



Valley Farm Animal Hospital

Because Your Pet's Health Matters

NEWS



Welcome to our Newsletters, designed to keep you up to date with what's happening at the practice and full of interesting and fun articles all about pet care.



Join our Facebook family and tell us your pet's story.

Our Consulting hours:

We are now open all day on Sundays for consultations.

Mon—Fri 8am—6.45pm

Sat 9am—5.45pm

Sun & Public Holidays 10am – 5.45pm

(Surcharge on Sat after 1pm, Sun & Public Holidays)

Blood bank

We are starting our own blood bank as the demand for blood is very high especially during the spring and summer months when there are more serious



cases of Biliary.

If you have a large breed dog between 1 and 7 years of age please contact us to find out more about being a blood donor. We will reward you with R75 credit to your account for each donation as well as other freebies and discounts.

SAVA Rabies Vaccination campaign.

Due to the confirmed incidents of Rabies in the greater Johannesburg area we will have a number of Free doses of Rabies vaccine. These will be available during September and October for any unvaccinated pets. Please make a booking at reception.

Kiss and tell.....us about your pets teeth.

Did you know that gum disease is very common in pets, just as it is humans. As much as 85% of pets over three have some dental disease.

Your pets mouth should have white teeth and smooth shrimp pink gums (unless pigmented). Gums that are red, bobbly or bleeding are diseased gums.

Bacteria and plaque build up on the teeth if they are not brushed regularly. This build up leads to inflammation of the gums called gingivitis. This starts as a line of red inflamed gum on the edge of the teeth.

If this process is allowed to continue the build up of plaque becomes mineralises and hard, this is called calculus.

As gingivitis progresses the inflammation extends below the gum line damaging the supporting structures of the teeth, allowing them to become loose. At this stage the disease is called Periodontitis.

You will notice that you pet has smelly breath and may even have trouble eating due to sore gums and loose teeth.

Our doctors are offering 10% discount on dental scale and polish for any pet that is diagnosed with dental disease during a vaccination consult. Ask for your discount voucher.



Dog's Teeth Before Dental Cleaning



Dog's Teeth After Dental Cleaning

Kennel Cough Outbreak.

Kennel cough is a highly contagious disease. It is spread whenever dogs meet, out walking, training classes, dog shows and when kennelled.



The signs are a dry hacking cough often with retching. In the more severe cases the dog will be unwell and will go off it's food.

Some mild cases will get better within a week without treatment but other more sick pets may require cough syrup to reduce the irritation and antibiotics. Kennel cough can last up to a month.

It is caused by multiple strains of viruses and bacteria such as Canine Parainfluenza virus, Canine adenovirus and Bordetella bronchiseptica, much like our common cold.

If you suspect that your dog has kennel cough do not allow him to come into contact with other dogs. Keep him calm in a warm environment. Cold air, excitement and exercise will make the cough worse.

We suggest that if your dog is regularly in contact with other dogs or is going in to kennels that you get him vaccinated about two weeks before he is with other dogs. The vaccine is intranasal (squirted up the nose) and lasts for one year before needing a booster dose.

If you suspect your dog has kennel cough, please keep him in the car if you do come to the practice until the doctor is ready so as not to infect other patients.

The importance of Sterilisation

Sterilising pets at the age of six months is a very important part of responsible pet ownership. No animal lover wants to think of all the unwanted, homeless dogs and cats that end up in rescue organisations every year. Many of us can't even think of visiting the SPCA or Wet Nose etc as it is just too upsetting. Many of these animals will remain un-adopted for many years or euthanized as homes cannot be found. Good breeding, to get healthy babies can be expensive and time consuming so is best left to the professionals.

There are many benefits to you and your pets when sterilised. In fact there is no reason not to sterilise a pet. The benefits in both males and females, cats and dogs; it makes them more focused on you as they are not looking out for a mate also it reduces hormone related aggression.



Extensive mammary tumours

Entire male cats have very smelly urine. Castration will prevent testicular cancer and reduce prostate problems. Spaying a female will stop you from dealing with the complications of "on heat" (spotting blood in dogs and very loud yowling in cats) and will prevent pyometra (womb infection), ovarian cancers and reduce the chance of mammary cancers.

Both spaying (females) and castration (males) are routine procedures with your pet just staying the day with us. Home care is minimal and most pets are back to normal within a few days. When we spay a dog or cat we remove the ovaries and the uterus. Castration is the removal of the testicles. Although these are routine we treat these procedures as seriously as we would any other. Pre operatively all patients get a catheter placed in their vein and a pain relief injection. All anaesthetics are monitored by qualified nurses and the operation is performed in the operating theatre by experienced surgeons.



Valley Farm's operating theatre

The Community Vet Clinic (CVC) are a group of vets that hold clinics in less affluent areas, helping people take care of their pets basic health needs such as sterilisations and parasite control. Our Dr. Maggie van Merwe works for the Danville and Boosens branch. If you would like more information see their website www.communityvet.co.za. We also collect donations for the CVC, these can be made at reception if you would like to help this deserving charity.

Changes to Hills Feline CD dry food.



Hills have changed the shape of the Feline CD kibble from a round ball to a flat disc.



The ingredients have stayed the same so it will taste as it always has. To transition your cat from the old shape to the new shape with no problems it is best to mix the two shapes together over a few days, gradually giving more of the new shape and less of the old.

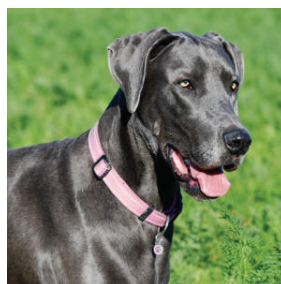
We know that cats can often get fixed on a shape of biscuit so we will have some free packs of the old shapes in case you have run out (whilst stocks last).

Get to know.....Great Danes

Great Danes are a giant breed of dog with the male adults commonly weighing 55Kg or more. As with all giant breeds the growth period, up to 18 months of age is key. Good quality nutrition and careful exercise are important to allow for safe quick growth. Humans take 18 years to get to the same body weight!

Great Danes are thought to originate in Germany as hunting dogs in the 18th century. They are popular pets, being good natured intelligent dogs. Obviously such large dogs need space and are expensive to feed and even vet bills can be higher due to more drugs being required due to their weight!

They come in various colours, solid colours such as blue, black and fawn as well as brindle and harlequin (white with black markings), as with many breeds colour is as important as conformation when breeding to show.



Blue Great Dane



Harlequin Great Dane

Like most giant breeds Great Danes have a predisposition to Gastric dilatation volvulus, a life threatening condition where a stomach heavy with food or water twists on it's self. They also often suffer from heart disease. They have a relatively short live expectancy with 7 years being about the average that they live to.

The cartoon dog Scooby-Doo was based on a Great Dane, just with a longer tail.