



# Sit & Paws

## Cambridge Vets



Volume 5, Issue 3

December 2017

**OPEN 7 DAYS**

Cnr. of Empire  
and Alpha Streets

827 7099

0800 226 838

www.cambridgevets.co.nz

### Open Hours:

Monday

8:00am - 7:00pm

Tuesday

8:00am - 7:00pm

Wednesday

8:00am - 7:00pm

Thursday

8:00am - 5:00pm

Friday

8:00am - 5:00pm

Saturday

9:00am - 12:30pm

Sunday

9:00 - 12:00pm

## CHANGES IN SEASON

Warm and sunny days! Welcome to a change in season.

Along with these pleasant changes, we also see seasonal allergies.

In humans, symptoms are that of hay fever; in animals, signs are more those of itching, scratching, licking and chewing at their skin.

Often an animal that has otherwise healthy skin presents to us in spring and summer with a rash on the hairless area of the abdomen, or in the "armpits". In these cases a seasonal allergy is suspected.

- ◆ Avoidance of the suspected allergy (e.g. wandering dew), rinsing legs and abdomen after exposure (e.g. after a walk) and the use of soothing shampoos can all help.
- ◆ Elimination of parasites that contribute to itching (mites, fleas, ticks) will be necessary. Pets can be allergic to flea bites, causing dermatitis. There are a confusing array of flea products available—please ask for help. This includes products for treating the house.

More complex skin disease are not uncommon, and may flare during the spring and summer months. Food allergies or hypersensitivities may exhibit as skin disease. These may be low grade until the additive effect of increased flea burden and/or a higher pollen count creates irritation. Dietary trials or nutritional support may be necessary.

Secondary fungal and bacterial skin infection are also common and require specific testing and treatment.

Please contact us for advise about management of skin diseases. Nothing frustrates or distresses an owner and a patient as much as persistent itching!



HAVE  
YOURSELF A  
MERRY LITTLE  
CHRISTMAS

### DISCOUNT VOUCHER

This voucher entitles the bearer

to 20% off a single Nexgard, Nexgard Spectra or Broadline\*

**Cambridge Vets**

Empire Street  
PO Box 488  
Cambridge, 3450  
(07) 827 7099

Valid from Dec 2017—Jan 2018

Compliments of the SPWC



\*Available on all Merial Flea Products. Not redeemable for cash. Not redeemable on any veterinary service or prescription drugs. One voucher per client. Not to be used in conjunction with any other discount.

# Senior Pet Grooming 101

- ◆ Grooming sessions are a wonderful way to bond with your pet, as well as being an ideal time to note any changes. Thinning hair, skin irritations, growths or lumps you may discover as you carefully groom your pet are all things to make note of and monitor or discuss with you vet.
- ◆ Our older pets often appreciate grooming sessions as you can reach some itchy spots that they no longer can.
- ◆ Examine the “sanitary” areas regularly. Sometimes due to stiffness, older pets have difficulty keeping these areas clean. The hair around their bottom area may need trimming and wiping with a warm damp cloth.
- ◆ Check your pets eyes daily. If any matter has collected in the corners of their eyes simply use a warm damp cloth to clean the area. With longer haired dogs in particular the hair may need to be trimmed away to minimise the build up.
- ◆ If your older pet is slipping and sliding when walking on smooth surfaces, check to see if they have a lot of hair growing from between their toes on the underside of their feet. Clipping this hair away can give them better traction and minimise their legs slipping out from under them causing injury.
- ◆ Keep grooming sessions short and use softer, gentler brushes as older pets may develop tender lumps and bumps.
- ◆ If your pets hair is matted seek professional help to have them carefully clipped away (they won't go away on their own and matts pull and cause discomfort for your pet). It is very easy to unintentionally cut their skin if trimming at home.
- ◆ Senior cats are prone to ingrown toenails and dirty nails. Trim their nails regularly to keep their nails healthy.
- ◆ Dog's dew claws can grow in a circle and back into their toepad. This happens because the nail does not touch the ground when walking so it doesn't get worn down like other nails.
- ◆ We have a large range of grooming equipment that we recommend in stock. If you have any questions or need any support with your pet please don't hesitate to give us a call.
- ◆ Bring in this voucher and receive one free nail clip for your senior pet.

