



# CHB VETS LTD

5 Northumberland Street, Waipukurau

ph 06 858 6555

e: reception@chbvets.nz

Veterinary newsletter

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## Vomiting Cats

Is there anything worse than the sound of a cat retching? It's an unfortunate side of cat ownership - but what causes it, and when should you be getting worried?

Vomiting is when your cat forcibly expels unwanted material from its stomach. Warning signs include drooling, licking lips, and finally, straining and heaving from its abdominal muscles to produce the splatter of semi digested cat biscuits, grass, a half eaten mouse, or whatever else is in its stomach. You may see some yellowish bile, possibly digested blood, maybe a hairball, but when should you be worried?

- If your cat has been vomiting frequently (more than once).
- If it is unwell (not wanting to eat, drink or play as it normally would.)
- If it is drinking a lot of water
- If you see blood in the vomit. This could be bright red or have a brown, tarry, coffee grounds appearance if it's digested blood from inside the stomach.
- If your cat has diarrhoea as well as vomiting.

If your cat is doing any of the above it probably needs to see a vet. The vet will give it a check over to find out why it's vomiting. We may even need to take a blood or urine sample, or do an x-ray to pinpoint the cause of the vomiting.

If your cat has been vomiting, it is a good idea to bring it to see us, as it may be something more serious than you realise. Sometimes it can take time to figure out what's gone wrong, and we may try different treatments to settle things down.

If you're at all worried, please contact us on 06 858 6555, to see how we can help!



## Aggression between dogs:

Recently we have been seeing a lot of dog bite injuries to other dogs. These injuries can be very serious and in some cases even life-threatening. The damage done is often worse than what you can see from the outside and the wounds are infected due to the bacteria in a dog's mouth.

Inter-dog aggression occurs much more frequently in non-neutered male dogs. Common signs usually start appearing when the dog reaches puberty (between six and nine months

old) or becomes socially mature at 18 to 36 months. Generally, inter-dog aggression is more of a problem between dogs of the same gender.



### SYMPTOMS AND TYPES OF AGGRESSION IN DOGS

The most common symptoms of inter-dog aggression include growling, biting, lip lifting, snapping, and lunging towards another dog. These behaviours may be accompanied by fearful or submissive body postures and expressions such as crouching, tucking the tail under, licking the lips, and backing away. Typically, before a severe inter-dog aggression incident in the same household occurs, more discreet signs of social control will become noticeable. One tactic a dog may use is staring and blocking the other dog's entrance into a room. A specific condition sometimes triggers the aggression, even though the dogs normally get along well.

### CAUSES OF AGGRESSION IN DOGS

The causes of this condition vary. A dog may have become overly aggressive because of its past experiences, including abuse and neglect. For example, it may not have socialised with other dogs as a puppy, or it may have had a traumatic encounter with another dog. An owner's behaviour may also influence a manifestation of the condition (e.g., if an owner shows compassion for a weaker dog by punishing the more dominant dog). Other reasons for aggression are fear, wanting to protect territory and social status, or a painful medical condition.

### HOW TO HANDLE DOG AGGRESSION

There is no real cure for inter-dog aggression. Instead, treatment is heavily focused on controlling the problem. Owners must learn how to avoid situations that encourage aggressive behaviour in the dog, and to break up fights quickly and safely when they occur. In situations where aggressive behaviour is more likely to occur (e.g., walks in the park), the dog must be kept away from potential victims and be under constant control. The owner may also want to train the dog to feel comfortable wearing a protective head halter and basket muzzle. Castration may help in male dogs.



*Injuries can be very nasty with fighting dogs*

## Lice in poultry

Several types of lice infest poultry. The most common are brown lice, small (about the size of a sesame seed) and usually pale brown, but they can vary in colour, including white, yellow or black. Lice spread when birds come in contact with an affected flock mate or wild birds, and are more common in humid climates. They scurry around so fast, you have to be quick to spot them when you part the feathers as they run from light. It's easier to spot their egg clusters, glued to the base of feather shafts, most often around the vent and tail area. Lice eat skin flakes and feather dander/fluff.

Signs include:

- Irritation
- Itching
- increased preening
- feather damage/loss
- pale comb and wattles due to anaemia
- red patches of skin
- bacterial infections in the skin.



Egg production may fall, and younger birds won't grow as fast.

### 6 WAYS TO CONTROL LICE

**1. Have a dust bath area** or provide a large pan or container for dusting to help birds get rid of lice themselves. Ideally, mix 6 cups of diatomaceous earth (DE) with 12kg of washed sand (the fine sand used by builders and in sandpits) – it's available by the bag in hardware stores. Mix well, and always wear a dust mask or respirator while mixing.

**2. Dust birds** with sulphur powder (flowers of sulphur, available from rural feed stores) – make sure the powder reaches the skin. Repeat regularly.

**3. Apply a dose of ivermectin**, that has been advised by a vet.

**4. Use a louse treatment**, available from poultry supply stores.

**5. Spray the coop** with an insecticide such as Extinosad (not for use on birds).

**6. If possible**, leave the coop empty for a time as lice can't survive without poultry to feed on.

## Microchipping

Every year many pets are lost and some of these never come home. Reliable identification on a pet will increase the chances of a lost animal returning to their family.

Microchipping is a simple procedure which involves a quick injection under the skin between the shoulder blades to insert the chip. Each registered microchip has a unique number which will be attached to the animal it has been inserted in, along with their owners details. This leaves no doubt where an animal lives and who they belong to. Any lost pet that ends up in a vet clinic, SPCA or with the council will be scanned. If a microchip is present the owners details will be accessed and you can be quickly reunited with your pet. This is valuable at any time of the year but especially when animals are travelling away on holidays and are in unfamiliar territory. Give us a call to have this done and give your pet the best chance of being reunited with you if they get lost.



## Desexing

As the weather starts to get warmer, tomcats will be on the prowl and bringing the queens into season. Cats reach sexual maturity at 5-6 months of age so they can have kittens when they're barely more than kittens themselves. Dogs are similar and can have their first season at 6 months old (larger dogs usually a bit older).

Don't add to the unwanted pet population or put your pet at risk of disease—book in for desexing by phoning 858 6555!