



Coastal Vets

COASTAL VETERINARY SERVICES LTD.

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More information at
www.coastalvets.co.nz

VETERINARIANS

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SUPPORT STAFF

Sandra Hammersley
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CLINIC OPENING HOURS

Opunake

Mon-Fri: 8am—5pm

Saturday: 9am—12pm

Kaponga

Mon-Fri: 8.30am - 4.30pm

After hours for emergencies

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Farm Dog Lameness

Many farms have working dogs or pets who spend the day out on the farm. Recently we have been seeing more and more farm dog injuries. These are often a result of running, jumping or the unfortunate contact between dog and farm vehicle.



If you know your dog has come into contact with a vehicle the best thing is to get it checked as soon as possible. Often farm dogs can be stoic and are good at hiding their injuries. The earlier we see injuries the easier it is for us to diagnose and treat them, and get your pet feeling better as soon as possible.

One of the most common injuries we also see is cruciate ligament rupture.

Cruciate Ligament Rupture: The cruciate ligament runs in the joint of the knee of the back leg and keeps it stable. This can rupture in any dog but occurs commonly

- in larger dogs
- athletic dogs
- overweight dogs

You will notice your dog can become suddenly or progressively lame on one of the back legs.

We find anti-inflammatories are often helpful, however the best way to diagnose a cruciate rupture is for us to sedate your dog and x-ray the joint as well as move the leg in a way to test for stability while the dog is sedated.

Early onset of arthritis can be a common problem with these injuries therefore the sooner they are treated the more the arthritis can be minimised.

Most cruciate ruptures require a surgical repair. Some of these can be done at our clinic but others may need referral.

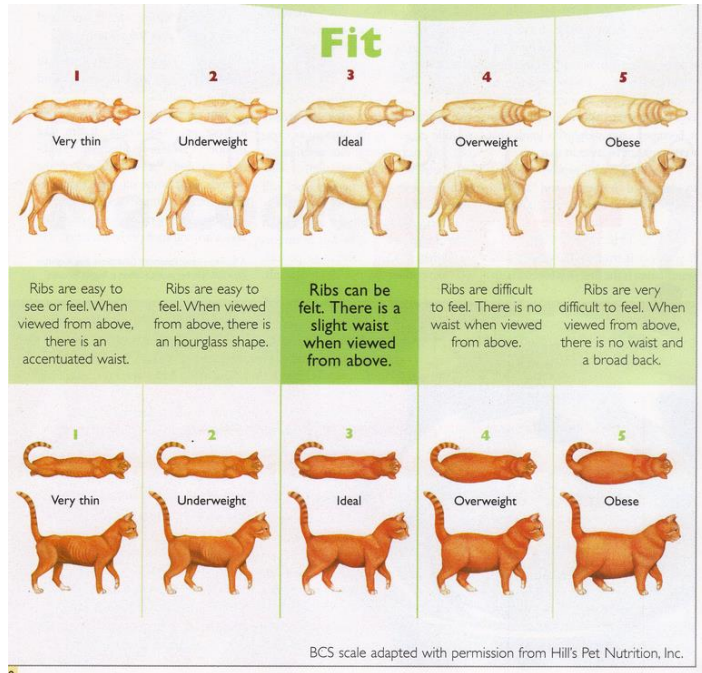
If you notice your dog becoming lame at all book an appointment to bring them in.

Obesity and our Pets

Following calving time a lot of you will start to notice the effects access to extra milk and cleanings has on your pets.

So what does being overweight mean for my pet?

Being overweight will start to affect all areas of your pets' wellbeing and start reducing their quality of life. When your pet is overweight...



- Organ function can be compromised due to more fat surrounding the organs.
- Exercise becomes more difficult, even unpleasant.
- Life expectancy is reduced
- The risk of other diseases is increased, such as:
 - Arthritis (3 times more likely to develop) due to more weight through the joints
 - Increased blood pressure and heart disease
 - Skin problems
 - Urinary tract and bladder problems
 - Diabetes
 - Breathing issues
 - Liver disease (cats)
 - Surgery and anaesthesia becomes more risky

How to help your pet to reach a desirable weight...

- Weight loss is best done over a lengthened period of time rather than expecting results in a couple of weeks
- Exercise them at least 30min four times a week. Playing with toys counts as exercise. Swimming is great for your dog and chasing toys great for your cat
- Diet is also an important part of weight management
 - Avoid high fat foods such as dog roll and cheap supermarket foods.
 - Avoid giving table scraps and leftovers. These are high calorie!
 - Specific weight management diets can be helpful, you are still able to feed your pet a decent amount of food with the right amount of vitamins and minerals but without the calories. They are also formulated to help your pet feel fuller for longer. Royal Canin Satiety is great at helping your pet reach weight loss goals.
 - Regularly weighing can help you to reach your pets weight goals and make note of your progress, you are more than welcome to bring your pet in for free regular weight checks on the scales at the clinic.
 - A weight loss program for your pet takes time and commitment on your part but the health and life benefits they will get are well worth it. Come in and talk to our vets about a weight loss program or diet to help your pet today.

