

PetLife

FREE

Waiheke goes to the dogs

Vicki England encourages all pups to jump on the ferry with their human

How to transition a cat to new food

Your cat's nutritional requirements will change as they transition through life stages

Parrots as pets

Do you know the characteristics of the parrot you are interested in buying?

ISSUE 23 | SPRING 2022





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Editor's Note

Oh, how nice it is to see some warmer weather, and we suspect pets everywhere are enjoying it, too - longer walks at night and more sunny spots to lounge in. We know our Dusty is enjoying the drier grass because he is not a fan of getting his toe beans wet!

We are so happy to showcase our new look magazine which, although it may look different, is still chocka full of awesome articles for all our pet owners. We're using a different font and you will notice a new section called "snipPETS" that covers exciting new developments in the pet world. Full articles of the stories in this section can be found on our website, for a more in-depth read.

Did you know Waiheke Island has some amazing dog friendly walks? Be sure to head over on the ferry (dogs travel free) and have an adventure with your pup. On another note, while it is normal to see dogs on leads with their owners I have to admit I do take a second look when I see a cat on lead! Pearl the cat often heads out on a walk with her owner, Megan. We caught up with Megan for this issue to learn how she trained her cat to go walkies.

Last issue, we learned all about the interesting squeaks, wheeking and rumbling noises guinea pigs use to communicate. This issue is all about rabbits. Also, we have noticed that chickens are becoming more common as family pets, so for those new to chicken ownership then we have the top 10 tips to keep your hens happy and healthy.

Enjoy the brighter days and remember to have fun with your pets.

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Canine Lymphoma Awareness

November is Canine Lymphoma Awareness Month, which is the perfect time for you to check your dog for any lumps on and under their skin.

Close to 50 per cent of dogs over the age of 10 will develop cancer and approximately one in four dogs will at some stage in their life develop cancer, according to the Vet Cancer Society.

Make sure to regularly inspect your pet for any lumps or bumps and pay attention to sudden changes in appearance and behaviour which can help with early detection.

Promising anti-cancer trial for dogs with lymphoma

When looking at Ryley, a gorgeous Border Collie cross Kelpie, you would think she was just a normal, happy dog with boundless energy and a zest for life. However, when her owner, Sharon, noticed a few lumps on her neck during snuggle time, the prognosis wasn't good.

"We took her to our local vet and never thought it was anything serious, as she never seemed unwell," recalls Sharon. "We were amazed when our vet said it was lymphoma and that her life expectancy was weeks to months."

Lymphoma is a common and aggressive cancer diagnosed in dogs, and the cause is not known. Symptoms can include swellings (enlarged lymph nodes), lethargy, weight loss and loss of appetite.

"There's no cure for B cell lymphoma at the moment," says Dr Roger Aston, executive chairman of PharmAust, a pharmaceutical company working on an anti-cancer drug to treat B-cell lymphoma in dogs. "Usually only 50 per cent of dogs with B cell lymphoma will survive without treatment for around 30 days and the other half will mostly have severe progressive disease."

Currently, the best indicated treatment option for canine lymphoma is chemotherapy, which comes with its own set of limitations and adverse events, such as vomiting, diarrhoea or loss of appetite, and decrease in blood cell counts. Relapses of the disease can occur within six to 12 months of treatment.

However, an alternative treatment may soon become available, with PharmAust recruiting pet dogs with untreated B cell lymphoma to finalise

evaluation of a promising, newly formulated anti-cancer drug.

The drug is already approved for veterinary use for a different indication and species, and PharmAust is aiming to repurpose this drug as a safe and effective cancer treatment.

Twenty-seven pet dogs, including Ryley, have been recruited to use the novel therapy.

"We felt chemotherapy was not an option, as life expectancy is still not much more than a year," says Sharon. "We didn't want to put her through anything drastic, which would make her more unwell and affect her quality of life."

"I am a nurse with some experience in clinical trials, so I had a bit of an idea of what I thought would be a suitable trial. This trial guaranteed that she would be on the medication, not a placebo, and it didn't involve an excessive number of invasive investigations and clinic visits."

Of the 16 pet dogs with optimum blood levels, 13 have achieved stable target lesions. This includes one dog with a partial response (60 per cent regression). Nine of the 16 dogs with optimum blood levels have achieved stable disease by RECIST (Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumours) and side effects were minimal or not detected.

Ryley lived for 196 days since the start of her treatment on PharmAust's anti-cancer drug trial, which is the longest any dog has survived on the drug.

"Our main aim was to hopefully extend her life but, more importantly, maintain her quality of life," says Sharon. "We are grateful for the extra time we could spend with her."

Following early Phase 2 success - with dogs like Ryley - in Australia and to prepare for a trial to formally register the new anti-cancer drug in pet dogs, PharmAust is now also conducting the clinical trial in New Zealand and, more recently, the United States.

To participate in the Phase 2b trial, dogs can have any stage of lymphoma but must be feeling generally well. Ultimately, the patient will only be given the treatment if they have B cell lymphoma, but immunophenotyping (analysis of whether the cancer is a B cell or T cell type) is covered as part of the initial screening.

The dog entry criteria for the new clinical trial program are:

- 🐾 any stage of lymphoma (based on physical exam)
- 🐾 substage A (feeling well)
- 🐾 dogs of any sex and at least one year of age
- 🐾 immunophenotype can be pending but must be submitted, and needs to be B-cell to confirm enrolment
- 🐾 no previous treatment in the previous 8 weeks, including corticosteroids (prednisolone)
- 🐾 no other significant concurrent medical problems
- 🐾 good quality of life
- 🐾 the dog should weigh more than 11 kilograms.

The trial involves consultations/treatments at the dog's nearest trial centre, which currently includes five sites in Australia, one site in New Zealand and one site in the United States.

In New Zealand, the trial runs at the Veterinary Specialists Aotearoa in Sylvia Park, Auckland.

Owners will have to transport their dogs to their respective centre and pay the cost for initial consultation for diagnosis. Once the pet is diagnosed with lymphoma, PharmAust will cover all clinical trial costs, including travel expenses to and from the trial centre as well as post-trial maintenance treatment if both pet owners and vets consider this might be beneficial.

The tablets will be administered at home and owners will be asked to keep a simple logbook during the trial period.

"It was easy to give her two tablets a day and fortunately we lived quite close to the [trial centre] so it was easy to take her for the visits," says Sharon.

"If you notice a lump in your dog, take them to the vet immediately. Get it diagnosed early. Be aware of this trial, discuss it with your vet and get a second opinion with an oncologist ... it's not a cure but it gives them the best life possible."



Kylie Baracz

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Get to know your fish better



Cam Scott

How well do you know your aquarium fish? Silly question, right? Well, consider this: our fish have daily routines, needs, social conflicts and feeding habits that happen every day and many of them go unnoticed by the fishkeeper.

Now, we are not saying you are a bad fishkeeper or don't care correctly for your fish if you are not in tune with your aquarium inhabitants' intricate social structure. Of course not. What we are going to explain is the benefits of observing your fish in a way that will greatly benefit both the fish and the fishkeeper in the long run. Let us explain.

