



CHB VETS LTD

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Veterinary newsletter

May 2022

Osteoarthritis and Your Pet

Osteoarthritis or degenerative joint disease causes pain, loss of mobility and decreased quality of life. Arthritis is a common condition in dogs and cats (Yes cats! They are just better at hiding it).

Symptoms include:

- Inability to jump and play
- Difficulty going up or down stairs
- Difficulty rising or stiff after rest
- Difficulty toileting and /or using the litter tray
- Trouble grooming or poor coat condition
- Aggressive behaviour when touched, approached or moved due to pain
- Change of rest locations
- Cats - withdrawn and quiet



Thankfully there are many options available to help your pet maintain better quality of life and enjoy life again. Prevention is also important and therefore it is vital to keep your pet slim and trim. Extra weight causes more strain on joints and overweight animals are less active which leads to muscle wastage. Please call for a consultation with one of our weight management nurses, who can tailor a program for your pet.

Medications like anti-inflammatories and a course of pentosan (4 weekly injections) can be very effective at controlling the pain and inflammation associated with arthritis. Supplements like 4-cyte (consists of glucosamine, chondroitin, NZ green lipped mussel and epitalis - a natural anti-inflammatory from pine cones) and turmeric can be very helpful to joint health.



If you have any concerns about your pets mobility please give us a call on 06 858 6555 so we can check out your pet and make a plan to improve their quality of life.

Chicken Care

The domestic chicken is the most common bird in the world and makes a great addition to any backyard. Dozens of breeds exist in New Zealand all of which have an average lifespan of 7 years. Regardless of their breed or age, the following recommendations will help you give the best care to your chickens.



Housing A hen coop should have enough room for your birds to move, at most 7 birds per square metre. It should also provide protection from the weather such as draughts, rain, the sun and have good ventilation. Food and water bowls should be easily removable in order to clean, and the provision of nesting boxes and wooden perches will help keep your chickens comfortable. There are a wide variety of chicken coops available to suit both you and your chickens needs.

Diet A good diet is the best way to achieve healthy, productive chickens. Chickens have different requirements as they grow and layer hens have different requirements to meat breeds. Chickens under 16 weeks of age should be offered a high protein diet such as Starter-Crumb or Pro-chick. Young layer hens that are nearing point of lay (16-20 weeks old) should be offered an adult layer feed diet which contains high concentrations of protein and calcium which is required for shell production. Boiled, crushed egg shells or oyster shell grit can be offered as an alternative source of calcium. Kitchen scraps can also be offered as a treat but should not replace a balanced commercial mash or pellet diet.

Worming Chickens can become infected with a range of internal parasites and require regular treatment as would your cat or your dog. Young chickens are more susceptible to worms than adult birds but every chicken should be treated especially ones that spend a lot of time on a dirt floor. Our vets can help design a programme to suit your situation.

Mite & Lice Treatment Mites and lice are a common problem for chickens, causing feather loss, itchiness and sores. Red mites, scaly leg mites and avian lice are the most common mites and lice seen in New Zealand poultry and in bad situations chickens may stop laying eggs, lose weight and even die. We can help you with a programme to keep these at bay.

Vaccinations Unfortunately poultry vaccines are not sold in small volumes for individual chickens, however if one-day old chickens or end-of-lay hens are bought from a commercial poultry breeding company they will have already been vaccinated against Marek's disease and Salmonella.



High Performance Nutrition

Endurance 4800 – Our hardest working dog food yet.

Royal Canin Endurance 4800

OVERVIEW

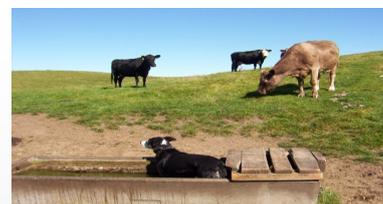
Royal Canin Energy 4800 is the food utilised by both farming and large scale hill country operations, pig/deer/duck hunting groups and other highly active sporting groups the length and breadth of both islands. Whether these are privately owned operations simply looking to improve the working ability of the dogs on farm in a cost efficient manner, or larger scale corporate groups looking to bring the dog management in their operations under 'Best Practice' policy, as well as ensuring the dog management across those groups performs beneficially from an economic and budgetary point of view.



