



Coastal Vets

COASTAL VETERINARY SERVICES LTD.

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Spring 2018

More information at
www.coastalvets.co.nz

VETERINARIANS

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SUPPORT STAFF

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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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NEW WELFARE GUIDELINES

As many of you will know new animal welfare guidelines will be coming for a range of species and procedures.

A few important things to note in dogs are:

- **Docking of dogs' tails is now banned;** all docking of dogs' tails will be prohibited unless performed by a Veterinarian for therapeutic reasons.
- **Dogs must be secured on moving motor vehicles;** dogs on moving motor vehicles on a public road must be secured in a way that prevents it from falling off or hanging from an open deck. If leashed the leash must be short enough to prevent the dog reaching over the side of the deck but long enough to allow the dog to lie down in a natural position. Dogs may be unsecured on a vehicle on a public road **only** if the vehicle is being used to move stock.
- **Dogs must have access to dry and shaded shelter;** dogs must have access to an area that allows them to stand up, turn around and lie in a natural position, is fully shaded, dry, ventilated, has protection from the extremes of heat and cold, have access to water at all times, and have an area to urinate and defecate away from where they lie.

Dental chews such as Veggies Dents are a great healthy way to maintain Dental health of your dog.

We see a large number of animals with dental disease and as with most diseases prevention is always best!



OBESITY AND OUR PETS



OBESE

- ✓ **Ribs:** Difficult to feel under moderate fat cover.
- ✓ **Tail Base:** Some thickening, bones palpable under moderate fat cover.
- ✓ **Side View:** No abdominal tuck
- ✓ **Overhead View:** Back is slightly broadened at base



IDEAL

- ✓ **Ribs:** Easily felt with slight fat cover
- ✓ **Tail Base:** Smooth contour with slight fat cover
- ✓ **Side View:** Abdominal tuck
- ✓ **Overhead View:** Well-proportioned waist

During spring 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)
 - 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.
 - If animals are eating more on farm (e.g. cleanings, milk, and calf faeces) decreasing the amount of food at home and maintaining exercise can help reduce weight gain.
 - 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.

