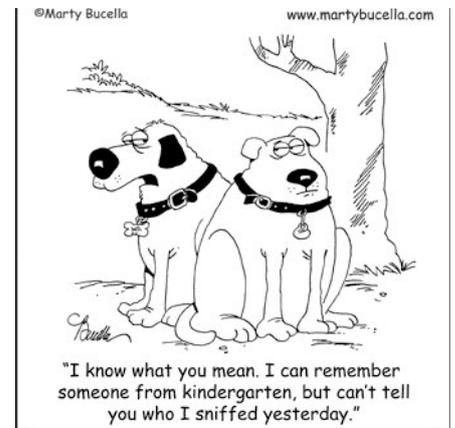
Dogs are just as prone to the disease showing signs of loss of housetraining, increased anxiety, disorientation, sleep and activity changes, changes in levels of aggression and a general change in alertness.

So if you feel you have an ageing pet suffering from cognitive

dysfunction, AND it is causing a loss of quality of life or disrupting your family life and your relationship with your pet, do contact us for an appointment.

However bear in mind that many of the signs we see are just part of the ageing process and treatment is not called for.

For dogs a medicated food by Hills is available which has been shown to be beneficial in some instances.



Fun Feline Facts

Cats do not have sweat glands.

A cat can jump as much as seven times its height.

Cats have five toes on each front paw, but only four toes on each back paw.

Cats have over one hundred vocal sounds, while dogs have only about ten.

A pack of kittens is called a kindle, while a pack of adult cats is called a clowder.

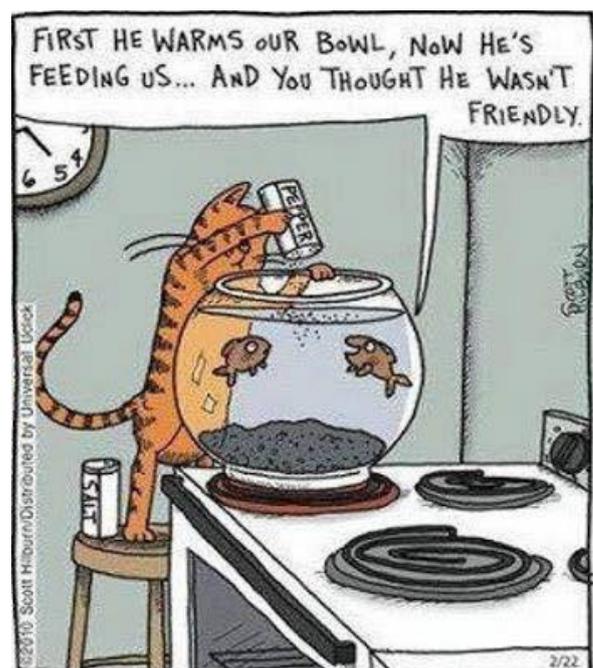
An adult cat can run about 19 kilometers per hour, and can sprint at nearly 45 kilometers per hour.

A cat's tongue is scratchy because it's lined with papillae—tiny elevated backwards hooks that help to hold prey in place.

The nose pad of each cat has ridges in a unique pattern not unlike a person's fingerprints.

Cats' bodies are extremely flexible; the cat skeleton contains more than 230 bones (a human has about 206), and the pelvis and shoulders loosely attach to the spine. This adds to their flexibility and allows them to fit through very small spaces.

Cats have better memories than dogs. Tests conducted by the University of Michigan concluded that while a dog's memory lasts no more than 5 minutes, a cat's can last as long as 16 hours—exceeding even that of monkeys and orangutans.



Electronic Cigarettes

Currently, New Zealand manufacturers of e-cigarettes containing nicotine must register their products with Medsafe, but to date no companies have done so, meaning it is illegal to sell or promote them in New Zealand shops. They can still be bought online.

While the uptake of e-cigarettes appears to be very low in New Zealand, compared to other countries, their presence does pose a potential threat to our pets if exposed to the products.

Most cartridges contain nicotine in varying concentrations up to 36mg/ml.

Considering that clinical signs of nicotine poisoning are seen with amounts of approximately 1mg/kg it pays to be careful when handling the refills around small pets.

Nicotine is readily absorbed by ingestion as well as through the skin. The signs of nicotine poisoning may begin within 15 to 30 minutes of exposure to the e-liquid.

