

PetLife

Cruciate disease

What is cruciate disease?

Emergency plan

Tips to sort your pet plan

Rodenticides

Consider the risks

Water health

Aquarium water chemistry

ISSUE 25 | AUTUMN 2023

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Editor's Note

If you decide to use rodent poison then be careful with placement and be aware of signs of poisoning in your pet.

Our hearts go out to all those affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. We cannot imagine just how hard the situation is for those residents, plus for their pets and livestock. As wild weather events seem to become more prevalent, it is important to remember to have a pet emergency plan alongside your own. We first published the article on pet emergency plans you will find in this issue after the Kaikōura earthquake – when we realised we didn't have a plan for our pets!

As autumn rolls around and the cooler weather arrives, so do rodents looking for a cosy spot. If you decide to use rodent poison then be careful with placement and be aware of signs of poisoning in your pet. Pet First Aid and Training have provided an article on rodenticide poisoning, plus you can head to their website and print a list of poisons to pop on your fridge.

Did you know that the doggy daycare industry in New Zealand is pretty much unregulated? Well, now there is SPCA animal welfare certification, SPCA Certified®, a voluntary standard to raise the bar within the industry. Also in this issue, the team from Vet Online Consult teaches us about cruciate disease in dogs and lower urinary tract disease in cats. Don't panic, we have our wet pets covered too, thanks to Cam from The Fish Room. He writes about the importance of water testing for your fish.

Due to the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle, we made the hard decision to make this an online copy only and not go to print. We are a nationwide publication and many of our North Island outlets are located in the recovery area. But not to worry, as we still have our usual segments ... enjoy your read.

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Companion Animals NZ Animal Behaviour and Training Accreditation

Training and behaviour consultation is an unregulated industry in New Zealand. Anyone with any level of experience and education can call themselves a dog trainer. This creates significant risks for animals and their guardians, from the spread of inappropriate techniques or information to the use of fear, force, pain or intimidation to gain and maintain compliance.

Ethical training follows a systematic approach that adheres to using the least intrusive and minimally aversive methods (LIMA). All animal trainers, behaviour consultants and behaviour veterinarians who are accredited with Companion Animals NZ follow the same code of ethics. The model of the Companion Animals NZ Animal Behaviour and Training Accreditation Programme is to create a standardisation for practitioners to adhere to these principles.

In 2017, a working group that included the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI), New Zealand Veterinary Association (NZVA), DogsNZ, SPCA, Association of Professional Dog Trainer New Zealand (APDTNZ), Companion Animals NZ, Massey University, Eastern Institute of Technology (EIT) and Unitec started addressing this issue of regulation. Companion Animals NZ offered to finance the establishment of a national accreditation scheme, and this is where it all began. It was agreed that training and behaviour organisations would be accredited by Companion Animals NZ rather than creating a model to accredit individual training and behaviour practitioners. Assessing individuals one-by-one would not only be a duplication of the work organisations were already doing, but also be very intensive. By accrediting organisations, New Zealand-based individuals who hold a qualifying membership may automatically be eligible for Companion Animals NZ accreditation.

The Companion Animals NZ accreditation scheme first came to fruition in 2019. The accreditation scheme

Animal Training and Behaviour Survey Results

82% of respondents felt that an animal training and behaviour accreditation programme is valuable.



10%
Currently
Accredited

29%
Working
Towards

29% of people say accreditation is something they are currently working towards.

Common themes from supporters: Accreditation will create

“

High standards and regulations- so that our companion animal's best interests (welfare, quality of life, etc.) are maintained (or advised on) and that owners know they are seeking qualified help when they ask for support and guidance.

”

76% of non-accredited individuals said they would consider applying for CANZ accreditation in the next 12-24 months.



Companionanimals.nz/accreditation

ABOVE Results from the Companion Animals NZ 2022 survey of animal trainers and behaviour consultants.

was based on input from those in the working group and recognition that there was a need for a national standard in the animal training and behaviour industry.

The scheme was developed to recognise qualifications based on a robust assessment of the individual applicant's practical and theoretical skills, adherence to LIMA methods and a written code of ethics, as well as a commitment to ongoing professional education. These are well-established and well-recognised organisations who align with the Companion Animals NZ standards.

In 2020, the first organisations were accredited: the International Association of Animal Behavior Consultants (IAABC) and Association of Professional Dog Trainer New Zealand (APDTNZ). At this time, accreditation was available

only for animal trainers/animal training instructors and behaviour consultants, but new 'standards' have since been drawn up to provide more accreditation pathways.

The scheme is currently being reviewed. Professional animal trainers and behaviour consultants in the industry have been surveyed (figure1) and there has been engagement with stakeholders to assess the future of the accreditation scheme and how it can be built upon. A new standard (behaviour veterinarian) for members of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (ANZCVS) has been added, and a puppy preschool standard is being drafted. The impact the new puppy preschool standard could have on puppies and their guardians is exponential as it has been estimated that about

Did you know the dog training industry is unregulated?

