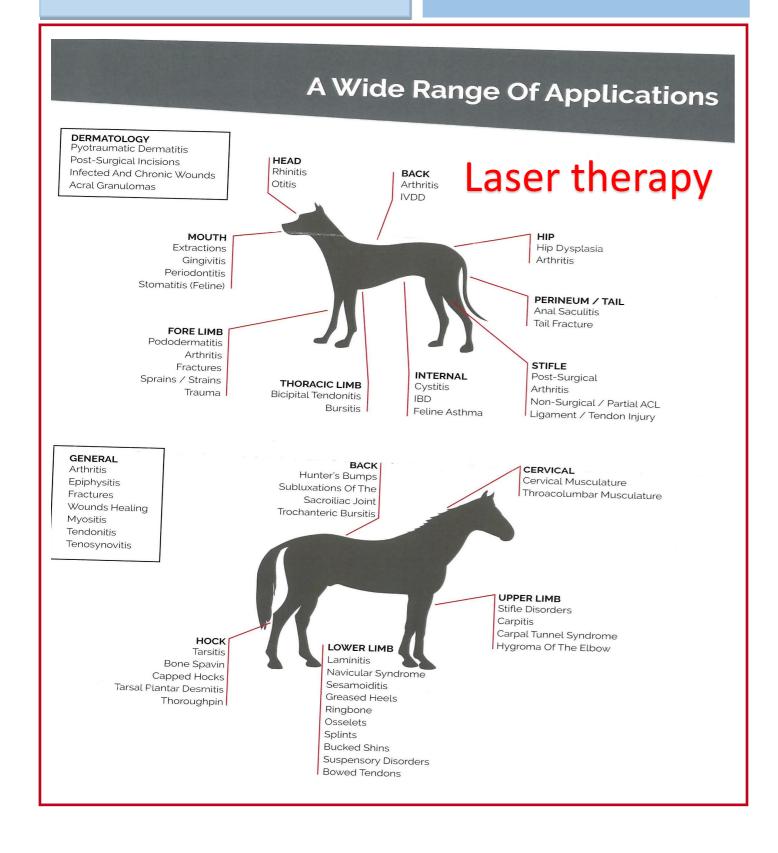
The winner of our Pet Photo
Album, with Broadline and
Nexgard
is Pat Martin from Waipawa.

Congratulations Pat and Sophie and Storm

Contact Us
Give us a call for more information
about our services and products
CHB Vets Ltd,
5 Northumberland St,
Waipukurau
pH 858 6555 reception@chbvets.nz





/eterinary newsletter April 2019



Chocolate toxicity

With Easter just round the corner, chocolate and relatives will soon be filling our homes. This can be a deadly combination for our pets! Chocolate and cocoa contain theobromine, a chemical similar to caffeine that's highly toxic to dogs and cats. The darker or more concentrated the chocolate, the more theobromine it contains. Therefore, the most dangerous chocolates are baker's chocolate, semi-sweet chocolate, and gourmet dark chocolates. Dark-chocolate-covered espresso beans are

particularly problematic since they may contain large amounts of both theobromine and caffeine.

Milk chocolate contains lower amounts of theobromine. Typically, animals need to consume at least 20—50 grams of milk chocolate per kilogram of body weight before symptoms occur. The amount of chocolate in many baked goods, including cookies, cakes and candies, is often relatively low and less frequently causes serious chocolate poisoning. However, significant gastrointestinal upset—such as vomiting and diarrhoea—are common, following the ingestion of any chocolate product.

Signs of chocolate or theobromine poisoning include:

- salivation
- vomiting
- diarrhoea,
- hyperactivity/ pacing
- fast or arrhythmic pulses
- * seizures/tremors



Ingestion of chocolate may also cause pancreatitis because of the high fat content.

If you think your pet has eaten chocolate, please contact us immediately on 858 6555

Rat Bait Poisoning

Recently we've seen a few cases of animals eating rat or slug bait found around the house or on the property and quick thinking on the part of the owners can save their animal's life. Here is what you need to do if you think your animal has eaten something toxic.

- Remove the animal from the poison. Sounds obvious right? If
 you've caught them in the act, try to remove any that's still in their
 mouth (safety first of course—don't get bitten!), reducing the
 amount of the toxin they're exposed to Is the first step.
- Call us. If you aren't within reach of the clinic we can help advise you by phone. Different poisons have different treatments and time is always of the essence. Sometimes symptoms will show quite soon after eating the poison, sometimes it can be days, which is why it is important to ring us if you think your pet has eaten something toxic. The "wait and see" approach doesn't work well with these cases. Have the poison box handy when you ring.
- Bring your pet in. It's much easier to make decisions about what your pet needs if we can examine her. Better to have a false alarm and a healthy pet, than to wait on a poisoning that could be fatal.
 Please bring the packet with you if you can as it's very helpful to know what the main ingredients were in the poison when trying to treat it.

With your quick thinking and our expertise we'll have the best chance of saving your pet if it gets into something poisonous!

Signs of Poisoning Include:

- Lethargy and Weakness
- Coughing and difficulty breathing
- Pale Gums
- Lack of Appetite
- Vomiting or Diarrhoea
- Nosebleeds
- Blood in Urine
- Muscle tremors or seizures





As the weather gets colder, animals may become a bit sore or stiff. This can be a sign that your pet is suffering from arthritis.

You may notice one or more of the following signs:

- Reluctance to walk, climb stairs, jump or play;
- Limping;
- Lagging behind on walks;
- Licking of affected joints;
- Difficulty rising from a resting position;
- Yelping in pain when touched;
- A change in personality e.g. resisting touch/affection

Arthritis is not necessarily an old animal disease as any injury can lead to the development of arthritis. Arthritis is one of the most common diseases affecting dogs, often requiring long-term management by both pet owners and their vet. It is a chronic, painful condition that develops gradually over time. One or more of the joints can be affected, resulting in inflammation and pain for the dog.

There are lots of options available to treat arthritis eg.

Nutritional supplements to improve joint health



- A food designed specifically for dogs with arthritis to reduce medication required
- An injection that helps repair damaged joints and improve lubrication
- Anti-inflammatory medications to reduce inflammation and pain in affected joints

It is important to talk to us about the best option for you and your pet. We can help make your pet's life as pain free as possible and allow them to be more active.

Cats will also suffer from arthritis and it is often unrecognised due to cats' normally sedentary lifestyle. Cats will show similar signs as dogs and we do have lots of treatment options to help them.



If you have think your pet might have arthritis, give us a ring on 858 6555.

