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Chemotherapy Patient – Suzie Dyer

by Kevin Calleja

In our last newsletter, Cancer and its treatment came under the spotlight. In this issue our focus shifts to a real life story on how chemotherapy can help our pets.

Suzie Dyer was diagnosed with Canine Lymphoma in May 2008. She presented to the hospital with enlarged lymph nodes and was lethargic.

After consultation with an Oncologist, a 22 week chemotherapy protocol was started in early June. This involved giving Suzie a series of weekly injections at first, than every 3 weeks thereafter. She was admitted to the hospital on the morning of her treatments, and went home that same afternoon.

Suzie is tolerating her chemotherapy very well and in fact she put on weight rather than losing it. She is currently receiving her second last treatment and has suffered some minor hair loss (which regenerated quickly), but otherwise is her normal self.

Mrs Dyer said that Suzie's behaviour had not changed during her treatment and was happy to come into the clinic and see the staff especially Kylie. After Suzie finishes her treatment we would like to see her go into a long remission.



THOMAS'S TAILS:

Walk your dog with ease- choose the right restraint!

Spring has sprung and it's time to get out and about. Why not take your dog for a walk? As you may have gathered from my previous articles I am of a strong opinion that dogs are an inferior species to us felines. Just look at my picture- do you see me pulling on the lead, fighting to get away and say hello to any stranger in the street, sniff the ground or evacuate my bladder? I am too civilised for that. If you are struggling to control your dog on a walk, you want to consider the type of restraint you are using. The following are the options:

1. **Collar.** Collars are really just for restraint around the home and not for walking your dog. Unless you have a very well behaved dog they are likely to pull against you with a collar.
2. **Choke chains.** Choke chains do work well but using them properly takes skill. If used appropriately they can be good for some dogs but they should not be used as a 'choke'. This is not how they are meant to be used. If your dog is pulling and choking when you are using a choke chain you need to use another sort of aid so read on.
3. **Harness.** A lot of people use harnesses to walk their dog because their dog chokes when on a lead. A harness certainly prevents this from happening but the dog will continue to pull your arm out of it's socket- especially if it's a large dog!!! Harnesses are great for restraint in the car.
4. **Halti.** Halti's are a great way to go. They are gentle on the dog, stop pulling, don't apply any pressure to the neck and require little technical expertise to use. If you haven't seen a halti they are basically like a horse halter (that other inferior species). Once the dog pulls away from you pressure is applied to the bridge of the nose causing the dog to spin back towards you. Most dogs will paw at their face when the halti is first applied but they soon get used to it. Even young children can walk a dog on a halti, they are so effective and easy to use.



If you are having difficulty walking your dog on the lead drop in and have a chat to one of my slaves (vet nurses). They will be happy to help you determine the best type of aid to use and check that your equipment is properly fitted. Feel free to give me a pat while you're at it.



Joke: A pig walked into the vet hospital and said "Doc, look at my skin rash, it's getting worse every day". The vet turned to the pig and said "Well, we better get some *Oinkment* for that!"



Want to see Thomas in color? Visit www.crownvet.com.au/newsletter and submit your email address



Pet Insurance

Owning a pet is a huge responsibility. As owners, we need to make sure that our pets are well looked after and are cared for in times of need.

Annual health checks, vaccination, worming and flea control all go a long way in maintaining our pet's health. However, despite our best intentions accidents do happen and our furry companions can fall ill and may need extensive veterinary care and diagnostic testing to help them recover.

In the absence of a government based medical scheme, like Medicare, owners have to find the resources to pay for their pets care and this usually occurs at the wrong time. At times, thousands of dollars may be needed if their pet has a long protracted illness.

Setting up a "college" fund for our pets in case of emergencies would be a good idea, but a more convenient solution could be pet insurance. For as little as 50 cents a day, pet insurance can help meet the costs of looking after your best friend.

There are many insurance companies to choose from, some are linked to existing house and contents policies and each provide a basic cover which can be increased according to your needs. Some policies contribute to routine health care like worming and vaccinations. Just like in our private health insurance, some waiting periods do apply and some pre-existing conditions may not be covered. That's why it is important to take up insurance when your pet is young and healthy and not when a problem arises.

For more information on Pet Insurance please talk to our friendly staff today.



Your favourite friend may react differently in unfamiliar places. This has resulted in injuries to both animals and clients in the past.

Please ensure **all dogs are placed on leads** and **all cats are secured in a cat cage** when visiting our hospital.

This is not only for the safety of others but also the safety of your friend.

Just a quick note:

FLEA & TICK season is now here!

Drop in and speak to our Nurses today about the right preventative treatment for your pet.



Work Experience at Crown Street Veterinary Hospital

by Joseph Dredge

Hi my name is Joseph and I completed work experience at Crown Street Veterinary Hospital.

Although a week is a very short time, I have learnt a lot and experienced what is involved in helping to assist both the vets and vet nurses with their daily routines and procedures. These include surgery, walking and handling the animals, cleaning, operating the machines used to help gain information about the animal health and caring for them to ensure your animal is comfortable and has a pleasant stay in hospital. I found all this to be interesting and if you pay attention you will learn a lot.

The thought of being a student and doing work experience in a place where you have not met the staff or know how you will be treated can be very scary. The staff at Crown Street Veterinary Hospital are very welcoming and have taken good care of me.

Doing work experience at Crown Street Veterinary Hospital has been enjoyable and educational. I now have an insight into what being a Vet and Vet nurse is all about, which I think is very interesting and is something I will consider highly as a life time career.

I thank all the staff for teaching me what their jobs are all about.

CHRISTMAS BOARDING: We are now taking bookings for our cattery boarding over the Christmas and New Year celebration periods. To book, phone 4228 3777 and speak with a vet nurse today!

HOSPITAL OPENING HOURS: Monday to Friday - 8.00am to 7.00pm, Saturdays - 8.00am to 6.00pm & Sundays - 9.00am to 1.00pm