Anyone can call themselves an expert!

10,000 puppies go through puppy preschools nationwide each year.

A marketing campaign targeting animal guardians who seek to work with a professional is also being developed.

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Get your pets thru, too!

An emergency can occur at anytime and if you are a pet owner you need to be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice. Make sure you and your pets are ready to go by following these simple steps.

1 Get a pet emergency supply kit. Have it readily accessible and make sure it consists of at least the following items.

- + A pet first aid kit which will cover your pets' emergency medical needs. If your pets take any medications, add some extra supplies.
- + Food (in a waterproof container) and water – enough for three days.
- + Collars with ID tags – make sure the information is current and updated. You might consider microchipping as permanent identification as collars get lost.
- + Safety harness and leash.
- + Sanitation items.
- + Rescue pet decals – to alert rescue teams to save any pets inside your house.
- + Comfort toys and blankets to take with your pets if you have to evacuate.

2 Pack photos of your pets in case you get separated. It will help rescue workers identify your pets and reunite you faster.

3 Get your pets familiar with their carriers or crates. Usually, pets associate them with visits to the vet and become stressed at the first sight of them. Let your pets play in their carriers or get them some treats to make the transition easier when the time comes.

4 Know your pets hiding places in and out of the house. At the first warning of a disaster, you may consider putting them in one room in case you have to leave in a hurry.

5 Have a family emergency plan ready.

- + Map out a getaway plan: how to pack your pets and where to go.
- + Check with the nearby shelters, veterinary hospitals and hotels to see if they would take your pets in an emergency.
- + Develop a pet care buddy system – arrange for friends or extended family to take your pets in if you must evacuate to a shelter which doesn't allow pets. Instruct your caretakers on the location of your emergency supply kit and anything else they might find useful.
- + Learn about the various disasters which could strike your particular area. Keep extra supplies of food and water as often it takes time for evacuation.
- + When you have to evacuate, take your pets with you.

A horse of course

ANIMAL THERAPY INSPIRES CONVERSATION AND CONNECTION FOR ELDERLY

Residents at Bupa Northhaven Care Home were treated to a visit from an unlikely guest this week: Raisin, a 24-year-old therapy horse.

Residents who had previously owned or rode horses, felt an immediate connection.

Jayne Weir, Activities Coordinator at Northhaven, says there are many benefits from having therapy animals visit the home.

“We’ve had a resident who recently joined our Northhaven Care Home who had been struggling socially and was reluctant to engage with others,” says Jayne.

“With news of Raisin’s visit, she joined the lounge and stayed for the whole day. It brought people together and was a big breakthrough.

“Their eyes widen, smiles go up, our residents are completely engaged. It’s lovely to see.

Raisin is a regular at care homes and retirement villages throughout the North Shore.

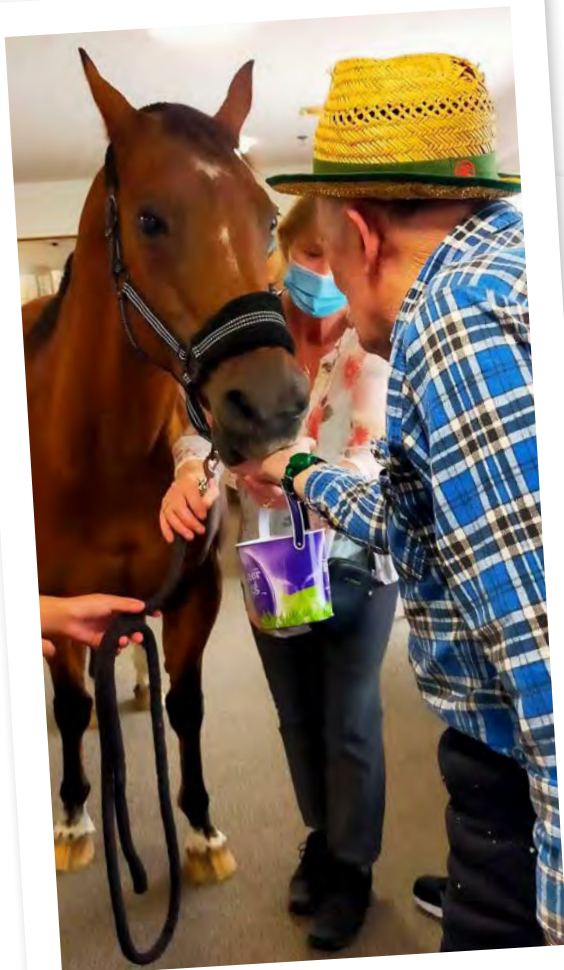
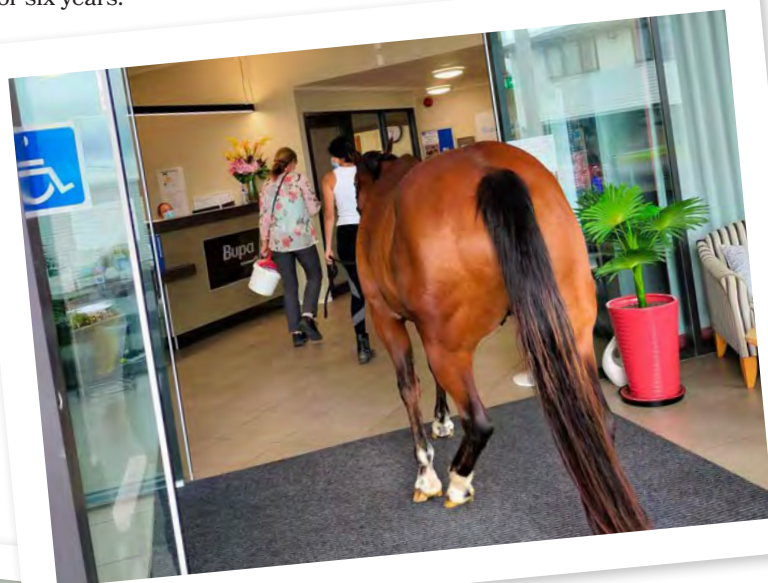
She’s on track to become a registered therapy animal with Hato Hone St John later this year through their Pet Therapy programme.