Taking the time to closely observe each fish (within reason, shoals of tetra can be a little challenging), especially how they swim, can allow us to quickly identify a potential injury. Maybe a fin has been damaged by another fish or part of the hardscape. Discovering such an injury early on will make a huge difference when treating a fish.

Another helpful observation to make is the behaviour and personality of your fish. Over time, close attention

to your fish can help learn your fish's favourite area of the aquarium. Some fish find quiet areas under plants or wood while others prefer a spot close to the surface. Knowing this detail is vital in preventing territorial disputes. It can also be a way of discovering that a fish has died; when they are not in their usual spot, you know to start looking for the 'missing' fish.

Feeding fish is one of the best aspects of an aquarium keeper's hobby and by far the most important time to be paying attention. Your fish during feeding time generally approach the front of the aquarium. This is the perfect time to get a closer look at them. Get a magnifying glass and you have a brilliant way of closely checking fins, bodies and eyes. If any of your fish develop an injury or disease, this is a great way to spot it early. Again, early treatment of either an injury or disease can make all the difference. We recommend using a stick-on-glass food tablet every now and then. They offer a sustained grazing session in a position that gives you the best opportunity to observe them.

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top 10

tips for chicken health



1

PROVIDE CORRECT FEED

Chickens need correct feed; if you have laying hens this is even more important. Providing layer pellets or mash is crucial for laying flock as it provides calcium for eggshell production. In winter, consider feeding corn at night or introducing flock blocks.

2

CLEAN WATER

Although this is common sense, clean water is essential for your chickens' health.

3

CLEAN COOP

Chickens have a sensitive respiratory tract, so a clean coop is essential for good health. Clean coops are less likely to harbour external parasites such as mites.

4

DRY BEDDING

Wet bedding is a breeding ground for many harmful organisms such as coccidian, an intestinal tract parasite. Make sure you supply dry bedding.

5

PROVIDE DUST-BATHING AREAS

Dust baths are important to maintain skin and feather health alongside parasite control.

6

BREAK UP AND MONITOR BROODY HENS

Don't just leave a broody hen to her own agenda especially if you do not want chicks. A broody hen will sit for long periods of time and this can be of detriment to her health, so you need to monitor her.

7

MONITOR DROPPINGS

Knowing what normal faecal matter looks like is very important for understanding the interior gut health of your flock. If the droppings change, you may need to look at diet or introducing a probiotic.

8

THINK ABOUT PLAY TOYS

Chickens are intelligent and can get bored, so consider enrichment for them. A great play toy is a cauliflower head hung from a string. It encourages the chicken to work for their food and keeps them entertained.

9

HAVE MORE THAN ONE CHICKEN

Chickens are flock animals and have a social network; the hierarchical "pecking order". The social network and flock hierarchy makes for very happy chickens

10

BE CAREFUL INTRODUCING BIRDS TO YOUR FLOCK

It is important to isolate and monitor any new chicken/s for 30 days, prior to addition to a flock, to ensure they are not ill or have parasites.

All about Axolotls

Mexican walking fish may have legs but please don't get them out for a wander. They are actually amphibians, not fish, but like fish they are not equipped to live out of water and will last for about as long.

* Always seek qualified advice on the care and commitment required of owning an exotic pet before you buy.



With feathery gills, lizard-like limbs and permanent smiles, axolotls are curious pets. They will grow to about 30cm long and live 10-12 years in captivity, and are pretty easy to keep compared with the other exotics.

HOUSING:

- ★ Only water is required, since axolotls don't get out and about, and tanks should be a minimum of 60cm x 40cm x 40cm.
- ★ Axolotls may eat bits off each other, and the juveniles are quite cannibalistic, so best to keep them separate.
- ★ The water should be as deep as an axolotl is long, and leave the water to stand for a day to allow chlorine to evaporate before adding to tank.
- ★ Use a filter to keep the water clean, and replace a third of it every week – depending on the filtration system, clean entire tank every two to three months.
- ★ Axolotl like still water so don't aerate it.
- ★ Keep water temperature relatively constant, between 10C-25C – the optimum is 14C-18C.

- ★ Provide gravel and rocks to stand on – nothing so small that they can swallow it – and plants for hiding, though plastic ones are best because they are more durable and clean easily.

- ★ Cover to prevent escape and protect from predators.

- ★ Axolotls are mainly nocturnal and have no eyelids to protect eyes so keep out of bright light.

FEEDING:

- ★ Axolotl will eat worms and insects, or meat – raw beef and lamb, liver and heart. Don't feed them mince, which has preservatives. Beef schnitzel can be into strips and put in the freezer for feeding.

- ★ If feeding mostly meat give a multivitamin supplement.

- ★ Feed by hand, it's less messy. Keep food small as axolotls can't chew. Don't leave uneaten food in the tank.

- ★ It takes axolotls 2-3 days to digest food so feed only 2-3 times a week.

- ★ Don't have other fish in the tank – they will nibble axolotl gills.

Walkies with Pearl



Megan Jones



get her to look at me. I actually think deafness is an advantage outside. She doesn't startle at noises like dog barks or road works. But it means we have to keep a close eye out for dogs!

Was it hard to find the right harness and how do you know you have it fitted correctly?

We had a lot of trouble finding a harness. We found New Zealand doesn't really cater to walking a cat. The dog harnesses didn't fit and she got out of them. We ordered one online but could not get the right size so we ended up going back to the original cat H harness, she seems to like these best. It's very easy to put on, even Uncle Ken can do it!

Is there anything else you would like to share with us about Pearl?

Pearl is terrified of ducks! Once she jumped in the air to catch a bird, missed and flew into the pond where a duck mistook her for bread and bit her tail.

We want everyone to know that any cat can go for a walk - Pearl is not a natural adventure cat - but you must be patient, they may not walk in a week or even a month. Once you establish a routine they will look forward to their walk every day!

Have you ever thought about walking your indoor cat on a lead so they can enjoy their outside environment? Pearl is a deaf cat that has been trained to head out on adventures on a harness. Megan Jones, from Hamilton, talks to us about walking her cat.

Where did you get Pearl from and did you know Pearl was deaf when you got her?

I got Pearl 12 years ago from Animates. The SPCA were selling their kittens through Animates to help raise money. They told me she was deaf, but a simple clapping of hands behind her head also showed she didn't react.

How and why did you train her to walk on a lead? Was it hard and can you give us any tips of what worked and what didn't.

The vet told me that if I decide to walk Pearl she would forever want to go outside. She was so right. I didn't want Pearl to be stuck inside her whole life so I started walking her around the neighbourhood. After 12 years, the best tips for walking your cat are to take a backpack, have a friend on dog patrol and don't try to walk your cat from home as it is their territory and they often don't want to leave. In the beginning, we would take Pearl a couple of blocks away and let her walk home.

Where do you take Pearl for walks? Are there places where you can't take her?

We take her to Hamilton Gardens, Memorial Park and the Arboretum. We have a few parks here that are used by too many dogs and a lot off leash. Also, obviously, we don't head into national parks which are closed to cats and dogs.

How often does she go out on lead? Is it only when on adventures or anytime she is outside?

