

NEW

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▲ **Steak Bites** ▲ **Beef Chips** ▲ **Chicken Chips**

Cotton's Corner

The days are getting shorter...and colder...winter is on its way! Make sure your humans have stocked up on pain relief for arthritis if you are older and get sore in the cold. Animals with short-hair might need a coat and heat pads in insulated kennels (for those dogs that don't get to sleep in the bed like us cats)! Keep an eye out for anti-freeze under cars – it may taste good but it can cause irreversible kidney damage and make us sick, so stay away from it! Get your humans to check under their cars and clean it up if there is any there. HUMANS! Keep us warm and dry this winter – hypothermia is no fun and can be life-threatening.....

..... Cotton



Because your pet deserves the very best!

HORSES



Autumn Horse Care Tips

Adapting to the changing seasons is something horses are very good at, but the coming of autumn and winter isn't without its problems, and these will necessitate forward thinking and careful management. To help you prepare, we've put together our 'top tips' for autumn horse care, which are:

- Re-think your feeding. You may need to introduce energy dense hard feeds and ad lib hay to keep condition on when the grass stops growing.
- Ensure your horses have adequate shelter and a good rug for when the weather turns nasty. One study in the US found rugged horses ate 1kg of hay less per day than non-rugged horses over winter.
- Keep up to date with worming!
- Dental and Hoof checks are a good idea at this time of the year.
- Check selenium status. Adequate selenium is important going into winter as deficiency can cause lots of issues. The majority of pastures in NZ are deficient, so it is worthwhile getting a vet to do a blood test to check levels.
- Manage paddocks to prevent mud fever. Although most commonly known as mud fever, the disease does not actually require mud, only moist conditions, so long dewy grass is just as dangerous.
- Beware of autumn toxicities. Two plants to avoid at this time of year are:
 - Oaks – Both leaves and acorns (especially when green) are toxic. They cause poor appetite, weight loss, diarrhoea, increased drinking, increased urination, kidney failure, oedema, and sometimes death.
 - Sycamore – Both leaves and seeds are toxic, falling leaves are the main concern in autumn. The toxins affects muscles causing trembling, weakness, staggering, respiratory distress, recumbency and can lead to death.



Veterinary Centre

All prices and promotions in this issue are valid until the end of the month or while stocks last.

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- ▶ **Waimate** Ph 03 689 7213
- ▶ **Palmerston** Ph 03 465 1291
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by the Big Blue Cross

Veterinary Centre

Pet Arthritis AWARENESS MONTH



Is your pet in pain?

Pets are good at hiding pain, if you notice any change in behaviour see our wonderful team of veterinarians ... it might be your pet telling you there is something not quite right!

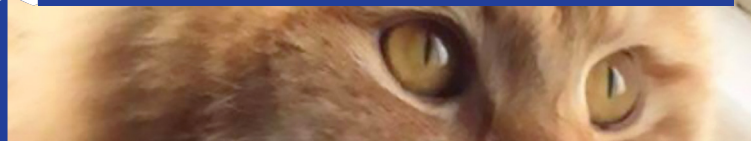


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DOGS

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CATS

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MESSAGE FROM THE VET

Osteoarthritis in Pets

Abby Robertson BVSc - Veterinary Centre Oamaru



The weather is starting to turn colder and like us, animals will start to feel the 'cold in their bones' after the reprieve of the warmer summer months.

What is Osteoarthritis? It is a progressive disease of the joints. Although most people think of osteoarthritis as a disease of bone, it's really a disease of cartilage. Normal cartilage is in a constant state of deterioration and repair. In the case of arthritis, factors such as breed, obesity, dysplasia, or trauma, worsens the deterioration leading to cartilage loss and inflammation, which gives rise to the clinical signs of pain. Although normally associated with old age, arthritis can even be found relatively commonly in young animals.

What are your dog's signs? Canine arthritis can often be misinterpreted as the normal signs of getting old, with ...

- Lameness
- Difficulty standing
- Reduced ability to play or walk
- Reluctance to jump
- Increased irritability
- Not wanting to be stroked/patted



What are your cat's signs? Unlike dogs, cats often have disease in multiple joints, meaning that they don't favour one side or the other because everything hurts! Although diagnosis is challenging, there are clinical signs owners can look for, almost all the signs are tied to behaviour changes ...

- Not wanting to/having difficulty jumping.
- Reluctance to go up or down stairs
- Decreased interactions with owners or other animals
- Increased irritability
- Not wanting to be stroked/brushed
- Elimination accidents – difficulty getting in or out of the litterbox
- Sudden vocalisation and running away for no apparent reason

Also, cats tend to mask the signs of pain as a defensive tactic, so it is important for owners to regard any behaviour changes as a potential sign of disease and get it checked out.

How can we treat Osteoarthritis? While there is no cure for osteoarthritis, there are numerous treatment options available that help to reduce pain and support joint health and longevity. Treatment involves considering all the factors of weight management, pain relief, joint support, environmental modification, and physical therapy holistically. Also, the best outcomes are achieved, when support is started as early in the course of the disease as possible.

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