Raisin’s owner, Ashleigh Haynes, has had Raisin for six years.

“She’s so gentle,” says Ashleigh.

“Animals are a great icebreaker. They get people talking and connecting.

“We’ve had an experience where a resident who hadn’t often participated in conversations met Raisin and then told me of her life living on a sheep and beef farm and shared memories of her animals. She had the biggest smile, her caregiver was absolutely amazed.”





Cruciate disease in dogs

 Dr Kerri

What is cruciate disease ?

The cruciate ligaments are important stabilising ligaments of the knee (stifle) joint. The stifle joint consists of the femur, the tibia, the patella (the kneecap) and a small fabellae behind the joint. Cushioning cartilage, called menisci, are between the femur and tibia, and ligaments hold the joint together, allowing the normal motion of the knee through flexion (bending) and extending. They also stabilise the knee to prevent the knee from bending a way it shouldn't.

There are two cruciate ligaments that cross inside the stifle, the cranial and the caudal ligament, and they help prevent the tibia from slipping forwards under the femur.

A ruptured cruciate ligament is the most common stifle injury in dogs. A history of a sudden onset (acute) hindlimb lameness is the usual scenario. They may be suddenly lame and unable to bear weight on the affected hind limb, or partially bear weight (toe touching). The lameness may appear to improve initially. They may start to sit differently with their affected limb out to the side. The stifle joint may become swollen. If left unaffected, the joint will start to form arthritis, which will reduce the range of motion of the joint and will be chronically sore.

Cranial cruciate rupture can be a full rupture or a partial tear. Injuries most commonly occur in large breeds, but can also happen in small

Cruciate ruptures can happen at any age.

breeds. Ruptures can happen at any age. In young breed dogs it is usually when they are at full speed or playing rough and take a bad step, presenting as an acute hindlimb lameness.

Older, overweight dogs are more prone to chronic partial tears as their ligaments can be weakened and slowly stretched due to overloading of the joint. A partial rupture may not be detected until the ligament breaks completely. This type of patient may then experience a full rupture just from stepping down off a bed, or from jumping. Smaller breeds that suffer from luxating patella have an increased predisposition of cranial cruciate rupture as the ligament is under more stress.

Unfortunately, the odds of a rupture to the other limb are high, and this can be within a year of the initial limb being affected. The chance of a contralateral limb cruciate injury is more likely if the patient is older and overweight; owners should be prepared for another surgery in this time frame.

How do you diagnose cruciate disease?

Diagnosis is based on history, clinical signs and manipulation of the joint, with radiographs (X-rays) being the best way to rule out other causes of hind limb lameness, for example tibial crest avulsions, bone tumours, or fractures. They will also show any signs of arthritis, or the degree of arthritis present within

the stifle joint. The X-rays will be used to measure angles and implants needed for orthopaedic surgery repair.

What happens after diagnosis is made?

Initially, if just a partial tear is suspected, pain relief and anti-inflammatories are prescribed, with instructions for strict rest and exercise restrictions.

Once the cruciate ligament is ruptured the stifle joint is unstable. The meniscal cartilage that cushions the bones start to wear abnormally and this leads to degenerative joint changes, which is arthritis. Bone spurs (osteophytes) develop which cause chronic pain and reduce the range of movement the joint has.

This irreversible process can be stopped or slowed by surgical correction. These osteophyte degenerative changes can be apparent as early as one to three weeks after rupture, and will have a faster onset in larger, heavier breeds.

Within human medicine there is controversy over surgery, however, there is strong evidence that supports surgery in dogs being more favourable and beneficial.

