



TheSeaforthHowler

Editorial

Inside this issue:

<i>Editorial</i>	1
<i>Hyperthyroidism in cats</i>	1
<i>www.svh55.com are us</i>	2
<i>The Mystery of the Missing Mouse!</i>	2
<i>Fleas, we hate them!</i>	3
<i>Breeds: The Chihuahua</i>	3
<i>Osteoarthritis- the signs to look for</i>	4

By Dr Rob Miller (Veterinarian)

Late? Late! I know we are late with this edition of the Howler so we have combined issues 3 and 4 into one copy. Nonetheless I'm sure you will find it full of useful and entertaining articles!

Autumn has been a really terrible season for fleas with apparent wide scale breakdown in control. As such we are devoting a late season article to this ever vexing problem!

We would like to extend a big welcome to our new nurses Gus and Rachael.

An increasingly common illness in older cats is hyperthyroidism. To help you understand and spot this condition in your cat, Terry has

written an article detailing this very treatable disease.

Jane writes an adventure story for children based upon our clinic cats. Should be fun.

We have just launched our new web site www.svh55.com, which allows online drug ordering, directed e-mailing, downloading of the latest and past Howlers and lots more. Read the details herein.

So as you can see a lot is always happening at Seaforth vets! And that's why we have the Howler.

Hyperthyroidism in Cats

By Dr Terry Collins (Veterinarian)

Hyperthyroidism is an excessive production of the thyroid hormone by the thyroid glands which are situated in the neck area overlying the trachea (windpipe). The cause of this overproduction is unknown.

The disease was first documented some 25 years ago and has become the most common endocrine (hormonal) disorder of cats, surpassing even diabetes. It is primarily a disease of older cats (mean age 13 years). Because thyroid hormone controls the rate of body metabolism, many of the body systems are affected.

The most commonly observed symptom is a voracious appetite. I have known a cat to eat four 400gram cans of food a day, most of which was voided as soft or sloppy faeces. Despite the massive appetite, hyperthyroid cats lose weight. Other common signs include vomiting, increased thirst, hyperactivity and increased vocalisation, especially at night.

Upon veterinary examination, 70% of these cats have enlarged thyroids which can be palpated. Heart rate is often increased and a murmur may be audible on auscultation with a stethoscope. Diagnosis is made by a blood test of the circulating T4 hormone. Because these cats are often elderly, treatment can be complicated by the concurrent presence of kidney or heart disease.

There are three treatment options:

1. Surgical removal of the thyroid glands. This is complicated by the fact that embedded in the thyroid glands are the parathyroid glands which control calcium metabolism. Seaforth Veterinary Hospital does not recommend this procedure.

Gossip Column

- **Gus and Rachael arrive:** A big welcome to our new nurses!
- Congratulations to Jane Hemmingway-Mohr on the birth of her baby boy!
- Good luck to Chantale Bélanger, our visiting veterinary student from Canada, in her future career.



- Intravenous administration of radioactive iodine which destroys part of the thyroid tissue. This is a specialist procedure which is quite expensive. Cats are hospitalised for some time after treatment, as they are radioactive.

Both the above treatments have the disadvantage of being irreversible.

- Treatment with a drug called Carbimazole which is given in tablet form twice daily. The advantage here is that the T4 levels can be monitored and adjusted accordingly. Also if any kidney disease is exacerbated, the drug can be withdrawn. The disadvantage is that the treatment is ongoing for the rest of the cat's life.

With regular monitoring, cats can live many more years, gain weight and live happy lives.

www.svh55.com/areus

By Dr Rob Miller (Veterinarian)

As with all business these days we are continually developing our web presence.

Kath Salier (as shown) has maintained our website for some years, for which we are very appreciative. We have just transferred all this great content over to our "New and Improved" web site located at : the address, www.svh55.com

With the growing amount of content it was becoming slow and difficult to find exactly what you wanted.

The site has been totally and logically restructured, to include such benefits as:

- A new search utility to search our web site quickly.
- Faster loading pages.
- On-line drug ordering is now available for those busy people needing to do this out of surgery hours.
- Back issues of the *Howler* (to 1999) are all downloadable or directly readable on our web site.



