

THOUGHTS

FOR PAWS



The Vets
who ❤️
your pets

Spring 2015

Practice News

Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. It will be great to say goodbye to the cold frosty morning starts and enjoy morning sun and daffodils!



This season we say a fond farewell to two of our nurses Trinette and Mel, who have moved up to Auckland. We wish them both well in their future endeavours.

We say Hello to our new staff members Chase and Brooke, and in November we welcome back one of our previous nurses Debby Ward. She has been working in a referral clinic in Perth for the last two years.



Its time for the Spring itch!

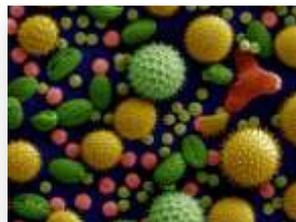


Allergies are all too common and the same pollens and house dust that cause allergic reactions in people often cause allergic dermatitis in dogs.

Allergic dermatitis is an inflammation of the skin. It can be caused by many things, but regardless of the source, the end result can be licking, scratching, maybe even hair loss, but definitely discomfort for your little dog.

Your veterinarian may try to help manage your dog's allergy by numerous methods including injections, oral medications, nutritional management, topical shampoos, ointments and environmental treatments.

Do not hesitate to call your vet if questions or problems arise, and keep up the flea treatment!!!



(Microscopic view of pollen)



(Bee collecting pollen)

Cat & Dog Trivia

- ❖ Cats have powerful night vision, allowing them to see at levels six times lower than what humans need in order to see. Cats also have excellent hearing and a powerful sense of smell.
- ❖ Dogs are capable of understanding up to 250 words and gestures, can count up to five and can perform simple mathematical calculations. The average dog is as intelligent as a two year old child.





A Guide to introducing your new cat



Kitten Season is well underway. If you have decided on a new kitten, congratulations! Our team can provide a kitten pack with all the essential health information and give you any advice that you need.

Cats are like potato chips. It is hard to have just one. That said-there is a right and wrong way to introduce a new cat to your feline residents. Throwing them together can create chaos. First impressions are important to fine tuning household harmony.

Your cats already have their established territories so the newbie's temporary quarters can be a bedroom or bathroom equipped with litter box, dishes, toys, scratching post, and bed. Close the door behind you, and then go visit your other cats. They will smell the new guy on you. They will also sense him through the door. Give them tantalizing treats so they make a positive connection. Then spend quality time with newbie rewarding him with goodies too.



Cats have glands in their cheeks that produce pheromones. When a cat rubs its cheek against your leg or furniture, these secretions promote comfort and well-being. You can set up a scent exchange by brushing the cats with the same brush, trading blankets or towels, or even using synthetic pheromone Feliway® spray or plug-in products which help relieve excitably.

Then for several days rotate rooms. This way the newcomer gets to explore the whole house while rubbing his facial calling card on strategic spots. Feed the cats (still separate) tasty food in each area. Finally visual meet n' greets can be done behind baby gates or opening the door a crack. Another way is bring the newcomer into the room inside a carrier. Let everyone sniff through the bars for a time. Try this for several days, if necessary.

The process can take days to weeks to months depending on the cat dynamics. There will probably be some hissing and spitting. If a huge ruckus erupts, distract them; then praise them when it's calm. Do not rush things. If a cat runs away to hide, do not force close encounters. When no one is home, the new cat should stay in his "safe room".

Some cats eventually become soul mates, but your cats may never be best buddies; some would rather be alone and others merely tolerate each other.