There are three known surgery techniques for treating cranial cruciate rupture. The method used will be dependent on patient suitability and the orthopaedic surgeon doing the procedure. They will discuss with you the technique, recovery time, rehabilitation needed and risks of each procedure to help determine which is best suited to your pet.

The three techniques are: extracapsular repair, tibial plateau leveling osteotomy (TPLO) and tibial tuberosity advancement (TTA).

Post operative expectations

After surgery, your pet will have strict exercise and rehabilitation instructions which need to be followed to ensure a smooth recovery. Your vet will discuss this in depth with you prior to discharge.

Expect your pet to be prescribed pain relief after surgery, and you'll be instructed to confine them to reduce exertion (expect crate rest). Other medications such as oral glucosamine supplementation, and Synovan or Pentosan injections can help with cartilage repair, joint inflammation and joint fluid (synovial fluid) lubrication within the joint space. Generally, depending on which surgery technique is used, recovery times expected are between eight and 12 weeks post operatively.

Overweight dogs have an increased risk for arthritis and for cruciate rupture. If your pet is on the heavier side, a weight management programme can reduce the risk of arthritis and potential rupture of the opposite cruciate ligament.

Professional rehabilitation and physical therapy post surgery is a great way to aid your pet's recovery. Some clinics will have hydrotherapy, or acupuncture, which are great post operative therapies. Your veterinarian will also give you a list of at-home exercises to help aid your pet's recovery.



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Minx is Missing



This cat probably needs no introduction!

Minx was cat-napped near his home in Paraparaumu and then dumped on Paekakariki Hill.

The community rallied behind his distraught family, searching for him during some really foul winter weather and he was eventually found two months later. A local author offered to write the story of Minx and create a book for young children, which also includes a section for adults.

The purpose of the book is to provide a tool for teachers and parents of young children about bullying and how it affects victims. The book also raises awareness about Feline Fix and the work they do in the community. The funds raised from the sale of this book will enable Feline Fix to provide subsidised desexing so they can help more families.

Purchase your copy directly from Feline Fix.

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Rodenticides

With autumn comes mice and rats. Using rodent bait? Consider the risk to your pet.

At this time of the year, rats and mice come sneaking into the house to avoid the cold and look for easy pickings. There are just a few things to know before you reach for the rat bait.

Poisoning from rodenticides is one of the most common types of poison cases seen by vets. The best way to avoid an animal being poisoned is to be careful with the use and application of the poisons.

Ensure they are put away in secure cupboards; cats can climb and even if they don't eat the poison, they could knock it off the shelf where it could be made available to the less discerning pet (or child). When placing the bait, ensure it is placed in a secure container that only rats and mice can get into.

The identification of what your pet may have eaten is paramount to enable the vet to treat your pet correctly. Take the container, packet or bottle with you so they can identify the poison and treat accordingly.

Remember, our pets can be poisoned by eating a rat or mouse that has ingested poison! So watch for symptoms and if you have any concerns take your animal straight to the vet.

Symptoms differ depending on the type of poison, the amount ingested, and the size, age and health of your pet. Many poisons have an anticoagulant that prevents the blood from clotting, causing hemorrhaging and death. Signs can appear over a period of up to four days after ingestion. It may be seen as breathing difficulty, seizures, diarrhoea, vomiting, fever, blood in urine or faeces, very pale gums, vomiting and more.

The new baits that are available can stay for up to four weeks in an animal's system. So while they may be treated with an antidote, vitamin K, blood transfusions, it may not work. You will be surprised at the number of everyday household items we are keeping in our home that are poisonous to our animals.

If you have any concerns take your animal to the nearest vet!

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Calm your pets during thunderstorms

Do thunder and lightning storms panic your pet? As we start to endure unsettled weather, here are some tips and tricks to help calm your pet if they become frightened.

Keep them near you

Being around you can help calm your pets, as you will make them feel safe and more secure.

Keep them inside

Being inside reduces the noise from the thunder and by closing any curtains/blinds you will also reduce the visibility of lightning.

Make a den

Having a safe place to go can really help. It offers comfort and can reduce the commotion of the thunderstorm.

Clothing

As strange as it sounds, wearing clothes can help relax pets (as long as they like wearing clothes and it's not going to scare them more). There are jackets available that have been specifically designed for pets to wear during high anxiety periods to make them feel calmer.

Noise

Having the radio or TV on helps reduce the impact of the noise from the thunder. Remember that you may need to turn the volume up louder than usual.

Entertainment

Get your pet doing something to take their mind off the storm. If they know any tricks, get them practising, or hide treats around the house for them to scent out, or you could even create an indoor obstacle course for them ... anything that will distract them from the scariness outside.



Holistic remedies

Some essential oils are known for helping to calm your pet. These can work wonders, but please make sure you are using remedies specific for the species. Essential oils can be toxic if ingested so ensure they are not where you pet your pet or another can reach them.

Training remedies

Talk to a behaviourist or trainer as they may have some exercises to put in place to help desensitise your pet to the thunderstorms. Use positive methods of training, as you don't want them to associate anything to do with thunderstorms in an even more negative way. Our behaviourist trainer, Laura, is available for any questions you may have.