We walk her every morning between 8.30 and 10.30am. When she was younger she used to also have an afternoon walk and a late night walk ... around 13,000 steps a day. But we have cut that to one walk now she's 12.

How do you get Pearl's attention since she can't hear you? Does this affect her when she is out and about?

I try to only get her attention when she's awake so I don't give her a fright. I often tap or hit the floor to



You can follow Pearl's adventures on Instagram @pearl_9thecat.

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How to transition a cat to new food



Your cat's nutritional requirements will change as they transition through life stages. Growth, pregnancy, lactation, adulthood, seniority and even illness or trauma can alter a feline's energy needs. Other reasons you may have to change your cat's diet is if your cat stops eating their usual meal, their food brand is out of stock, you want to switch over from dry to wet food, introduce raw feeding or you simply want a superior nutritional quality diet.

Cats have particular nutritional needs. This includes high levels of protein (29 per cent), which makes them strict carnivores – eating a meat-based diet. Deficiencies in essential amino acids can result in health problems. Vegetarian diets are not suitable for cats since they don't meet a cat's dietary needs and might cause nutritional deficiencies, even illness.

It's also best to feed felines little and often by dividing their daily food

portion into five servings within a 24 hour period to mimic their natural feeding pattern. Modern pet food is very tasty and sold in small bite-sized biscuits which can lead to quick and excessive food intake.

Cats are known to be fussy eaters so it's important to expose them to varied food flavours and textures as early as possible to avoid refusal of other diets, especially if nutritional change is required because of health problems or discontinuation of a selected product. To minimise development of your cat becoming a fussy eater, expose them to a minimum of two or three forms and varieties of premium foods.

Immediate diet change can give your cat an upset tummy, which can lead to vomiting, diarrhea, constipation, inappetence and even aversion, so it's essential to modify your cat's diet in an exceedingly gradual plus methodical manner.

Be sure to plan ahead and conduct

research into various cat diets plus talk to your veterinarian to determine the foremost suitable food based on your feline's life-stage, lifestyle and individual wellbeing needs.

Go slow, watch the litterbox and be patient during the transition. Remember to watch your cat's behaviour to determine how they respond to the diet change. If your cat stops eating for 24 hours or becomes sick during the changeover, consult your vet or a cat nutritionist about your cat's ongoing nutritional needs.

SWITCHING FROM DRY FOOD TO WET

It's imperative to transition from a current diet to a new one gradually, over seven to 10 days.

Begin by placing a small amount of the new food next to the old food within the same plate. This introduces your kitty to the novel scent and texture – don't worry if they don't consume it straight away.

After a few days, blend a little of the wet diet with the dry food, gradually increasing the proportion until the transition is complete.

- 🐾 Day 1-3: 75% dry food + 25% wet food
- 🐾 Day 3-5: 50% dry food + 50% wet food
- 🐾 Day 6-7 25% dry food + 75% wet food
- 🐾 Day 8-10: 100% wet food

If your cat is reluctant to accept the wet food, make the change more progressively by lengthening the transition period and increasing the quantity of wet food at smaller increments.

For extra picky cats, break the dry food into small portions and top it or sprinkle it on the wet food. If your cat still hates it, try various choices of premium wet food, such as pate, morsels, gravy, etc.

Odour is especially important for cats, if the smell of the food isn't appealing, they're unlikely to eat their meal. Serving canned food at room temperature (take it out of the fridge 30 minutes prior to feeding) or warming their food may increase its scent and appeal.

Research suggests the sensitivity of taste receptors works best when food is at a temperature of around 30° Celsius, which is also about the temperature of the cat's tongue.

SWITCHING FROM WET FOOD TO RAW

Make sure you are only feeding wet food before introducing raw meals. Get rid of all the dry food from the house.

Ensure meat is frozen for a minimum of three days and at least a couple of weeks for pork, kangaroo and other wild meats. Defrost their meal within the fridge instead of on the counter to avoid bacterial contamination. Always use human grade meats or preservative free pet-meat from a trustworthy supplier.

Start by placing existing wet food on a plate with a little raw food next to it. Don't despair if they don't eat any; initially they should get accustomed to the smell before ingesting it.

After a few days, mix a quarter of the raw food into the wet for a week or two, then increase the quantity to half. Gradually increase the quantity of raw food to three quarters of the meal, and keep going until you have fully transitioned. Be patient and don't give up, even if it takes months!

Once your cat is eating raw meals, introduce chunks if you are not already doing so for good dental health.



Love for older dogs

Ever thought about providing an elderly dog with their forever home?

Every dog deserves love and care for their entire life. But sometimes dog owners are no longer capable of caring for their beloved fur baby. Senior Dog Club founder Kim Gruebner understands just how heart breaking such a situation is, for both dogs and owners. It could be that a dog outlives their owner, or their owner needs to move into assisted care; or that a dog's medical or health needs have become more than their owner can manage.

That's why Kim set up the recently launched Senior Dog Club, for dog lovers who want the best for their beloved pet when they can no longer care for them.

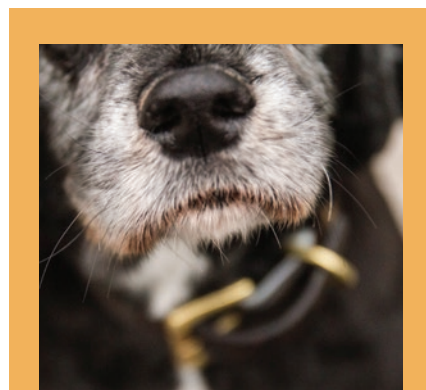
"We offer long-term placements with vetted carers so your dog can live out their natural life with the same level of love, care, and companionship that you have always provided with," says Kim.

"We also offer the chance for interested dog lovers to either provide a home for an older dog or sponsor an older dog to be provided and cared for."

Kim says with the launch of the club, she's on a mission to educate people about the importance of caring and loving for these older dogs, normalising and encouraging adoption of once-loved pets.

Senior Dog Club also offers resources and a network to support dog owners who own senior dogs.