- Vets timetables are now published 1-2 months in advance so you can see who is working when.
- You can more easily target the person you want at Seaforth vets by using the new e-mail addresses:

For the vets: vets@svh55.com

For the Nurses: nurses@svh55.com

For Receptionists: reception@svh55.com

You will find these much easier to remember compared to our old address.

There's lots more, so have a look!

Kath will continue to be our Web Master (she likes this title!) and you can e-mail her at the receptionists address above.

Happy Browsing!

If you would like a photo of your pet added to our web site either e-mail Kath or drop a photo in for scanning.

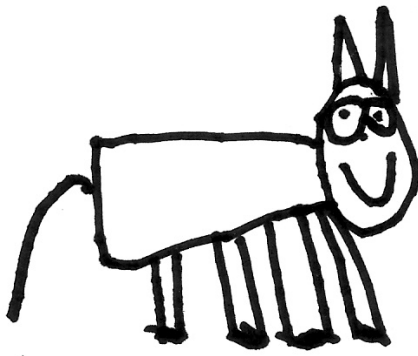
TheMysteryoftheMissingMouse!

By Jane Molchanoff (Head Receptionist)

Angel and Tiki, our two live-in cats, were resting peacefully as the busyness of the vet hospital went on around them. It was hectic afternoon at Seaforth Vet and the nurses, Sam and Kath were laughing as they worked, about the fright Sam got when she discovered an injured possum in the garbage bin that morning. None of this noise however seemed to disturb Angel and Tiki taking their afternoon nap.

Suddenly, there was a CRASH as the doors burst open to let in a large white poodle that was very keen to say hello to everyone. The commotion finally brought Angel and Tiki out of their slumber. "What on earth is all that racket?" asked Angel as she stumbled to her feet. "It's only George" hissed Tiki, trying to look as menacing as he could, although George was taking no notice. The sudden noises also upset the small possum that was being examined after its overnight adventure through the hospital. The two cats waited until the possum was calmed and the offending poodle was taken through to the kennels before jumping down from the scratching post and making their way to their own cages for something to eat.

"I wish they would move us down to the ground floor" grumbled Angel as they climbed up, "I'm getting too old to jump anymore". "And too fat" mumbled Tiki to himself as he



Angel



Tiki

As envisioned by Alex Molchanoff

jumped up beside her. Suddenly Angel exclaimed “oh no! My toy mouse – it’s gone!” Tiki peered around from his own cage looking very concerned. Angel’s toy mouse was very precious to her; she’d owned it ever since coming to live at Seaforth Vet. “Are you sure?” Tiki asked, “Have a look under your blankets”. Angel looked frantically through her bedding, but could not find the toy mouse anywhere.

“Let’s have a look around” suggested Tiki, “You check the backyard and I’ll check the other kennels”. Both cats set off in a rush and surprised Kath with this sudden, and unusual, burst of activity. As Tiki searched around the kennels, he found he could smell where the possum had been during its journey the night before. He followed the scent through the kennels and back out to the garbage bin. As Tiki jumped in to the bin to investigate, Kath noticed the lid of the bin was off and so put it back on – Tiki was trapped!

Angel’s search of the backyard had been fruitless and she went inside to tell Tiki. But now he was missing too! Angel ran around the hospital becoming more and more worried about her missing mouse and friend. Sam saw that something was wrong and picked Angel up to calm her down. Suddenly, George the poodle began barking at Angel “he’s in the bin, look in the bin!” As Sam put Angel down to quieten George, Angel rushed over to the bin and began scrabbling at the lid. She managed to flip it off and got the fright of her life as Tiki leapt out on top of her. “Oh, thank goodness you’re alright,” said Angel. Tiki smiled, “I have a surprise for you” he said and leapt back in to the bin, only to leap out again with Angel’s precious toy in his mouth. “Oh Tiki!” exclaimed Angel, “How can I ever thank you?” Tiki laughed, “Don’t thank me, thank our possum friend!”