Medical remedies

If you are seriously concerned about your pet hurting themselves during thunderstorms then talk to your vet about possible prescription medication to help them.

No two pets are the same; you may have to trial a few different ideas or a combination of things to find out what will help your pet. Remember to be realistic. The idea is that your pet will be able to cope with the thunderstorm, NOT be suddenly happy that there's a thunderstorm. What may work during one storm may not work the next time so be prepared to try a couple of the tips.

These tips can also be used to help your anxious pet during fireworks.

The importance of water testing!

Some fish and plant life are needy, while others are not. Water is the key to life but can hold a wide range of chemicals and mineral characteristics. It may take some time and effort but knowing the water conditions of your aquarium can help all life inside thrive. It is well worth the reward and satisfaction.

🐟 Cam Scott

WATER CHEMISTRY

Do not fret! No university degrees are necessary to be a successful aquarist. But even beginners to the hobby need to know the basics, as they are vital to maintaining a healthy and trouble-free aquarium. PH, ammonia, general hardness, carbonate hardness (alkalinity), nitrite and nitrate levels – these are what you test for and keep an eye on. You do not want to send your dear fishes on a roller coaster ride of unstable water conditions.

Before adding fish to a newly established aquarium, you need to put your tank through a biological process called the Nitrogen Cycle. It establishes bacteria in your water and filtration system that becomes beneficial to the health of your fish.

If adding freshwater from the tap to an established tank, test it first as it can contain elements harmful to fish. If it does contain things you don't want in your aquarium, consider using a water conditioner. Be careful of trying to replicate the wild conditions of where fish originate from for a captive-bred fish. The water conditions can vary considerably between captive and wild parameters. You may end up causing your fish more stress than intended.

PH

All fish and plant varieties suited to aquariums will have different needs. When starting as an aquarium enthusiast, pH is likely the first parameter you will hear about. pH measures water acidity: pH 1-6.9 is acidic, pH 7.1-14 is basic and 7.0 is neutral. Most freshwater aquariums with tropical fish do best with a pH of 6.8-7.6. It can vary higher or lower with the species in your tank. The pH can fluctuate and drop with the breakdown of any organic material. Maintaining a consistent pH level is the first step toward keeping a high-water quality.

AMMONIA

Ammonia (NH_3 and NH_4^+) is harmful to fish and can quickly kill them. It tends to fluctuate to higher levels in newly established aquariums as they lack nitrifying bacteria. Adding too many fish at once, overfeeding, not cleaning out fish waste, poor filtration, or a combination of these factors, can also lead to an ammonia spike. Ammonia is more toxic at higher temperatures and pH levels above 7.0. The only safe ammonia level is zero (0ppm)

NITRITES

Nitrites are a result of bacteria breaking down ammonia in your tank and are very toxic to tropical fish. They inhibit the oxygen exchanged to fish's bloodstream, causing them to suffocate. Nitrites are the secondary product in the Nitrogen Cycle. In new tanks, these levels will rise in quick succession after ammonia levels drop. The only level you want of nitrites is zero (0ppm). Remove nitrites from your tank by performing weekly water changes of 25-30 per cent of the total body of water in your tank.



NITRATES

Nitrites break down further, with the help of beneficial bacteria in your filtration system, to become nitrates. They are not harmful and signal the completion of the Nitrogen Cycle. However, it is best to be wary of high levels as they will stress your fish. High levels can also produce a biological bloom which causes cloudy water. Nitrate levels should be between 20ppm and 40ppm. Do weekly water changes to reduce levels.



You will not be able to tell what high-quality water looks like by eyeballing it. Regular water testing is the only way to know, so buy a test kit online or through your local pet store. They can come in several different forms but should contain all the items you need to test for the things mentioned below. Keep a log of results to track trends occurring in your tank. And do regular water changes. Taking these steps can help your aquatic life thrive for years!

GENERAL HARDNESS

This is the measure of calcium, magnesium and other ions in water. Most freshwater fish can adapt to a wide range in this area, but it is best to adjust them to your local water. Try not to manipulate levels in your aquarium with additives.

CARBONATE HARDNESS (ALKALINITY)

Measure the carbonates and bicarbonates in water – this is the ability to resist changes in pH. It helps stabilise pH; replenish through regular partial water changes.