The first signs normally seen with toxic exposure to nicotine include:

- Excessive drooling
- Vomiting with or without diarrhoea
- Agitation or restlessness
- Increased respiratory rate or panting.
- With severe intoxications,

signs may progress to include:

- Excitation
- Disorientation
- Tremors
- Twitching
- Convulsions or seizures
- Increased heart rate

There is no specific antidote to nicotine poisoning and because the e-juice is rapidly absorbed across the mucous membranes of the mouth, standard decontamination measures such as inducing vomiting are usually not helpful. Treatment includes managing convulsions and seizures, treating heart and blood pressure abnormalities, ensuring adequate respiration, and providing intravenous fluids.

The mystery of the cat purr

No one knows for sure why a domestic cat purrs, but many people interpret the sound as one of contentment. Our understanding of how a domestic cat purrs is becoming more complete; most scientists agree that the larynx (voice box), laryngeal muscles, and a neural oscillator are involved. Kittens learn how to purr when they are a couple of days old. It indicates a bonding mechanism between kitten and mother. As the kitten grows into adulthood, purring continues. Many suggest a cat purrs from contentment and pleasure. But a cat also purrs when it is injured and in pain. Dr. Elizabeth Von Muggenthaler has suggested that the purr, with its low frequency vibrations, is a "natural healing mechanism." Purring may be linked to the strengthening and repairing of bones, relief of pain, and wound healing. Purring is a unique vocal feature in the domestic cat. However, other species in the Felidae family also purr: bobcat, cheetah, eurasian lynx, puma, and wild cat. Although some big cats like lions exhibit a purr-like sound, studies show

that the Patherinae subfamily: lion, leopard, jaguar, tiger, snow leopard, and clouded leopard do not exhibit true purring. What makes the purr distinctive from other cat vocalizations is that it is produced during the entire respiratory cycle (inhaling and exhaling). Other vocalizations such as the "meow" are limited to the expiration of the breath. It was once thought that the purr was produced from blood surging through the inferior vena cava, but as research continues it seems that the intrinsic (internal) laryngeal muscles are the likely source for the purr. Moreover, there is an absence of purring in a cat with laryngeal paralysis. The laryngeal muscles are responsible for the opening and closing of the glottis (space between the vocal chords), which results in a separation of the vocal chords, and thus the purr sound. Studies have shown, that the movement of the laryngeal muscles is signaled from a unique "neural oscillator" in the cat's brain.

THE SECRET

Cats create purr vibrations within a range 20-140 Hz, known to be medically therapeutic for many illnesses.

20-140 Hz

o1 | **Lowering stress.**
Petting a purring cat calms down your nerves.

o2 | **Cat's purr can decrease the symptoms of dyspnea** in both cats and humans.

o3 | **Lower blood pressure.**
By interacting with the cat and hearing the purring sound.

o4 | **Healing of bones.**
Frequencies of 25 and 50 Hz are the best, and 100 Hz and 200 Hz the second best frequencies for promoting bone strength.

o5 | A recent study shows that cat owners have **40% less risk of heart attack.**

o6 | Purr vibrations help healing **infection and swelling.**

o7 | **Healing of muscles, tendons and ligament injuries.** The vibrations are also helpful for healing soft tissue.