The mystery of the missing mouse had been solved.

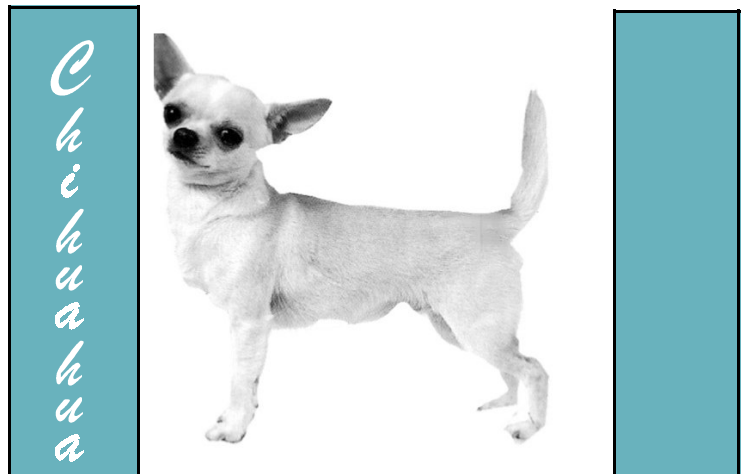
Breed profile The Chihuahua

By Samantha Hiscock (Head Nurse)

The Chihuahua maybe classified as a toy breed, but this little fellow is a ton of heart and courage packed into a small and fluffy body. It is fiercely loyal and despite it’s small size will take on anything which threatens it or its family in anyway. They originated in the 1850’s in Mexico where it is believed to have taken its name from the state of Chihuahua. In the 1920’s this little breed gained it’s popularity and today is one of the most loved house pets around the world. The Chihuahua is again experiencing a rise in popularity due to it’s gorgeous pixy like appearance and convenient size. From an early age this breed must know whose boss! They need to know the pecking order early, as they are manipulative and will try to take over. The Chihuahua is very bold, alert and affectionate to it’s family and will protect you with their life. Their favourite activities include spending most of it’s time with it’s owner, people have said that this breed likes cuddling up to it’s owner even creeping underneath the blankets at night. Because of their size they don’t need a big backyard and can happily live in a small place as long as it gets a

walk daily. With early training and socialization the Chihuahua will get along with most people, but many breeders are wary of selling pups to families with small children as they can easily get hurt. This breed is especially good with older people and singles as they are quite small and easy to care for. The Chihuahua is very wary of strangers and will alert it’s owners of people coming near, so strangers beware! The Chihuahua lives to about 12 – 16 years, There are two different coat types, long and short haired long haired gets brushed two to three times a week and smooth coats only need doing about once a week.

ORIGIN	Mexico
FIRST USE	Companion
TEMPERAMENT	Bold, playful
COLOURS	Fawn, chestnut, blue, silver (often in combination)
LIFESPAN	15-16 years some longer!
HEIGHT	15-23 cm
WEIGHT	1-3 kg
GROOMING	Brushing: Long coats thrice and short coat once weekly.



Fleas—Wehatethem!

By Kath Salier (Veterinary Nurse)

You may not know this but in Australia, fleas are with us all year - summer however is their favourite season. Houses are kept warm during our winter months and this doesn’t affect the flea population that much. It has been a particularly good year for fleas and there are numerous products available – but what exactly is going to be best! The answer lies in using a combination of products. Take time to read the following to get a better understanding of flea control so you can be flea free!

ADULTICIDES - THESE ARE PRODUCTS WHICH KILL FLEAS

* **SPOT ONS** - (liquid applied to the back of the neck)
Products include - FRONTLINE, ADVANTAGE & REVOLUTION convenient to use, applied monthly or fortnightly depending on severity of flea infestation.