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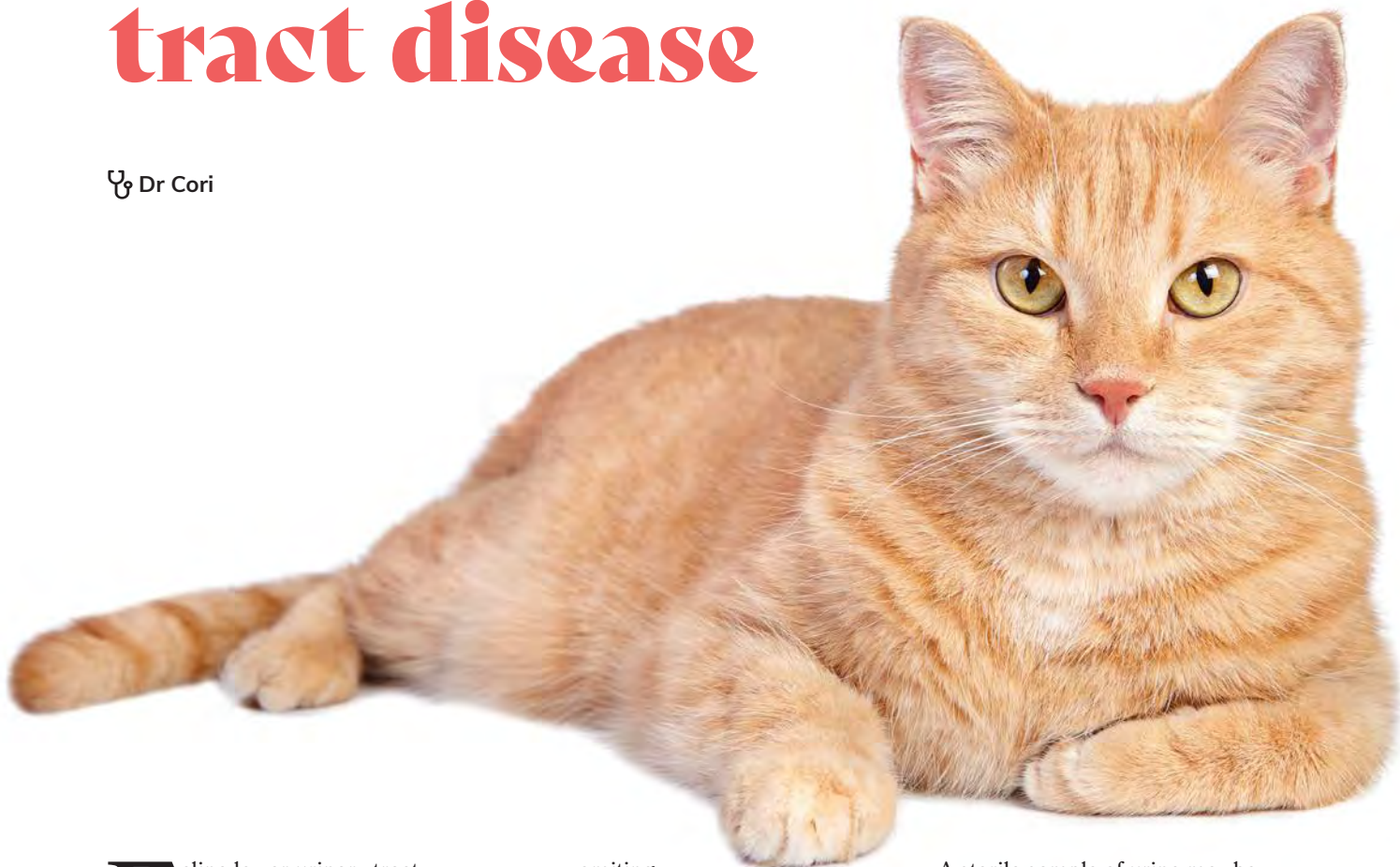
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Feline lower urinary tract disease

🐾 Dr Cori



Feline lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) is a common condition affecting cats. It can be grouped into non-obstructed and obstructed forms, with obstructed cases being an emergency.

Non-obstructed FLUTD can occur in both male and female cats, with males being the most affected.

Risk factors of non-obstructive FLUTD include obesity, dry food diets and stress, or it is idiopathic which means no cause is found.

Signs of non-obstructed FLUTD

- vocalisation or pain
- urinating small amounts frequently
- straining to urinate (may also appear as constipation)
- bloody urine
- painful urination.
- licking or grooming of the genital areas
- painful abdomen

- vomiting
- lethargy
- inappetence

Causes of non-obstructed FLUTD are crystals in the urine, infection, cancer or, the most common cause, interstitial cystitis.

Diagnosis of non-obstructed FLUTD

Physical exam: Your vet will do a full health check of your pet. They may find a small or empty bladder when they feel your cat's abdomen. Your cat may also show signs of mild dehydration or irritation around their urethral opening.

Urinalysis and sediment exam: A sample of urine will be tested for the presence of bacteria, crystals, blood or inflammatory cells. The presence of these may help identify the cause, with bacteria and inflammatory cells indicating a urinary tract infection.

A sterile sample of urine may be collected via ultrasound-guided cystocentesis to send a sample for culture and sensitivity at the lab. This will see what bacteria are present and what antibiotics will be most effective against them. This step is particularly important if your cat has suffered multiple episodes of FLUTD.

Blood work: Your cat may have other symptoms of sickness such as vomiting, dehydration, not eating or drinking. Blood work will be run to check their hydration and electrolyte balance.