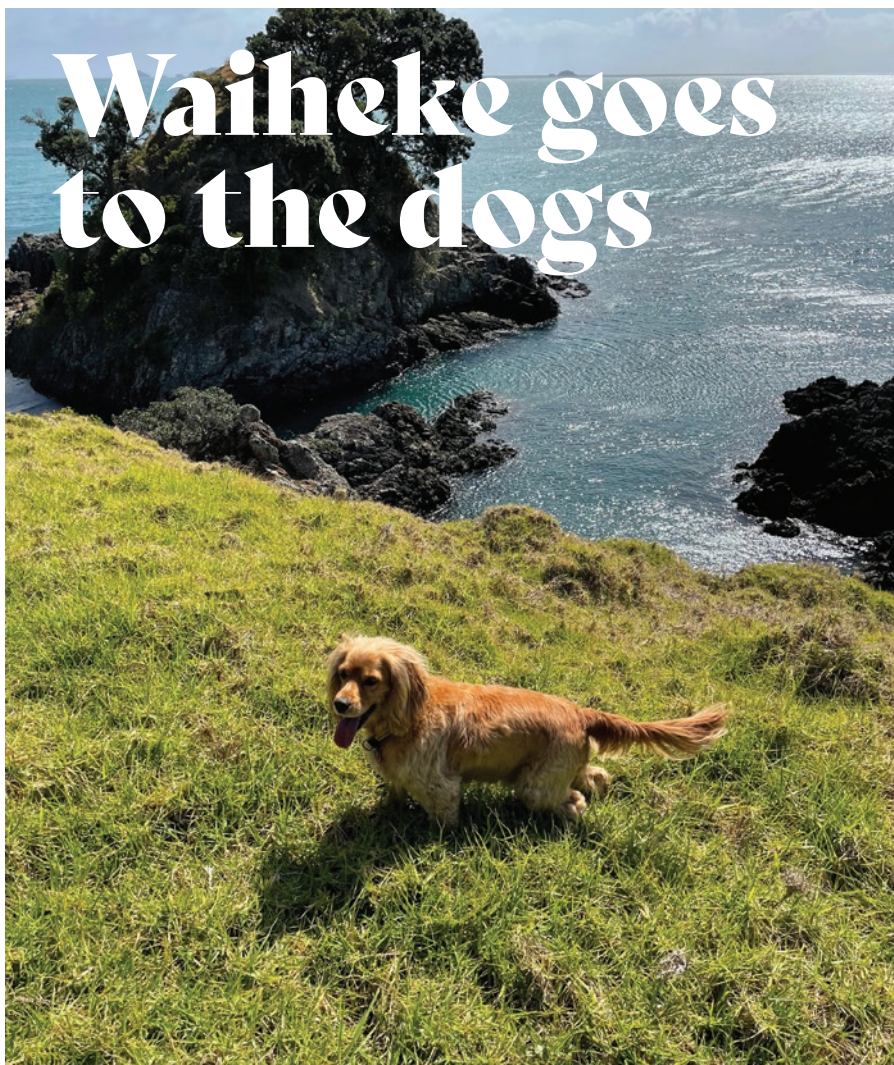
Dog ownership in New Zealand is soaring. A recent NZCAT research study showed 34 per cent of New Zealand households had at least one dog and 78 per cent of survey respondents considered their dog to be a member of the family. Additionally, an increase in dog ownership in 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, showed more households were seeking dogs as their companion.



Learn more

To learn more or to adopt your new best "old" friend, head to dearhumans.co.nz/home/senior-dog-club.

Waiheke goes to the dogs



Vicki England encourages all pups to jump on the ferry with their human to enjoy the gorgeous dog-friendly island of Waiheke during the 2022 Waiheke Walking Festival, 10-20 November. She gives dogs a rundown on the walks they can take part in.

The ECOPODS Te Whau Coastal Walk is a wonderful hilly wander around some tracks your human might not find if they're not a local. Discover the beautiful Kaukarau Reserve, stunning views from Te Whau Ridge and walk back along the undulating coastline. Because of the little blue penguin nests along this track, your human will have to keep you on lead.

The first weekend holds a new walk on the lesser known Musson Track. This is especially for families with kids and dogs, and involves some walking and talking, so patient pups only please! This walk is run by local Sally Horwood and her crew from Waiheke Ratbusters. There will be an opportunity to look at the

many pest control devices along this walkway, such as stoat traps, rat bait stations and monitor tunnels. You'll help collect the ink cards with critter footprints, get to ask all sorts of questions, and look out for wildlife along the way. What fun.

There's the amazing WAIHEKE WALKING TRUST Storytelling Walk which is completely set in the dog-friendly Onetangi Sports Park. This very special walk will have you circumnavigating the Rangihoua Pā site, through park grounds, fields, wetland, a golf course and bush trails. Stories and a map are downloadable when you register for the walk. Your human can listen to wonderful locals telling the stories about the area as you scamper about in the undergrowth.

There is an opportunity to walk one of the best parts of the 100-kilometre Te Ara Hura track, with a special addition. The SCARECROW Palm Beach to Oneroa Walk begins at one of the island's best beaches, and is guided by knowledgeable local and Patron of the Festival Paul Dyson. As an amazing treat, Paul will guide you and your human up through his own piece of paradise that is in the Mawhitipana Valley. He will tell you about the amazing restoration efforts

made by locals and volunteers as you venture along this stunning north side of Waiheke. This is an on-lead adventure for you.

The GLOWING SKY Oneroa to Palm Beach Walk will take you through the same quiet roads, tracks, beaches and valleys but in the opposite direction. After this walk, there's an option to join fellow walkers for a casual meal at Arcadia Café Restaurant.

Last but certainly not least is the FULLERS360 Dog Friendly Walk from Matiatia to Oneroa Village, via Mokemoke Pā site and Owhanake Bay. This stunning coastal path takes the scenic route from Matiatia around the coast to Cable Bay (not the winery) and Owhanake Bay, and on to Oneroa village. The track passes the historic Mokemoke Pā site, the multimillion dollar homes dotted around the coast, and dips in and out of tranquil unpopulated coves and bays. You need to be on-lead for parts of this, but it's worth it getting to the bays - especially Owhanake. Owhanake is a shingle beach and grassy reserve where you can go wild. The walk usually takes about two hours, but it will take way longer if you love to swim and refuse to get out of the sea.

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The global certification was awarded after Gourmate Pet Treat Co. completed a rigorous process that considers social and environmental impact, accountability and transparency. To gain B Corp Certification, a business must score at least 80 points out of 200 across a range of categories that identify high social and environmental performance. Gourmate Pet Treat Co.'s opening score is 88.9.

Revolutionising animal healthcare

Pacific Radiology has applied their industry leading expertise to revolutionise animal healthcare by opening New Zealand's first animal MRI clinic dedicated solely to the health and wellbeing of our furry friends.

Michelle McMaster, Veterinarian at McMaster & Heap Veterinary Practice, highlights the exceptional imaging quality of an MRI and its importance to veterinarians.

"MRI is considered the gold standard in diagnostic imaging. An animal MRI is especially advantageous when dealing with musculoskeletal, brain and spinal disease and injuries. This opportunity means that Canterbury veterinarians, as well as any veterinarian in New Zealand, are now able to access world-class radiology imaging every day."

Partnership educates dog owners on protecting native species

The Department of Conservation (DOC) has launched its Auckland 'Lead the Way' programme to help protect native wildlife, dogs and people on our beaches.

Supporting this work as programme partner is PD Insurance, a passionate advocate for animal welfare and responsible pet ownership.

Beaches are a favourite destination for dogs and their owners, posing a risk to the wellbeing of mammals and birds, says Laura Boren, DOC Science Advisor Mountains to Sea Team. "This is why there needs to be a stronger focus on enabling each to enjoy the coast together in harmony."

Read full articles at 

petlife.co.nz/articles



Keeping your dog licked in spring

Spring is in the air! Our fur babies enjoy being outside in the sunshine, and it's important to keep them happy and healthy. Here are a few LickiMat tips for your pets.

TREAT TIME

As the weather gets warmer, we ourselves are out and about more so our pets can become a little anxious being left alone. The LickiMat Wobble will keep them entertained as it challenges them to lick. For an extra treat try some Scoop Dog ice cream. Smear it around the Wobble then pop it in the freezer. The Wobble can be used as a bowl or inverted to use as a dome.

