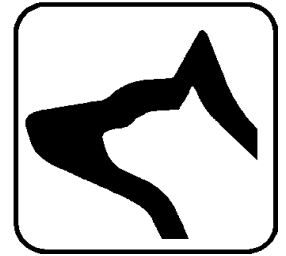


# Companions



The Newsletter of the Bucklands Beach Veterinary Hospital  
www.bbvet.co.nz

No. 35

Ph: 5348118

## Welcome to this month's newsletter.

Our aim is to try and make the newsletter a regular monthly feature but unfortunately with the Christmas rush and "summer" holidays I have got behind. We would just love it if you could post in questions or give us some idea about what you would like in the newsletter. We are a Veterinary hospital that really cares about the pets and people we look after and are incredibly grateful for your support over the last year.

As some of you will know I have been away for a wee while in India. To my mind the greatest reward and luxury of travel is to experience things as if for the first time and to be in a position where nothing is so familiar that it is taken for granted. This is certainly true of "Incredible" India and while there is extreme poverty there is also great beauty and, especially as you move south, wonderful people.

I am very glad to be back and such a journey really makes you aware of how lucky we are to be New Zealanders.

## Safe Travels

While most of us have likely had our holidays (now that summer has just arrived!) I think a few words on safe travel is a good idea.

We are all told to buckle up for our own safety, but have you considered your pets? Both cats and dogs need to travel in our vehicles from time to time. Here are some tips to keep your best friend safe:

**Cats** – make sure they are in a secure carry cage. Even if they are comfortable with travelling, you never know if an accident is around the corner. Free roaming cats in cars can cause accidents if they get under your feet or try to climb on to you when you are driving. To make them even safer, place the seatbelt around the cage, and cover the cage with a towel.

**Dogs** – should be seated in the back. There are many car harnesses available that are secured with the seatbelt, and they can even double as a walking harness. For those dogs who get to go to work with their owner on the back of a ute or truck, a harness attached securely is the best way to keep them safe.

Lastly and most importantly NEVER leave a pet in a car on a hot day even with the windows slightly down. Even under these conditions it gets very hot inside a car and the result is that the animal's core temperature rises dramatically. Once the body exceeds 42 degrees Celsius cellular function is seriously impaired, and loss of consciousness and even death can occur.

## Summertime is not always easy for our pets.

**Flies** are a summer hazard for both dogs and rabbits. Biting flies will attack dogs with pricked ears, such as German Shepherds, and once the area starts to bleed the flies continue to attack.

We regularly see rabbits which have flyblown rear ends as the smell of faeces on the fur attracts flies which lay eggs and these eggs develop into maggots. Please check your rabbits and guinea-pigs every few days. We have available in the clinic a product that can be applied which discourages flies from attacking the above mentioned areas.

**Bees** can be a problem for both cats and dogs who like to chase them while they fly about. The result is unfortunately a sting in the mouth or on the face and like humans can have a range of reactions. The end result is usually a swollen lip or paw! In severe cases of allergy the animal can have difficulty breathing or go into anaphylactic shock.

**Ticks** are not so much of a problem in Auckland City, as they are usually found in long grass in rural areas. The tick buries its mouth parts into the skin and becomes very firmly attached. Their mission is to suck blood and they can be hard to remove often leaving their mouthparts embedded in the dog's skin

## Bucklands Beach Veterinary Hospital

340 Bucklands Beach Road  
Bucklands Beach  
Auckland

### VETERINARIANS

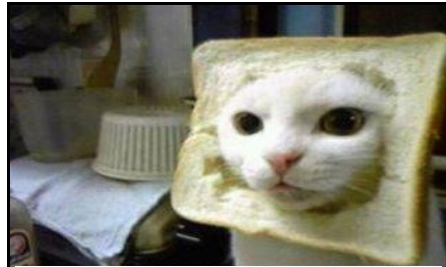
Dr Ian Holmes BVSc MRCVS  
Dr Iain Malcolm BVSc MACVSc  
Dr Paul Elliott BVSc MRCVS  
Dr Graham Trail BVSc MRCVS  
Dr Joanne Watkinson BVSc

### NURSES

Deborah Eagleton (*Senior Nurse, Cert. Animal Care & Cert. Vet Nursing*)  
Kim Elphick  
Kerry Pickles (*Cert. Vet Nursing*)  
Nicki Paklos (*Dip. Vet Nursing*)  
Samantha Boston (*Dip. Vet Nursing*)  
Karen Hill

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Inbred Cat



Invisible measuring tape



"I can see your Quack!"



Invisible shopping cart

### Office Hours

Monday — Friday 8am — 7.30pm  
Saturdays 8am — 5pm

### After Hours Service

Our after-hours service is provided by the Manukau After Hours Veterinary Service. This clinic is fully staffed and equipped to deal with accidents and emergencies outside of normal clinic hours.

2/586 Great South Road, Papatoetoe

( 277 8383

(*cnr Great South Road & Regans Road, opp Caltex Service Station*)

### Consulting Hours

8am—12noon 2pm—7pm  
9am—12noon 2pm—5pm

## Fact or Myth?

### Cats Will Land on Their Feet

Cats are champs at landing feet first over short distances, thanks to a highly flexible backbone. But they do sometimes land on their heads. And beyond one-two stories, their feet cannot "break" the fall. Their heads and bodies collide with the ground, causing severe injuries. Cats with access to an elevated, open window may also focus so intently on a bird, that they lose their balance and fall.

### Tail Wagging = A Happy Dog

A dog wags his tail in three very different moods and only one is happy. When it's unusually high and stiff, the dog is agitated and ready to protect his turf. A tail held low and wagged very quickly shows a scared and submissive dog. A happy dog wags his tail in its natural, mid-level position, and his ears, mouth, and body will look relaxed too.

### Warm Nose = A Sick Dog

The temperature of a dog's nose changes easily and is not a good sign of illness. It can be hot and dry after lying in the sun or cool and wet from dipping into the water bowl. Better signs of illness are lethargy, loss of appetite, vomiting, coughing, or a body temperature above 39.5C on a rectal thermometer. The wet snout? It comes from ducts that carry tears toward the nose.

### Cats Need Milk

The long-standing myth that cats need milk is wrong and giving your pet a saucer of cow's milk could give it have diarrhoea. Kittens drink their mother's milk until they are weaned and older cats certainly like the taste of cow's milk. But adult cats don't have much lactase, the enzyme needed to break down the lactose sugar in milk. The result is often uncomfortable and messy

*From Ian Holmes and the BBVet Team!*