Diagnostic imaging: Ultrasound or X-rays of the bladder and kidneys are useful to detect masses, urinary crystals or bladder stones.

Treatment of non-obstructed FLUTD

Treatment is dependent on the underlying cause of the issue.

Idiopathic causes generally resolve on their own in five to seven days, so pain relief and anti-inflammatories are often what is given if your cat is well in themselves. If a urinary tract infection has been diagnosed, then antibiotics may be given. If your cat is dehydrated or unwell, then they may need hospitalisation for IV fluids and other medications to help with pain or inflammation.

Environmental factors: If stress has been identified as a trigger then changing the environment to reduce stress can help lower the risk of repeat episodes.

Litter trays: It is important to have good litter tray hygiene at home, so clean litter trays regularly.

The number of litter trays is also important. As a general rule, aim to have one more litter tray than the number of cats in the household, so for one cat they require two litter

trays as a minimum, for three cats they require four trays, etc.

It is important that the location of the litter trays are placed in a quiet, safe area away from loud noises such as the washing machine, children, or other animals. They should be accessible from two ends so that your cat can get easily in and out of it.

Pheromone sprays: Pheromone sprays help reduce stress. They come in plug-in diffusers or spray versions.

Dietary management: There are FLUTD-specific diets available that can help dissolve urinary crystals by changing the urine pH. Wet food diets are the most important dietary factor as they aim to increase your cat's water consumption; you can also add water to their food.

Behaviour modifying drugs: As a last step of treatment in pets that

have a frequent recurrence, or cats who are unable to find relief from the steps mentioned above, then medications can be dispensed to help with their stress. These drugs are anti-depressant type medications that can be given during times of stress or given daily. Your regular vet will be able to discuss the best medication required for your pet.

Summary

Non-obstructed FLUTD is a common presentation in both male and female cats. A large component of prevention is due to environmental management and stress reduction. As a pet parent, you can do a large amount at home to make your cat more comfortable if they have this condition, but always talk to a vet if concerned that your cat's health is not improving.

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SPCA Certified® welcomes its first doggy daycare member

The SPCA has welcomed the first doggy-daycare to become certified in animal welfare.

The doggy daycare industry in New Zealand is largely unregulated, but the SPCA has developed voluntary standards to help businesses raise the bar, and allow dog owners to choose businesses that put animal welfare first.

The animal welfare certification, SPCA Certified®, is a voluntary set of standards developed to help raise the bar of welfare for animals in both farming and pet care sectors.

When choosing to support businesses that are SPCA Certified®, consumers and pet owners can be rest assured that they're helping to raise standards of care well above legal requirements. The SPCA Certified® team works in partnership with businesses for continual animal welfare improvements.

The first independent doggy day care member to the SPCA Certified® whānau is The Grooming Lounge & Daycare based in Whangārei.

Owner Rebekah Thompson says they're excited to be the first dog independent doggy daycare member of the SPCA Certified® Programme.

"To be a member of this programme has validated the hard work that has been put in to create a high standard at The Grooming Lounge & Daycare. We hope that the SPCA Certified® Programme is only the beginning of positive change in the dog daycare industry in New Zealand, and we're proud to be a part of the journey to give dogs the best they deserve whilst in the care of others."



ABOVE Photo courtesy of Bek Thompson (The Grooming Lounge & Daycare)

A voluntary set of standards developed to help raise the bar of welfare for animals.

The company passed their initial assessment and certification audit with flying colours, providing a safe and stimulating environment with appropriate enrichment, scheduled play and rest times, behavioural assessments on intake, and high levels of supervision.

SPCA Scientific Officer Dr. Alison Vaughan notes it can be challenging for dog owners to select a reputable doggy daycare.

"Currently the pet care industry is largely unregulated. This means anyone can decide to set up a doggy daycare, with no minimum experience

or qualification requirements," Dr. Vaughan says.

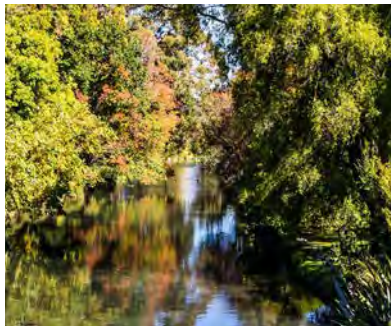
The SPCA Certified® stamp of approval lets dog owners know that a business has been independently audited against evidence-based animal welfare standards.

"We are delighted to welcome Bek and her team at The Grooming Lounge and Daycare into the SPCA Certified® community."

Doggy daycares interested in finding out more about SPCA Certified® can contact their friendly team at certified@spca.nz.

SnipPETS

The latest pet news from around the country.



Southern Cross Pet Insurance calls for vigilance around storm run-off and dirty water

While humans have been warned to stay out of the water, drainwater and runoff water can also be harmful to your pets if they swim in or drink it.

