

THOUGHTS

The Vets
who ❤️
your pets

FOR PAWS

Summer 2014

Hello and welcome to our summer edition newsletter. It is so nice to see the sun shining for our daylight saving barbecues! In this edition we have a new flea product to introduce and talk about some of the not so great things about summer for our furry friends.

Practice News

Bravo Bravecto!

We have a new flea product on the market, introducing Bravecto chewable tablets. Together we can change the clock on flea and tick protection for dogs!

Bravecto provides 12 weeks control of both fleas **and** ticks in one chew – and is a real breakthrough for dog owners! Bravecto is highly palatable for dogs, so treatment time becomes treat time.

Bravecto is safe for use in all breeds of dogs and in pregnant or lactating animals. Bravecto can be an effective part of a treatment programme for dogs with flea allergy dermatitis (FAD). Because it is a palatable chew, Bravecto won't rub off onto you, your children or the furniture!

There is no 'stand down' period after application. This means your dog can go for a swim (or be bathed) right after treatment with Bravecto.

Experience the longest lasting flea and tick protection for dogs available in New Zealand.



Fireworks and Noise phobias



Fear of noises such as thunder and fireworks is a common problem in dogs. We know where the noise comes from but our pets don't and noises such as fireworks are similar to things like slamming doors and high pitch alarms - both of which attract our hearing. What may be worse is that your pet may associate the noise with other things which they may become fearful of too. Your pet may also pick up on your nervousness and if you reassure them and comfort them during these problems, they may believe there really is something to be fearful of. This makes it even more likely that they will become more frightened by fireworks. Try to behave as normally as possible.

Ensure that your pet is microchipped in case they do run away. You will have a better chance of being reunited quickly.

Medications:

There are a number of medications to help your pet relieve anxiety. There are natural products such as herbal products as we try to avoid strong sedatives. Ideally, in the long term, we need to change how our pets respond to the noise by getting them used to it. Consider desensitisation for next year - this is a lengthy process but is well worthwhile so have a chat to our staff about what is involved.

There are a few things we can do on the night that you expect the fireworks. Create a safe haven where your pet may feel more comfortable, and secure such as an indoor kennel. Try blocking the noise with the TV and radio and draw the curtains.

Common signs of noise phobias:

- Hiding (most common sign in cats)
- Urinating and defecating
- Chewing, over-grooming and drooling
- Panting and pacing
- Trying to escape (digging)

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