



Valley Farm Animal Hospital

Because your Pet's health matters

NEWS

Issue Three

Our Consulting hours:

Mon. to Fri: 8am—6.45pm
Sat: 9am—5.45pm
Sun. & Public Holidays:
10am—5.45pm
(Surcharge on Sat. after 1pm,
Sun. & Public Holidays)

Welcome Back to Maryke at reception. Maryke has had Leukaemia for several years and had to have a bone marrow transplant in September. Everything is looking good and we all have our fingers crossed for her speedy recovery.

And **welcome to some new faces** Dr. Charmaine Wepener

our new after hours vet



and Sr. Ijana Niehaber a new addition to our nursing team.



Just a reminder that if your pet has to stay with us in hospital we have strict **Hospital Visiting Hours:**

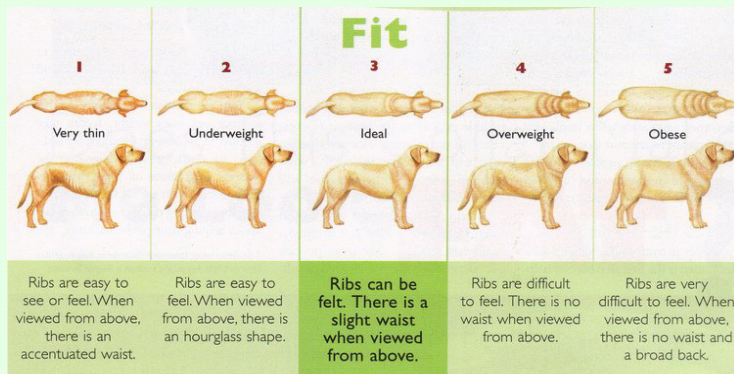
Mon. to Fri: 9am—6.30pm
Sat: 10am—5pm
Sun. and Public Holidays:
10am—11.30am and 4pm—5pm



New Years Resolutions: 1) Lose weight and get fit!!!!

How many of us have this resolution on our list this year? And last year? And the one before that?!

But what about our pets? Did you know that over 50% of dogs and cats throughout the world are considered obese? Overweight and obese pets (those that have 30% excess weight) are at an increased risk of developing some diseases and are often less active and less interactive with other pets and their owners! We all know that obese humans are predisposed to diabetes, increased arthritis, exercise intolerance, shorter life expectancy and that obesity increases the risk involved in anaesthesia. But did you know that it is just the same for pets?

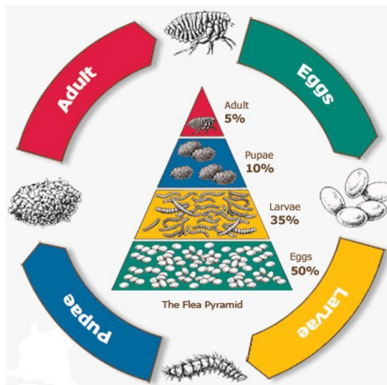


If either of the pictures on the right looks familiar, make an appointment to see one of our doctors about our Fat Fighters Clinic. Just as in humans, weight loss in pets requires a balanced, low calorie diet and a sensible exercise plan.

We do not advise merely reducing the amount of your pet's food to achieve weight loss, as this can leave the pet deficient in other nutrients. Any exercise plan must be implemented slowly in obese pets. But our staff are here to advise you on all this.

Give your pets a new lease on life. Remember sometimes it's good to be a loser!

Fleas!



Many people take their pets to the coast in the holidays where they pick up unwanted stowaways—fleas! We recommend that all pets be given a Capstar tablet before the drive home. This will kill all the fleas on the pet.

Fleas are insects and have four stages in their life cycle. An adult needs a blood meal before laying her eggs and she can lay over 500 eggs in her life time!!! The eggs fall on to the floor and when the larvae hatch out they burrow down away from light and away from your attempts at cleaning and disinfecting. As soon as a flea larva pupates it is safe from most

insecticides. A flea can stay in it's pupae for up to a year or as little as two weeks. They hatch out when conditions are perfect; warm temperature, humidity, and a source of food—pets, or even us!