Pest-free islands no place for pet pooches

People visiting the Hauraki Gulf's 47 pest-free islands can help protect breeding and nesting birds by leaving their dogs at home.

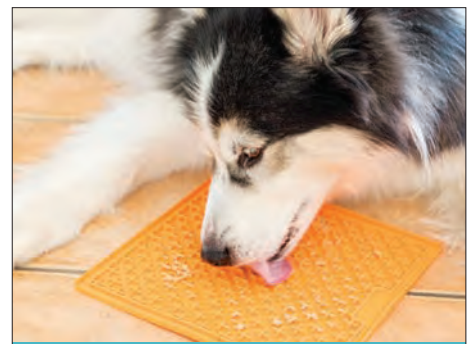
These precious locations, home to many protected bird species including takahē and tūturuatu/shore plover, are also popular holiday destinations for day trippers. However, the Department of Conservation is reminding visitors that dogs are not allowed on any of these pest-free islands – and that includes the beach and foreshore.



Dynavyte aid

Dynavyte NZ is helping animals in need in the aftermath of Cyclone Gabrielle. Dynavyte initially sent a selection of its products to assist with recovery, and is also donating 20 per cent of the value of any purchase made via their website towards animal products to be delivered to the Hawkes Bay region.

To help out, visit dynavyte.nz to make your purchase and enter the code FLOOD. With this simple act you are directly helping the recovery effort by helping get more products to the animals in need.



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To show or not to show

Understanding the breed ring

Have you thought about showing your dog? Showing is not for everyone but, for some, spending a weekend at a dog show offers a lot of enjoyment.

In order to show your dog at an open or championship show your dog must be purebred, registered with Dogs New Zealand (formerly the New Zealand Kennel Club) and entire, i.e not spayed or neutered. When purchasing your dog from a registered breeder, a change of ownership form will be completed transferring the registration to you as the new owner. An owner membership with Dogs New Zealand is also required which gives you access to NZ Dog World which incorporates The New Zealand Kennel Gazette. Within this publication, all upcoming open and championship shows are listed with details on how to enter.

Before you head into your first show it is important that your dog knows what is expected of them. They need to gait on the left hand side beside you around the ring so the judge can view them. The next step is for the judge to run their hands over your dog while your dog stands in a 'stack'. A stack is when your dog stands still on all fours while being examined. This way the judge can get a full look at your dog and compare it to the breed standard. Every



dog has a breed standard, which outlines the ideal characteristics and example of a breed.

Each dog breed is grouped into one of seven groups: toys, terriers, gundogs, hounds, working dogs, utility and non-sporting. When competing in the breed ring, dogs are judged within their breed, by group and by best in show. At the breed level, a best of breed and reserve of breed is awarded, the best of breed then re-enters the group ring and competes against the other breed winners. From here, the best of group winner moves on to be judged for best in show against the group winners from the six other groups. One best in show winner is awarded the top prize for that show. Other in-show wins, such as best puppy in show or best junior in show, are awarded to the dog that aligns best to their standard within that age group.

So other than enjoyment, why show your dog? Well, most do it to have their

dog awarded the Champion title. A dog becomes a Champion after winning seven Championship certificates – these are given to the best dog and bitch for each breed at a championship show.

Showing your dog can be very rewarding but be ready for some stiff competition and be prepared to become addicted, chasing the next win with your best mate.

To learn more about showing your dog in the breed, ring check out dogsnz.org.nz/shows/breed-shows.

Interested to learn more about breed standards? Head to dogsnz.org.nz/breeds/select-breed.

SHOW TYPES

Championship shows

These shows are for the serious contender looking for challenge certificates. You must hold a Dogs New Zealand membership and your dog must be registered with them also. Your dog must not be desexed to compete.

Open shows

These are like championship shows in that your dog must be registered with Dogs New Zealand and you have an active membership. No challenge certificates are issued, but entries are taken in advance. Your dog must not be desexed to compete.

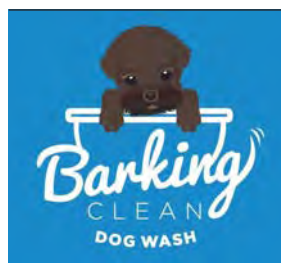
Ribbon parades

Fun events for pet owners to learn more about showing dogs and interact with owners of the same breed. Winning dogs are awarded ribbons. As these are fun events, dogs not registered with Dogs New Zealand and desexed dogs can participate.

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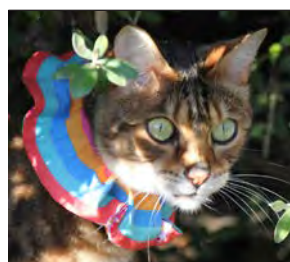


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We have one Lickimat® Ufo™ to give away.



Little Lions catnip balls

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These lightweight felted balls are great fun for cats to chase about the house and keep them entertained. Re-scent the balls by popping back in the sealed bag so the catnip sachet can recharge the balls ready for next time!

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Scoop Dog

(RRP \$10.95)

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