



NEWSLETTER

Issue 76

July 2019

Welcome to our winter newsletter. It is the time of year to grab your pet's jacket and keep them warm at night as the temperature drops. Turn over and we discuss common poisons this time of year and helping prevent the arthritis that shows itself in winter's cooler weather. If your pet is stressed coming to the vets, try our new product Zylkene, a natural milk by-product, to help make your pet's visit stress free. Next Rabbit Vaccination Week 13th July to 20th July

Next Senior Puppy/Good Dog Manners Class

Our senior puppy classes are a great extension class after puppy preschool. The classes start for puppies from 4 months of age. The classes run for 5 weeks on Sundays. The classes are intimate in size being limited to 6 pups allowing for a group learning experience mixed with individual one on one tips.



Senior Health Month

Did you know that if your pet is over 7 years old they are called seniors?

The Lake Veterinary Hospitals are running our Senior Health Examination Program in July and August.

You may notice some of the following signs:

- Foul smelling breath
- Not wanting to walk as far
- Trouble getting up
- Reluctance to jump up
- Drinking excessively
- Deafness
- Vision impairment
- Weight loss
- Coughing



What is included?

- Consultation
- Blood screening to check body function
- Urine testing
- Arthritis checks
- Eyesight and hearing checks
- Nail trim
- Dental examination
- Heart health checks
- Diet analysis

All of this has been packaged, for a total cost of \$ 220 (saving you over \$80).

Please call to book your pet in for their Senior Health Examination.

We look forward to seeing you and your pet soon.

Rat/Snail Bait warning

Please take care using pesticides to avoid any toxicities to your pet. This time of year we see an increase in cases of rodenticides poisoning and snail bait.

Rodenticides takes a several days to effect your pet's blood clotting whereas snail bait (Defender-metaldehyde-green colour and Baysol-carbamate-blue colour) will have very rapid effects on your pet with common signs of salivation, urination, diarrhoea and fitting. If you have any concerns about potential access of your pet to these toxins please contact us immediately.

Alternative measures like rat traps instead of the rat poison are the best option. If rodenticides blocks need to be used, we advise having them secured by using the hole in the middle of the block attached to some wire inside an off-cut of pvc piping or to a post so the rats cannot move them to your yard and take care to avoid possums.

The supposedly pet friendly Multiguard Iron EDTA snail bait can also be harmful to your pet. Alternative natural remedies for snails and slugs include using used ground coffee granules around your vegetable patch.

Contrary to some beliefs, a green thumb can co-exist with our beloved pets, which our very good Lacy the Labrador and our vegetable patch can attest to.



Osteoarthritis and Your Pet

Osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease causes pain, loss of mobility and decreased quality of life. Arthritis is a common condition in dogs and cats (Yes cats! They are just better at hiding it).

Symptoms include:

- Inability to jump and play
- Difficulty going up or down stairs
- Difficulty rising or stiff after rest
- Difficulty toileting and /or using the litter tray
- Trouble grooming or poor coat condition
- Aggressive behaviour when touched, approached or moved due to pain
- Change of rest locations
- Cats- withdrawn and quiet

Thankfully there are many options available to help your pet maintain better quality of life and enjoy life again. Prevention is also important and therefore it is vital to keep your pet slim and trim. Extra weight causes more strain on joints and overweight animals are less active which leads to muscle wastage. Please call for a consultation with one of our weight management nurses, who can tailor a program for your pet. Medications like anti-inflammatories and a course of pentosan (4 weekly injections) can be very effective at controlling the pain and inflammation associated with arthritis. Never give human painkillers to cats, such as aspirin, nurofen and paracetamol as these can be lethal. Please ask us about a new medication registered for pain management which can be used in addition to anti- inflammatories. If you have any concerns about your pets mobility please make an appointment to see one of our friendly veterinarians to help your pet feel more comfortable.

