



## Welcome to our Summer newsletter.

## **NEWSLETTER** Summer 2010 / 2011

In this Edition...

**New Flea Product for Dogs** 

**Open Day** 

**Feline Aids** 

**Nurses' Corner** 

Welcome to our last newsletter for 2010!

It's certainly been a busy year for us at Mill Road. We finished our renovations, launched our website & have just had our Open Day.

We're all now looking forward to Christmas & a bit of time in the sun! (Don't worry - we will stagger our holidays. The clinic is open right through, except the stats, when, as always, our emergency vet is a phone call away.)

Merry Christmas to all our clients and patients, from the team at Mill Road!



### NEW FLEA PRODUCT FOR DOGS

As summer heats up, so do the fleas! We are excited to have a new product for our war against these annoying little parasites.

Comfortis is a beef flavoured chewable tablet that provides fast-acting month long flea protection.

For dog owners who dislike the sticky mess of topical treatments, especially those with young children, Comfortis is a great alternative and it is the ideal choice for dogs who swim or are washed frequently.

Comfortis is also very fast-acting (it starts killing fleas within 30 minutes and is 100% effective within 4 hours) so it is great for dogs with flea allergy dermatitis.

Comfortis has been available for some time overseas and is now the leading flea product in the United States.

## Month-long flea protection in a chewable tablet



**Fast-acting**      **Convenient**      **Family-friendly**      **Can't wash off**

# Comfortis®

(spinosad)



[click here](#) for product pack sizes and prices



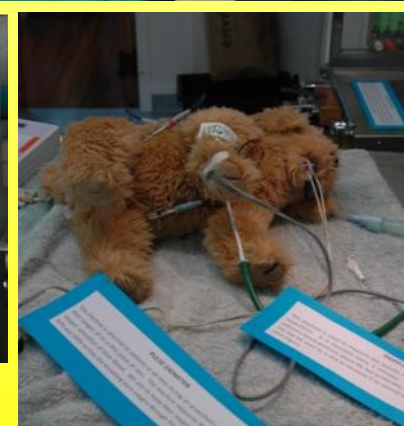
# OPEN DAY!

On **Sunday 21st November** we opened our doors to the public, to enable people to have a good look behind the scenes. We had a huge crowd through & everyone seemed to enjoy themselves.

Guest Star Sparky the kiwi, from the Native Bird Recovery Centre, was a big hit. Robert Webb brought him along for the day, in appreciation of our sponsorship of the centre. Kids & adults alike enjoyed the rare opportunity to handle our native icon!

Our great team had all organised displays & demonstrations to entertain the crowds. There were photos galore, xrays & ultrasounds, worms & testicles, parasites under the microscope & surgical instruments. The most popular activities were dressing up as a veterinary surgeon & stitching up a "wound", & having a go at injecting "insulin" into a diabetic teddy. We also had face painting, a sausage sizzle (proceeds to the Bird Recovery Centre), competitions, a quiz & lots of spot prizes.

Maya, the little girl who won our big hamper full of goodies, only has a rabbit, so she donated all the cat & dog products to the SPCA!



# FELINE IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (FIV)

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching, we are busy getting everyone's cats and dogs up-to-date with their vaccinations, so that they can safely board at the cattery & kennels, while we head to the beach!

A new vaccine has recently become available for cats, which protects against FIV, or Feline Aids. We realised at our recent Open Day, that there is a common misconception that this vaccine is included in our regular "core" vaccination programmes for cats. IT'S NOT!

So please, if you would like your cat protected against FIV, ask us about it.

FIV is a virus that interferes with the immune system of a cat. It lives in the blood of an infected cat & is carried in its system throughout its life.

It is spread from cat to cat primarily through bite wounds, the virus being shed in high levels through saliva. After infection some cats show no signs of disease, while others display initial symptoms such as fever, loss of appetite, diarrhoea & lethargy. They can then remain healthy for up to 10 years, but as the disease progresses symptoms of immune suppression develop, such as:

- Weight loss
- Sores in and around the mouth
- Eye lesions
- Poor coat
- Chronic infections



Eventually the immune system becomes too weak to fight off other infections or diseases. As a result, the cat will die from one of these subsequent infections.

(The feline virus is related to human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) but humans cannot become infected with the feline virus.)

14% of New Zealand cats are infected with FIV and outdoor cats are at the highest risk of contracting the disease. There is no treatment or cure for an FIV infected cat. Vaccination is the best way to prevent the disease.

The initial course requires 3 doses 2-4 weeks apart, then an annual vaccination is recommended. For cats older than 6 months old, we blood test them first, to ensure they have not already become infected.

Again, please ask us about vaccinating your cat against this debilitating and ultimately fatal disease.

## NURSES CORNER "NEWS FLASH"

### CHANI GETS HER DIPLOMA!

Chani has just finished her 3 year Diploma in Veterinary Nursing through WINTEC in Hamilton. She completed the first full time year before joining us at Mill Road and since then has been working hard in her spare time; finishing assignments, attending block courses and sitting exams. The diploma included papers ranging from surgical nursing and diagnostic techniques to behaviour and office management.

We are quickly finding extra responsibilities for Chani in the practice and look forward to seeing her career go from strength to strength!

Well done Chani!



# AND FINALLY: AN OLDIE BUT A GOODIE!

## HOW TO GIVE A CAT A PILL

1. Pick up cat and cradle in arms. Put thumb and forefinger on either side of cat's mouth, apply pressure to cat's cheeks and as cat opens mouth, pop pill in. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow pill.
2. Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Repeat as above.
3. Retrieve cat from bedroom and throw away soggy pill.
4. Take new pill. Cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws with left hand and force jaws open with right hand. Hold mouth closed for a count of ten.
5. Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse.
6. Kneel on floor with cat firmly wedged between knees. Hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly while forcing ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
7. Retrieve cat from curtain and get a new pill. Make note to repair curtains and carefully sweep up shattered figurines and vases and set aside to glue later.
8. Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to hold with head just visible below armpit. Put pill in end of straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down straw.
9. Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans. Drink one beer to take away taste. Apply band-aid to spouse's arm and remove blood from carpet with soap and cold water.
10. Retrieve cat from neighbour's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard and close door on neck with just head showing. Open mouth with spoon and flick pill down with rubber band.
11. Get screw driver from shed and put door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot and drink. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Check records for date of last tetanus shot. Throw away t-shirt and get new one from bedroom. Toss back another shot.
12. Call fire department to retrieve friggin' cat from tree across the road. Apologise to neighbour who crashed car while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from packet.
13. Tie the damn thing's front paws to rear paws with string and bind tightly to table leg. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of steak. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour two litres of water down throat to wash pill down.
14. Consume remainder of scotch. Get spouse to drive you to emergency department. Sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm and removes pill remnant from eye. Call in at furniture shop on way home to order new table.
15. Arrange for SPCA to remove cat from hell and call pet shop to see if they have any guinea pigs.



## HOW TO GIVE A DOG A PILL

1. Put it in cheese.