(Continued on page 4)

OurWebPage

www.svh55.com

Phone: 02-9949 1288

Fax: 02-9949 6364

e-mail: vets@svh55.com

(Continued from page 3)

- * **SPRAYS** - PERMOXIN (made up from a concentrate), FRONTLINE spray (applied every 10 - 12 weeks)
- * **SHAMPOOS** - FIDO'S FLEA SHAMPOO (has no residual action)
- * **RINSES** - PERMOXIN (not for cats), FIDO'S & MALAWASH (not for cats) (involves making up the rinse, pouring over the animal making sure to cover the whole body - about 1 weeks residual action)
- * **TABLETS** - CAPSTAR (kills fleas on the animal on that day only)
- * **COLLARS** - VIRBAC FLEA AND TICK COLLAR

IT IS VITAL TO READ THE INSTRUCTIONS TO MAKE SURE IT IS SUITABLE FOR YOUR PET!!!!

FLEA INHIBITORS - THESE ARE PRODUCTS WHICH STOP THE FLEA DEVELOPING FROM AN EGG TO AN ADULT

- * **INJECTIONS** - PROGRAM (does not kill fleas but stops them from breeding successfully) (for cats)
- * **PASTES** - PROGRAM (for cats)
- * **TABLETS** - PROGRAM (for dogs), SENTINEL (for dogs - also does heartworm, hook, round, whip and tape worm)

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROLS - THESE PRODUCTS HELP KEEP THE ENVIRONMENTAL POPULATION OF FLEAS TO A MINIMUM

Environmental treatment is often overlooked but is *absolutely essential* in controlling/eliminating flea populations. A staggering 95% of fleas live in and around your home - the fleas on your pet represent the other 5% - here are some ideas on how to eradicate the *fleas* in your environment (home).

- * **FLEA BOMBS** - buy those that contains methoprene or fenoxycarb (these are insect growth regulators)
- * **INSECTICIDAL SPRAYS** - one that kills the fleas and their eggs is preferable. (Read the warnings carefully regarding children and pets)
- * **VACUUMING** - Rigorous vacuuming daily in every area your pet has had access to, this may (probably) includes couches and lounge chairs even the car!. Vacuuming also stimulates the eggs to hatch so this is recommended before bombing or spraying. With a major infestation it is a good idea to *start* with vacuuming. Do not forget to remove the vacuum bag and preferably incinerate it if possible, otherwise fleas will just come hopping back out to re-infest your pet!

WASH PETS BEDDING AND SLEEPING AREA

ie kennel - cat basket regularly.

For effective control of fleas it is recommended that:

- * You use products that kill as many flea stages as possible eg. Adulticides and growth regulators
- * You treat all the pets in your household
- * You treat the environment
- * You use flea control all year round

Osteoarthritis—the signstolookfor

(advertising feature)

As dogs get older, many begin to suffer from a painful condition of the joints, known as osteoarthritis. This condition is also more likely to develop in heavier, larger dogs.

If you see one of the following signs in your dog it could be an early indication of osteoarthritis:

- Difficulty in walking or climbing stairs
- Falling behind on walks
- Beginning to limp
- Yelping when affected joint is touched
- Slow to rise from resting position
- Personality change - doesn't like being touched



These signs may become more pronounced with cold or sudden changes in the weather. Heavy exercise may also make the signs more noticeable and the pain worse.

Until now, anti-inflammatory medications only blocked one of the pathways that led to pain and inflammation. There is now an exciting **new** veterinary medication available that **blocks two** of the pathways in the body that are known to cause pain and inflammation. Now we have available to us a new weapon in the fight against osteoarthritis. This **new** medication has;

- A very unique tablet that literally melt in the mouth within a few seconds
- Only needs to be given once daily
- Offers fast acting relief from the pain of arthritis
- An excellent gastrointestinal safety profile and
- Places minimal stress on the kidneys and liver

Dogs suffering from long-term pain often become inactive which can result in weight gain and make the osteoarthritis worse. So it's important not to delay, and seek out your vet's opinion - he or she is the expert who can properly diagnose osteoarthritis and prescribe the appropriate medication, at the correct dose to suit your dog. If you are concerned that your senior dog may be suffering unnecessarily, that your current medication isn't as effective as it should be, or if you have concerns about kidney, liver or gastrointestinal problems, then make an appointment to determine if this **new** medication would be the best choice for your **best friend**.