It is important to treat your pets for fleas to prevent an infestation. Monthly spot-on treatments are the simplest method and are very safe. If you do get an infestation i.e. you see fleas or are even being bitten, you will need to treat your home where the eggs and larvae live using an insecticide spray. Flea bites can cause an allergic reaction in some pets resulting in a nasty itch scratch cycle.



Did you know the most common flea on dogs as well as cats is the cat flea?

Chronic Kidney Disease

Kidney (or renal) failure is common in older cats. Owners often notice that their older cats have an increased thirst, urinate more frequently, have lost weight and sometimes have a decreased appetite. These are the common signs of renal failure.

The kidneys produce urine by filtering the blood, removing excess fluid and the body's waste products and reabsorbing what is needed to keep the body healthy and hydrated. In a healthy animal the filtration and reabsorption process are finely tuned to keep the body in balance.

With renal failure the kidneys are too permeable, which leads to excessive loss of fluid (increased volume of dilute urine) and other substances. Obviously over time this leads to dehydration and imbalances within the body which in turn leads to other complications and diseases.

Renal failure can be acute or chronic and is caused by many things e.g. kidney infections or stones, obstruction of the ureters, inflammatory diseases and polycystic kidney disease (common in Persians), to name but a few.

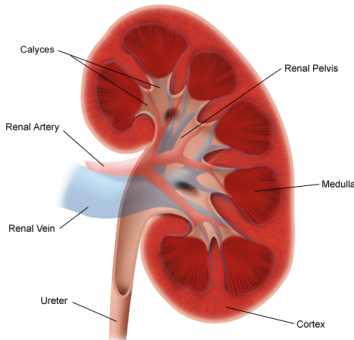
Blood and urine tests are needed to diagnose renal failure. It may also be necessary to take an x-ray or perform an abdominal ultrasound to examine the structure of the kidneys or to look for kidney stones.

Sadly chronic renal failure is a progressive disease with no cure. Treatment is aimed at treating the clinical signs and slowing the progression of the disease. Early diagnosis of chronic renal failure and supportive treatment can give a survival time of up to three years. A restricted protein, low phosphorus diet is a very important part of reducing the strain on the diseased kidneys. There are kidney specific medications that help the kidney to function better as well as managing blood pressure. Other medications to control nausea and balance the minerals in the body as well as a drip to correct any dehydration may be needed from time to time.

Dental or mouth problems, further weight loss, high blood pressure and muscular weakness can be signs that the disease is progressing.

If you are concerned about your cat's kidney health please come in for a consultation where we can discuss the problem with you in person.

Anatomy of the Kidney

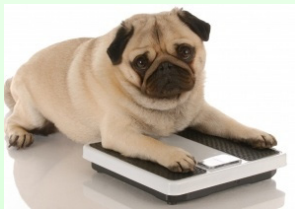


Fat Fighters Voucher

Get your first evaluation consultation free with this voucher worth R260.

During the consultation your pet will be thoroughly examined and the correct weight loss diet prescribed.

All weigh-ins and follow up advice is free.



Book an appointment with Drs Arpana, Karien or Terri and start your pet on the path to health and happiness.

Join our losers club!!



DEVON REX CATS



Devon Rex cats are a very distinctive breed, not only for their looks but also for their personality. A Rex is a cat with curly hair and without guard hairs (the long coarsest hairs) Devons were first bred in Devon, England in the 1960's. There are other Rex breeds such as the Cornish but they are all unique. Devons have a short, soft, almost suede like curly coat. They feel warm to the touch as

they are not well insulated and because of this they will seek warm places to sleep. They have large ears, large eyes and a little upturned nose. They come in many colours. Devons are a muscular cat that loves to jump and climb. Hence they are sometimes said to be a monkey in a cat suit!

Devons are a very affectionate breed, very dog like in their devotion to their owners, following them around and sitting with them at every available opportunity – "poodles that purr"! Devons are an intelligent breed and are easy to train. Many love to retrieve items and some will even learn tricks.

They are an easy breed to maintain with little grooming required. Some strains suffer from heart problems (hypertrophic cardiomyopathy) and knee problems (patella luxation).