ALLERGIES

During the warmer months, allergens can affect our pet's skin. Your pet may try to relieve itchiness by licking, chewing or scratching, however, this can cause inflammation. To help distract your pet from this behaviour, try a LickiMat, or another enrichment feeder, spread with a favourite treat. The extended licking action promoted by LickiMat releases a calming hormone in both dogs and cats and will help to reduce anxiety and promote calm while they are being treated for allergies. We recommend you consult your vet.

DOGGIE PLAYDATE

Get your fur baby's favourite friends over for a fun filled afternoon of play outside. The new Lickimat Keeper range is ideal for highly energised playtime! It's very robust and designed to not move around, and a water moat keeps insects out. The Keepers are suitable for any LickiMat classic or Tuff series.

TRAVEL

Spring is a perfect time for a getaway for you and your pet. Make your car rides even more fun with the LickiMat UFO. Put some peanut butter on it and stick it to the window. It will keep them entertained in the car and for the rest of the weekend. Bon voyage!

SHEDDING

To prepare for the warmer months, our dogs will shed hair over the spring. To keep them entertained or distracted while being groomed or having a bath, pop a LickiMat Splash in the shower or on a wall. Try a little bit of yoghurt and mashed banana.

what's new

Oo Ma Loo

Oo Ma Loo Toys are made with love from Turkey. Women from Anatolia use traditional handcraft to produce dog toys. The sales from the unique and creative designs help support their families. The first delivery of toys went to Rottweiler Rescue in Auckland for "product testing".

Having only been in the country a short time, the toys are already on the shelves at Premium Pet Christchurch and Pet Pro Trainer in Island Bay, Wellington, and The Natural Pet shop in Upper Hutt, Wellington.



Order via your local vet, pet crematory or online at reterniti.com

With Reterniti, losing a best friend doesn't mean saying goodbye forever.

Reterniti is a New Zealand innovation in pet afterlife; a way to keep your friend close even after they've gone.

Your pet's ashes are converted into a tasteful, discreet Reterniti Stone. The Stone is the ashes.

Unlike ashes, a box or an urn, you can hold your pet's Reterniti Stone close, place it in your pet's favourite place or keep them nearby.

It's \$249 for a Reterniti Pebble (rabbit, guinea pig) or from \$399 for a Stone (cat, dog).



Orijens new formula

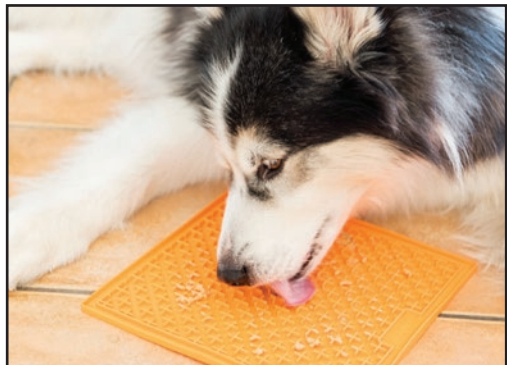
ORIJEN Kitten diet is specially formulated to provide kittens with the nutrients they need to grow healthy and strong. Naturally occurring DHA and EPA from wild and sustainably-caught fish ingredients support brain development and cognitive function.

ORIJEN™ Guardian 8 is a nourishing food specially formulated to deliver eight health benefits through quality nutrition. Because of the abundance of fresh and raw WholePrey animal ingredients in this diet, less supplementation is needed to support a cat's health for a lifetime.

Both ORIJEN's new **Guardian 8** and **Kitten** formulas contain **90%*** quality animal protein ingredients - our highest ever percentage - to provide some key health benefits for your cat or kitten, with minimal supplementation.

*Approximate and derived from the unprocessed state of the ingredients.

Learn more about these new products at NaturesKi.co.nz



LickiMat®

Entertain AND Reduce Stress with a LickiMat!

- Enrichment for dogs and cats
- Reduces anxiety and boredom
- Slow down eating
- Great for all sizes and breeds



Ask for LickiMat at your local pet store or shop online at www.lickimat.co.nz
Instagram @lickimat.nz
Facebook @lickimatNZ

Parrots as pets

Parrots make wonderful pets and companions. You will quickly find that these birds are extremely smart and their ability to learn make them fun to own. However, before you bring a parrot into your home it is important to learn what type would best fit your family and how to keep your new pet happy and healthy.

Do you know the characteristics of the parrot you are interested in buying? Do they:

- ★ make tremendously loud noises which can cause huge disturbance to the neighbours?
- ★ have powerful beaks that can damage your personal belongings if let free in the house?
- ★ need special accommodation, which will potentially incur higher costs for you?
- ★ need special nutritional foods (which means a greater cost)?

When looking to purchase your parrot, check its overall health and inspect its living conditions.

Dirty or poorly maintained perches, food and water containers, and excess faecal waste in the cage, all show poor management which leads to bad health. Check the bird's eyes. They should be clear with no discharge. Also look out for any swelling signs which will indicate rising health problems.

Bird feathers should be tidy and clean. Any bald areas on a parrot's body could indicate an infection or it may also be due to the bird being a feather plucker, which means boredom. This activity may stop when you start to show the bird more attention.

Check for any crusty appearance on and around the beak and feel the flesh on both sides of the breastbone

to ensure it is solid and not hollowed. If protruding, it could indicate a nutritional deficiency. Ensure all claws are present, and there should be two toes pointing forward and two facing backwards. Also, look for any protruding leg scales as they could be potential sources for leg mites.

Beware a parrot which reacts aggressively towards you when you approach. Look out for the fluffing up of feathers and dilating eyes when you try to move your hand close. You will likely be bitten if you get too close for comfort.

Determining the age of a parrot can be tricky, however, some basic things to look out for are the scales on the legs, the colour of the eyes and the colour of the body. A young parrot often has dark gray irises, where as an adult bird's will be white or brown. The scales of young parrots are also much smoother than that of mature birds. Their body colour also appears much duller than when mature. Don't be afraid to purchase an older bird but be mindful that taming and acceptance may take a little more time and patience.

Once you have chosen your parrot and brought it home it is important to keep him happy, busy and occupied by enriching the environment in which he lives. Boredom can lead to behavioural problems such as feather picking.

Your parrot's cage should be as large as possible and generally wider than it is tall to allow room for wing flapping. It should be in the corner of a room so the bird feels more secure. Don't overcrowd it with toys, and rotate toys regularly to keep your parrot interested in playing with them.

Allow your parrot to exercise by flying around the room and playing with toys in a playpen. Regular bathing is also important for the wellbeing of your pet, and it can be as simple as turning on the tap at the sink.

Companionship is vital. Parrots need to be talked to, looked at, preened and allowed to perch on your wrist, forearm or shoulder. When your parrot is alone, play him some music or leave on the radio or television to keep him happy. Or take your parrot for a drive if you have to pop out to the shop – many parrots enjoy car rides.

Try to encourage your parrot to forage for food as he would in the wild. Fresh fruit or vege can be hidden in cardboard tubes, woven through the bars of the cage, or hung from a blunt-ended stainless steel skewer.