**DISCOUNT  
VOUCHER**

**This voucher entitles the bearer**

**One free nail clip for your senior pet**

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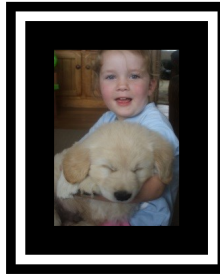
**Compliments of the SPWC**



\*not redeemable for cash. Not redeemable on any veterinary prescription drugs.  
One voucher per client. Not to be used in conjunction with any other

# BEING ON THE CLIENT'S SIDE OF THE CONSULT TABLE

Nobody knew that the little ball of fluff that I took home nearly eight years ago was going to turn into the most loyal, stoic, brave gentleman that would end up fighting for his life.



Being a vet nurse you see and deal with some pretty tough stuff. You help clients and their beloved pets go through some rough times, some difficult decisions and some fun times too. You have some idea how they are feeling, don't really know until you go through it yourself.

Well, my family and I were faced with one of those tough decisions. Whenever dealing with nurses' animals the vets tend to say to us, 'what is it with nurse's animals?'. We nurses seem to have animals that don't always fit in the perfect box when it comes to diagnosing certain issues. My beautiful Golden Retriever Manni was certainly one out of the box, in more ways than one!

Our journey started in August of this year when I took Manni into work at Cambridge Vets to have his eye checked. Simple.... but how wrong was I. What started as a bloodshot eye ended up with the most heartbreaking diagnosis of all. While Dr Edith Hollows was checking his eye I felt a rather large lump by his shoulder. Oh no, this wasn't any lump; it was his pre-scapular lymph node. A needle biopsy was taken to see what the cause was. It was lymphoma-cancer. My world was just shattered.

How could this be? He didn't show any pain or sickness! How do I break the news to my husband and 11 year old daughter that our dog has lymphoma? He seemed fine: surely this wasn't happening. But what can we do?

Our options included: 1) We do nothing and just do palliative care- steroids, giving him maybe 4-6weeks or 2) look at doing chemotherapy which could extend his life by 12-18months.

For chemotherapy the best thing is to have it typed to see what sort of lymphoma we were dealing with, and find the appropriate protocol. If it was B-cell (more common) he has a better chance of remission; if it was T-cell (much less common) he has a shorter life expectancy. Well, this is where the 'out of the box' starts.

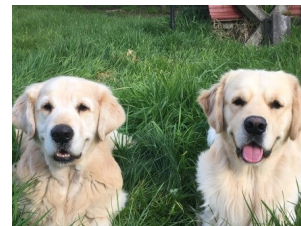
After discussing the options with my husband I knew that we had to try chemotherapy as I wasn't ready to say goodbye just yet. It wasn't going to be a cheap option, but as he was a much loved family member and had been so loyal to me, I owed it to him to try.

Dr Richard Willis contacted Veterinary Oncologists in Australia to see what they thought and to provide a chemotherapy protocol. At this stage we hadn't had his type results back and so they based the protocol on B-cell lymphoma as it is more common. Well, once we had the results back his protocol was slightly changed as he had T-cell. Of course he did!!