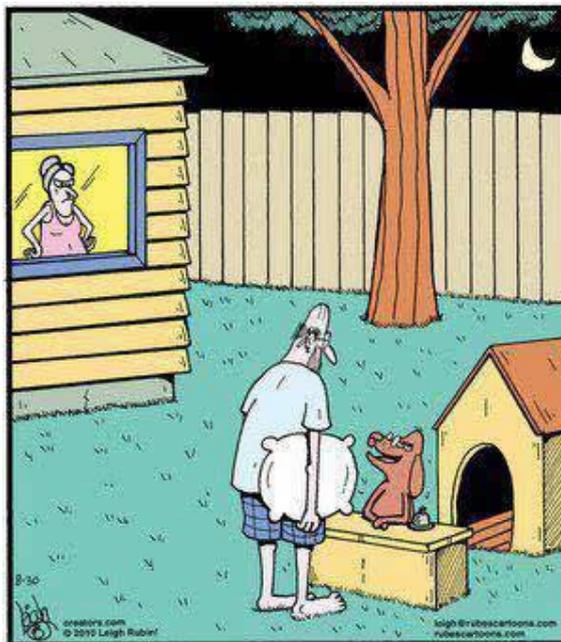
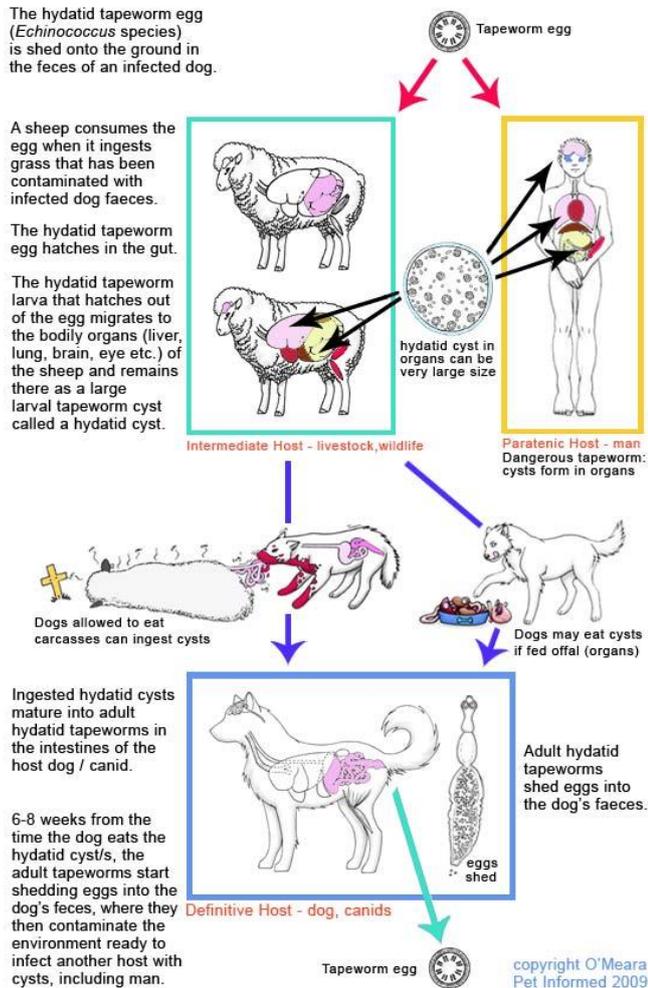
"If you put a cat and a bunch of broken bones in the same room, the bones will heal."

- OLD VETERINARY ADAGE

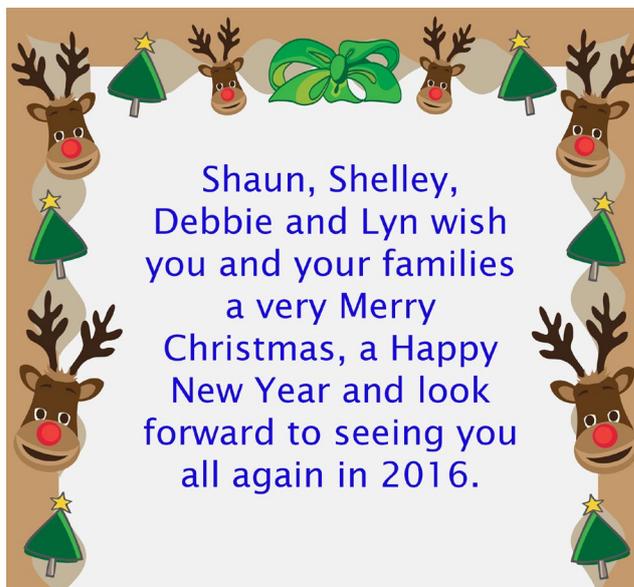
I'm sure most dog owners remember the days of compulsory dosing for hydatid worms, a practice stopped many years ago.

The problem of hydatids in sheep (sheep measles) is however still a problem which occasionally rears its ugly head so I thought a revision of the lifecycle to be in order.

1) The Hydatid Tapeworm Life Cycle Diagram:



"Welcome back, sir. Are you planning on being our guest for one night only, or will this be your usual extended stay?"



Christmas and New Year Hours

Dec 24 Thur	8am - 4pm
Dec 25 Fri	Closed
Dec 26 Sat	Closed
Dec 27 Sun	Closed
Dec 28 Mon	Closed
Dec 29 Tue	8am - 6.30pm
Dec 30 Wed	8am - 6.30pm
Dec 31 Thur	8am - 4pm
Jan 1 Fri	Closed
Jan 2 Sat	Closed
Jan 3 Sun	Closed
Jan 4 Mon	Closed
Jan 6 Tue	8am - 6.30pm

Our usual hours will apply on other days.

The North Shore Veterinary Hospital is open from 8am to 6.30pm weekdays and 9am to noon on Saturdays. Our receptionists will be happy to assist you during those times, and are qualified to advise you on pet nutrition and flea control.

For a veterinary consultation, please telephone first (phone

4899759) to make an appointment, as a vet may not always be immediately available.

When we are closed, please contact either the After Hours Veterinary Clinic in Glenfield (Phone 443 5640) or the Animal Emergency Centre in Carrington Road, Mt Albert (Phone 849 2121) and they will be happy to assist in any emergency.