Pet parrots should have at least 10 hours of sleep daily so cover the cage at night to shut out light. Your bird needs a regular routine when it comes to eating, sleeping, playing, interacting and being alone. Once you have this sorted, take the time to enjoy your new pet parrot.



What is giardia?

Giardia duodenalis is a protozoan parasite that can infect many species, including dogs, cats, wildlife and humans. Pets can develop signs of illness, or they can be carriers of the infection showing no symptoms at all.

Giardia has many subtypes named A through to G. Some are species-specific, so it is rare for pets to spread giardia to humans, and it's not common for dogs to spread giardia to cats or vice versa. However, certain subtypes are not species-specific, so can infect other species.

HOW DO PETS CONTRACT GIARDIA INFECTION?

Transmission of giardia is through the faecal-oral route, by infected faeces that contain cysts.

It can be caught in the environment and can be anywhere infected faeces are found, for example in contaminated water, food or environments.

Giardia cysts can survive a long time outside, especially in cool, damp places. Once ingested, the giardia inhabit and stick to the small intestine of the host where they turn into a trophozoite. The trophozoite is responsible for the signs of the disease. They then reproduce in the small intestine of the host, and the cysts are shed in the host's faeces.

The shedding of cysts varies. It can be continuous over several days or weeks, or intermittent, which is most commonly the case in chronic cases of giardia. The intermittent shedding can make it difficult to diagnose as some infections can be missed due to lack of shedding at the time of testing.

WHAT ARE THE CLINICAL SIGNS OF GIARDIA?

In symptomatic pets, signs of giardiasis can be chronic diarrhoea which is very watery, foul-smelling, malabsorptive diarrhoea. The diarrhoea can be accompanied by flatulence (wind), weight loss, vomiting and lethargy.

Animals most at risk of clinical disease would be young and elderly pets, pets that have existing gastrointestinal health issues, or those that are immunocompromised.

HOW DO YOU DIAGNOSE GIARDIA?

Diagnosis of giardia in cats and dogs is through faecal tests. One

method is by microscopic testing of a direct faeces smear or via a faecal flotation test. Another method is a snap antigen ELISA test which is quick and easy to run in the clinic. Due to the intermittent shedding of cysts, to avoid missed infections it is recommended to obtain several faecal samples, i.e. collect three samples over three to five days.

Given that some animals can be carriers of giardia and that giardia cysts are intermittently shed in faeces, these tests can produce false positives and false negatives. It is advised to run them in combination to best ascertain the degree of cyst shedding and if infection elimination is taking place. Repeat testing is advised in pets where clinical signs have not improved to see if the infection has been eliminated. Testing for reinfection can be conducted at two to four weeks after completing treatment.

HOW IS GIARDIA TREATED?

Non-symptomatic carriers of giardia are generally not treated, however, the exceptions would be in households with risk of spreading to another at-risk host, be it a pet or human, or in situations of large population risks, i.e. kennels, catteries, etc.

Pets with symptoms of giardia can be treated medically. Treatment is mostly based on reducing the clinical signs, such as the diarrhoea, versus stopping the shedding of cysts completely. The resolution of clinical signs will then in turn reduce the shedding of cysts into the environment.

In conjunction with treatment, good personal hygiene practice is an essential component in controlling the disease and limiting its spread from pets to humans.

BATHING

Washing the infected pet should be done during and at the end of treatment to remove any cysts from faecal contamination of the fur. This helps reduce a source of reinfection if cysts are licked off by the host, and reduces a source of infection to other hosts.

DIET

Feeding a high fibre diet has been found to help control diarrhoea symptoms and helps prevent attachment of giardia in its parasitic stage to the lining of the small intestine.

FENBENDAZOLE

Fendbenazole is an oral deworming medication used commonly to treat a number of parasites. For treatment of giardia, it is generally given for three to five days. Fendbenazole is the mainstay of giardia treatment.

METRONIDAZOLE

Metronidazole is an antibacterial and antiprotozoal agent which can be used to treat giardiasis. It can be used in combination with Fendbenazole in resistant cases.

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT GIARDIA?

Environmental management of giardia helps reduce the transmission of infected cysts. This is especially important in high-population areas such as kennels. Ways to reduce environmental exposure can include the following.

- ★ Remove faeces from the environment to reduce exposure to infected faeces, i.e. pick up faeces on dog walks or in the yard and dispose of it in bins, and daily removal of faeces from litter trays.
- ★ Cleaning concrete surfaces prior to disinfecting or steaming, then subsequent drying, helps reduce the environmental load in areas such as yards or kennels.
- ★ Direct exposure to sunlight and freezing temperatures destroy environmental cysts.
- ★ Regularly wash feed and water bowls with hot water and disinfectant soap.
- ★ Wash pet bedding and toys on a hot cycle (60° Celsius or above).
- ★ Wash infected and exposed pets with shampoo to remove contaminated faeces and cysts from their coat.
- ★ Screen new animals before introducing them to the group, and treat them if necessary.
- ★ Practice good personal hygiene and the washing of hands between handling animals and eating.

If you are concerned your pet may have giardiasis, the first thing to do is take a stool sample along with your pet to the vet for a check-up and testing. Giardia can be difficult to fully eliminate, especially if you have multiple pets in the home, and poses a risk to human health. Therefore, knowing if your pet has giardia so you can start treatment as soon as possible is a very valuable piece of information.

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30 November 2022.
Winners will be notified
by email.



↓ OoMaLoo Bear Ball Head (approx RRP \$24.95)

Heavy-duty squeaky ball covered in hand-crocheted funky fur yarn and then add extra details. The funky fur helps clean the grime off their teeth!



↑ Complete Care Packs (RRP \$65)

CanineCare probiotic is a topical formula that has been designed to prevent and treat minor bacterial and fungal infections. It is easy to use, gentle and safe with a revolutionary spray-on probiotic formula. Safe effective care for your pets inside and out. Made in New Zealand and 100% natural.

We have two complete care packs to give away.

↓ Lickimat® Ufo™ (RRP \$29.99)

This innovative slow-feeding mat combines the best of the LickiMat® Soother and LickiMat® Splash to create an innovative feeder for sticking to flat surfaces such as windows, showers and hard floors.

We have one Lickimat® Ufo™ to give away.



↑ Mendota (approx RRP \$69.90)

Mendota double braided collars are soft and durable plus colourfast and infinitely adjustable. A matching snap leash is the perfect solution for exercising and training. Handcrafted in the USA, machine washable with a lifetime of your pet manufacturers guarantee.

We have a Mendota Black Ice turquoise 4ft snap lead with matching double braid 18' collar to give away.



Help! My dog/cat is difficult to give tablets to

No one likes taking tablets or medication and it can be hard to persuade your pets to eat the tablets, especially as they often don't taste or look particularly appealing to pets.



Dr Cori

For dogs, the easiest way to administer medication is to hide it in food. Good foods to hide tablets in include cheese, sausages, wet food and peanut butter (Xylitol free). Make a big fuss of your fur baby with lots of pats and praises and get them really excited about eating the 'treat' before you give it to them. Give one or two dummy treats and then the medication wrapped in a treat to disguise the fact medication is being given.