He started his chemotherapy protocol which would be

spread over the next nineteen weeks. His first round went smoothly- well at least we thought it had, but no, he had an allergic reaction to one of the drugs and so again his protocol was changed. After his second round of chemotherapy he once again proved he was an 'out of the box dog' and a lump appeared on his side. Another needle biopsy was taken and lymphoma cells were found. As he only had one lump I elected for it to be removed. He had a third round of chemotherapy and then the following week we removed the lump. Over the next few days after surgery he had more and more skin lumps suddenly appear, and his lymph nodes enlarged again to almost the size of small oranges. He also started to decline; this wasn't meant to happen as it had only been a month and a half. Looking at him every day you could see him starting to fade away. He started out as a healthy 38kg dog and got down to a 35kg sunken-in dog. He started to slow down even more and I think he was telling me that although I tried, he was done. The oncologist suggested we could try one last chemotherapy drug but the state he was in I didn't want to make him any worse. At this point we made the difficult decision to end the chemotherapy and put him on to palliative care and just enjoy every moment and day we had with him.

We increased his steroids and boy, within a day he was back to tail wagging, eating, smiling and playing with our other dog, Bandit.



He had a last run at the beach in Raglan and enjoyed his time immensely. He had a really good two weeks, then he declined again. This time I knew it wouldn't be long. He had a last stroll around Lake Te Ko utu on a sunny Saturday afternoon. Over the next two days he rapidly declined. With a reassuring look in his eyes we made the heartbreaking decision to let him go peacefully on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October. This was exactly two months from diagnosis. He missed his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday by three weeks.

This whole experience really does give me a whole new outlook on how our clients feel and process these types of diagnosis, and what they must be going through. My heart goes out to all of you that have had to go through a difficult decision like this; it's not easy no matter what side of the consultation table you stand on.







# Cambridge Vets



**Spoil your pets  
at Cambridge Vets!**



## Clinic Hours for Christmas & New Years 17/18

After hours service  
Ph: (07) 827 7099 or 0800 226 838 FOR EMERGENCY

Saturday, 23 December 2017	9am-12.30pm
Sunday, 24 December 2017	Christmas Eve 9am-12pm
Monday, 25 December 2017	CLOSED - Merry Christmas
Tuesday, 26 December 2017	CLOSED - Boxing Day
Wednesday, 27 December 2017	8am-5pm
Thursday, 28 December 2017	8am-5pm
Friday, 29 December 2017	8am-5pm
Saturday, 30 December 2017	9am-12.30pm
Sunday, 31 December 2017	CLOSED - New Years Eve
Monday, 1 January 2018	CLOSED - Stat Day
Tuesday, 2 January 2018	CLOSED - Stat Day
Wednesday, 3 January 2018	8am-5pm
Thursday, 4 January 2018	8am-5pm
Friday, 5 January 2018	8am-5pm
Saturday, 6 January 2018	9am-12.30pm
Sunday, 7 January 2018	9am-12pm



We are giving away two exciting gifts each day from under our tree from 11<sup>th</sup> - 21<sup>st</sup> December

Purchase anything in store from December 4<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> & you are in to win!

Great range of toys for Christmas

We are celebrating twelve days of Christmas!

T&C's apply

## A PET-SAFE CHRISTMAS!

In the lead up to Christmas things can get pretty busy around the house, with large quantities of food and presents left unattended. Curious cats and dogs may investigate and eat food gifts left under the tree, food off the table or irresistible Christmas decorations! A few things to keep in mind this season:

**Chocolate...**  
Never leave chocolate on or under the tree if there are pets left in the home!

Correctly dispose of your leftovers! Rotten food produces toxins which can poison pets.

**Gardeners...**  
make sure supplies of Rat Bait and Snail bait are safely locked away!

**Tinsel and smaller decorations** should be higher up in the tree to avoid being swallowed.

Better still, a play pen, fireguard or baby gate works well to keep animals (and small people) away from these items.

Decorations, wrapping paper and candles are considered low toxicity but can cause gastro-intestinal upsets or obstructions.

Contact us if you are concerned your pet has eaten objects like this.

The ham bone from Xmas dinner is not for canine consumption! It can contribute to several gastro-intestinal diseases.

Grapes and dried fruits (xmas pudding!), alcohol, nuts and onion & sage stuffing are toxic to pets!

**We wish all our clients and pets a happy and safe holiday period!  
Sincere thanks for your support over the past year.**