There are a few products on the market to help with this common problem, one of which is a chewy, soft treat specifically designed to be able to easily push tablets into the centre. These could be worth a try if your dog is not tricked by cheese or similar human foods.

For cats, hiding medication in food is helpful, but it's best to disguise the fact by using food with a strong smell, such as tuna or pate.

In cats and dogs, if it's not too stressful for your pet, you can have one person hold them still while another person opens their mouth and puts the tablet as far back into their mouth as possible. Remember to hold the mouth gently shut until the medication has been swallowed. It can be tricky to get the medication all the way to the back of the throat, and there are 'pill poppers' that can help get it that extra bit further into the throat. I use these on a daily basis as a vet and they are a game changer!

Some medications come in liquid form as well as tablets, so if you are struggling it's always worth talking to your veterinarian to see if there are alternatives. Some tablets are now flavoured to try and overcome difficulties in tablet administration, so again this is something to consider when talking to your vet about ease of administration of tablets.

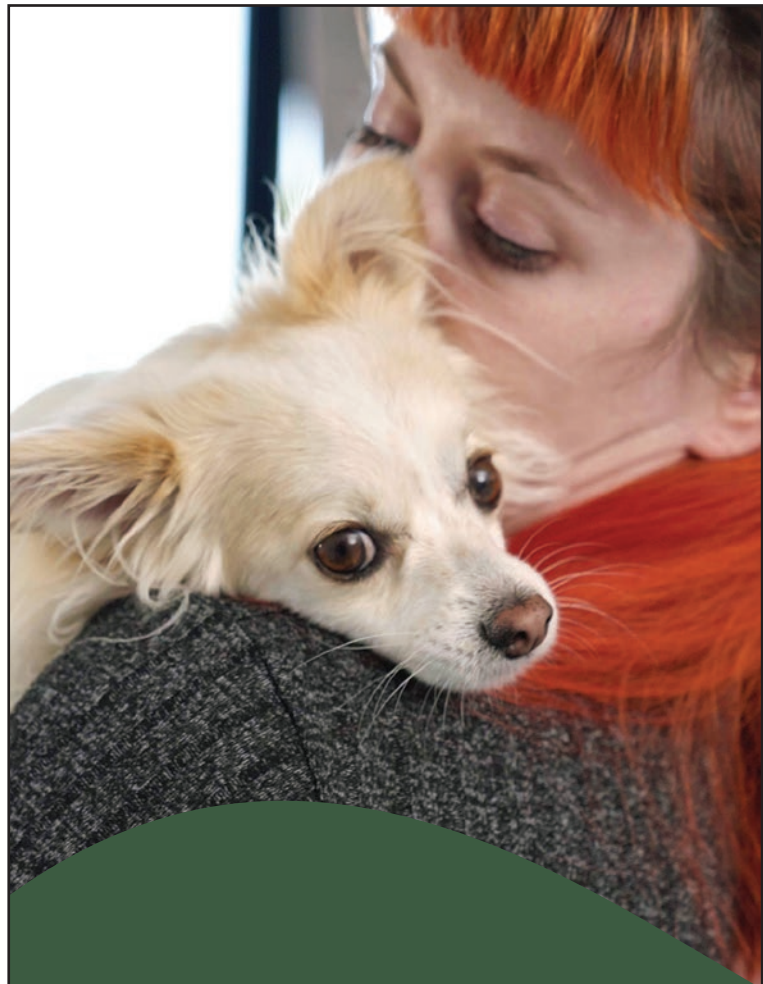
If you're still having no luck, remember most vet clinics will have a nurse who is able to help administer medication, but you will have to take your pet into the clinic as needed. There are also mobile vet nurses who come to the home and who would be able to help with this task.



**vetonline
consult.co.nz**

Don't struggle in silence!

If it's not working, let your veterinarian know and they will do their best to come up with an alternative solution for you!



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When your business and the safety of those in your care is paramount, then the best protection available is of highest importance. You want a product which is well tested and proven in multiple environments, is trusted and environmentally friendly. In Safe4, you have all these things. Safe4 have found the perfect balance of product effectiveness and safety of use around people, animals and the environment. Safe4 is accessible for all, not just a select few.

Safe4 Disinfectant Cleaner has been the go-to professional solution for vets, breeders, animal charities, wildlife parks, kennels, catteries and animal owners throughout New Zealand for more than 10 years, and worldwide for over 20. Here in New Zealand, Safe4 can count the SPCA, Orana Wildlife Park and Sea Life Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium as long-term users of Safe4 products. Free from alcohol, aldehydes and phenols, Safe4 Disinfectant Cleaner is pH neutral, biodegradable, non-toxic, non-tainting and non-irritant at all recommended dilutions. It does not require rinsing and is safe for you and those in your care to come into contact with while surfaces are wet.

Safe4 is recognised as the leaders in their field, as Safe4 products meet stringent efficacy tests while being environmentally friendly. Safe4 Disinfectant Cleaner provides protection against bacterial, viral and fungal infections and has certification against (and not limited to) coronavirus (inc. COVID-19 strains), canine parvovirus, avian flu (H1N1), ringworm, hepatitis, E. coli, herpes, MRSA, bovine TB, FIV, FLV, strangles, campylobacter, salmonella, plus many other infections and their variants.

Not just a disinfectant. Safe4 has multiple effective products available, such as the popular Odour Killer, which breaks down persistent smell, and the Safe4 hypoallergenic Laundry Liquid, perfect for bedding and uniforms, which also has a pass for MRSA.

But Safe4 is not just for animals. You will find Safe4 professional products in gymnasiums, physios, lawyers, yoga studios, cafes and restaurants, education and childcare facilities, utility providers, councils, emergency services, hospitality and around the home.

With Safe4, you will find a little will go a very long way, and you will be safe in the knowledge that Safe4 is effective and safe for you and those in your care.

For further information, advice, contact and product ordering, please visit <https://safe4all.co.nz/> or call 0800 723347. Helpful staff are always on hand to pass on advice around care and cleaning, tailored to your needs.



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VISIT SAFE4ALL.CO.NZ FOR MORE INFO

Rabbit talk

Ever wondered what your rabbit is telling you? While rabbits are less vocal than guinea pigs, they use a range of behaviours to communicate with each other and us.



Signs your rabbit could be sick

Did you know a reduced or absolute lack of appetite can be life-threatening to your rabbit? If your rabbit has not eaten for more than 12 hours then this is an emergency and you need to seek veterinary help.

Know the common signs of rabbit illness:

- ★ Weight loss
- ★ Discharge from eyes, ears or nose
- ★ Excessive scratching at ears
- ★ Dandruff, bald patched or excessive scratching
- ★ Drooling
- ★ Staining around their bottom
- ★ Urine staining around the bum area
- ★ Caecotrophs or faeces stuck to their bottom
- ★ Hunched posture or swollen abdomen
- ★ Not moving
- ★ An obvious wound or injury
- ★ Change in behavior
- ★ Head tilt or facial asymmetry

To learn more about rabbit care follow Dr Kezia Lockhart BVSc from CareVets Mt Wellington



@bunny_vet_nz

SOUNDS

Honking

Making a honking noise while circling another rabbit is a sign of sexual interest. Rabbits also circle human caregivers for attention.

Whimpering

They make this noise when they're unhappy with something in their environment, be that another rabbit, an unfamiliar place, or us!

Stress sounds

Grumbling, growling, grunting, snorting and hissing are all signs that a rabbit may be stressed or unhappy with something. They can be accompanied by a lunge or a bite to really emphasise their feelings.

Screaming

Rabbits only make this sound when they are in extreme pain or distress, so if your rabbit is screaming loudly, you need to seek help immediately.

Clucking

A quiet clucking noise, particularly when eating, indicates satisfaction.

Teeth grinding

A gentle clicking of the teeth (sometimes known as purring) indicates contentment in rabbits, but loud teeth grinding, along with a hunched or tense posture, is an indication of stress or pain. If you hear loud tooth grinding, it's best to get your bunny seen by a vet.

BEHAVIOURS

Ears

Rabbits' ears are far more expressive than our own! When they are tuning in to listen to a noise, you'll see them upright and moving to hear what's going on. When they are scared, the ears lie flattened along their body.

Thumping

Rabbits communicate danger by thumping a hind leg on the ground, which makes a surprisingly loud noise and warns everyone to take cover underground if they can. Thumping can also communicate that they're annoyed about something.

Chin rubbing

You might see your rabbit rubbing their chin on something. Rabbits communicate where they have been to others by using the scent glands under their chins.

Licking

Congratulations! If your rabbit is gently licking you, then you have been accepted as a trusted person.

Lying flat

When they are very scared, rabbits lie flat to the ground, muscles tensed, with their ears flat against their bodies. It's also possible for a relaxed rabbit to lie flat, but they won't be tense.

Flopping

A rabbit flopped over on their side, looking relaxed and peaceful is usually just that: relaxed and peaceful!

Lunging

Lunging at you with their ears back and tail up is a way for rabbits to tell you to back off: they don't like what you're doing.

Happy jumping

Rabbits who bounce around, jumping and even turning in mid air are happy and joyful rabbits just enjoying life for one crazy, playful moment! This behaviour is also known as 'binky'.



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readers pets

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Owner 

Tracey Wakefield

Jupiter

A 3-year-old ragdoll from Wellington who loves to snooze and cuddle.



Owner 

Sarah Watson

PetSHOP



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 littlelionsnz.co.nz

 022 632 5807

Designed to help protect the birds from your cat. Birds are genetically predisposed to look for bright colours when looking for food and they will therefore see your cat moving much earlier and have time to move away rather than be ambushed. Also unlike a bell (which cat can learn to stop jingling) your cat can't work around having the Scrunchie.

Pet First Aid and Training

 petfat.co.nz

 0508 738 347



Did you know that 90% of pets will experience at least one emergency situation in their lifetime? Attend a Pet First Aid Course and you will learn the skills and gain the knowledge to help your pet in an emergency. Knowing pet first aid can help keep your pet and animals in your care alive and alleviate pain & suffering.



Immunovet

 immunovetnewzealand.co.nz

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Is your pet suffering from skin issues or allergies? Don't stick a Band-Aid on it, heal from the inside naturally. The use of Immunovet reduces the risk of disease development and inflammation. Immunovet is a highly concentrated, nutrient dense supplement rich in vitamins, minerals and fatty acids. Use Immunovet to give your pet a glossy coat, clear skin and better health today.

Remembrance Spheres

 remembranceglass.co.nz

 viesnik@xtra.co.nz



We love our pets their whole lives and we miss them for the rest of ours. Enclose the ashes of your beloved pet into a handblown glass sphere, providing you with an object of beauty to treasure forever. Choose your preferred colour and have your pet's ashes safely enclosed in a unique piece of artwork to admire..

CLINICAL TRIAL: DOGS NEEDED

Biotech company PharmAust is calling out for pet dogs with treatment naive B cell lymphoma to finalise evaluation of a promising newly formulated anti-cancer drug

The clinical trial program in Australia is transitioning from Phase 2 to Phase 3 and now running in New Zealand! Current trials are seeking to finalise dosing optimisation.

Basic Inclusion Criteria

Dogs of any sex, at least one year of age, with B cell nodal lymphoma with:

- No previous medication for the lymphoma
- No other significant intercurrent disease
- WHO stage 1-5, substage a.
- Modified Karnofsky performance score 0 or 1.

Basic Exclusion Criteria

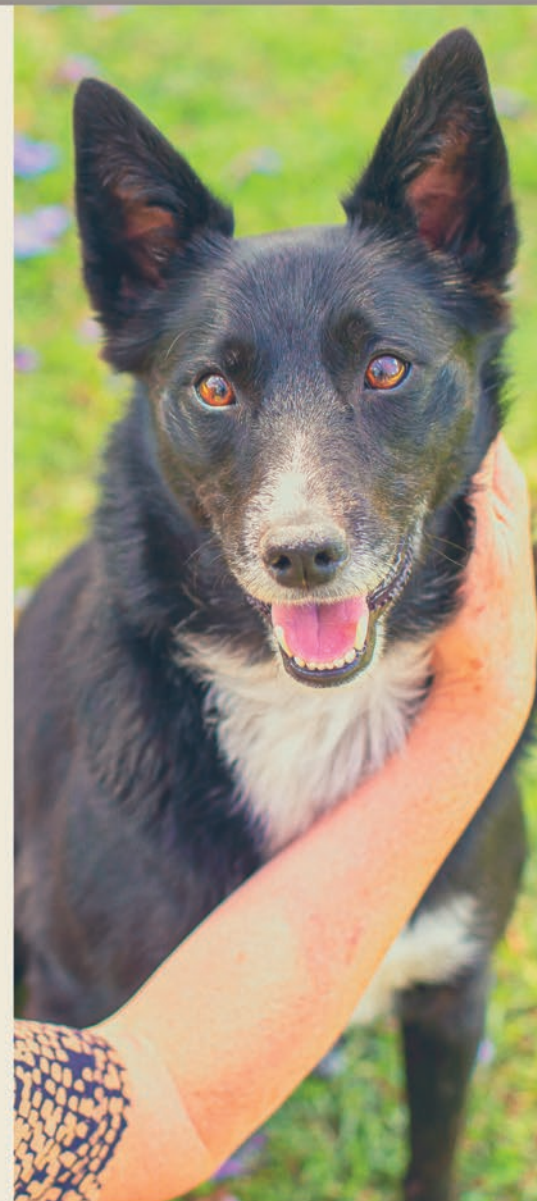
- Any prednisolone/corticosteroid use in preceding 8 weeks
- Dogs that have received prior treatment for lymphoma
- Puppies less than 1 year old
- Lactating or pregnant bitches
- Dogs used for breeding
- Modified Karnofsky performance score 2 or above

The trials involve consultations and treatments at trial veterinary centres, which will provide greater detail about enrolment and the nature of the trial.

For more information, contact:

Veterinary Specialists Aotearoa

Dr Mike Coleman & Dr Tommy Fluen
Corner Hotunui Drive & Te Apunga Place,
Sylvia Park, Auckland
Phone: 09 320 5645





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*Approximate and derived from the unprocessed state of the ingredients.



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