Royal Canin 4800 has been utilised for many years across the world as food for dogs with particularly high energy requirements. Since this product was released in New Zealand, 4800 has rapidly become one of the bestselling premium dog foods in the country. It is marketed exclusively through rural veterinary practices and is recommended by a large number of Vets as a best practice working dog food.

RC4800 allows your dogs to perform as canine athletes, as their working life demands. Nutritionally, the key points are.

- One of the highest energy complete premium working dog food in the New Zealand marketplace
- Optimum Protein Levels drawn from the highest quality protein sources
- Optimum digestibility resulting in smaller meal requirements to deliver maximum nutrient value.
- 'Whole dog food' incorporating dental defence, joint support, gut conditioners, antioxidants
- Dietary fibres and psyllium to help prevent both diarrhoea and constipation.
- EPA and DHA offer anti-inflammatory protection.
- Magnesium levels to assist with stamina and decrease cramping.



PRICE PER DOG PER DAY

Ignore the price of a bag of dog food. It is meaningless. The real cost relates to the quantity of food required by a dog on a daily basis to allow it to perform at an optimum level, and the cost of that.

Because Royal Canin is a nutrient dense feed, with ingredients of the highest quality, and digestibility that is unsurpassed by any other dog food in the market, the amount required is substantially lower than other foods, relating to lower or competitive daily costs.



Extension of life.

Self-explanatory, but with real and tangible cost benefits. Utilising Royal Canin 4800 over your dog team will allow your dogs to be in optimum condition, with whole dog benefits, allowing them to work not only harder on a day to day basis, but for longer. Extending the working life of a dog by one or two years reduces substantial replacement costs over time, these cost savings being even more significant over a dog team of the size operated by you.

Reduction in Culls for dog tucker purposes.

Many Farms/Stations have seen a real reduction in culls required, ensuring culls that could have been capitalised at the works are maximised with today's prices. Bearing ewes, fat rams, injured cattle and so on will always be present, and can be utilised accordingly. The digestibility benefits of Royal Canin over any other dog foods in the market ensure complete optimal benefits are being utilised compared to that of the meat and dog rolls your operation might be utilising, with associated cost benefits.



Dental Health

Dental health is not just about creating a white smile and pleasant smelling breath in your cat or dog. Bacteria associated with dental disease can cause illness and disease elsewhere in the body, especially if bacteria circulate in the bloodstream and lodge on heart valves or in the kidneys and liver. These risks are greater in animals with other problems such as diabetes, heart or kidney disease.

Periodontal disease is an inflammation of the gums and soft tissues surrounding the teeth. Bacteria lodge in these tissues and on teeth in plaque, slowly causing inflammation and infection. Plaque mineralizes on the surface of the teeth over time and forms a hard deposit called tartar. The rough surface harbours even more bacteria. You may notice red gums, bad breath and brown discolouration of teeth.

Deterioration of periodontal ligaments, pocketing of gums about the tooth and decay cause tooth loosening and pain. Early intervention is the key to prevention.

What can be done? Ideally we prevent tartar build up on teeth to start with:

- Brushing is the best way, and there is flavoured toothpaste for cats and dogs, applied with thimble or long handled tooth-brushes. Ask at the front desk if you think your pet would allow this.
- Specially designed foods are formulated to clean teeth as they are eaten.
- New plaque control products which therefore reduces tartar have been released for dogs and cats - a product which is added to your dog or cats drinking water.
- Once tartar has built up on the teeth we will need to perform a dental scale and polish under anaesthetic to return to the smooth enamel surface of the tooth.
- Make a plan for ongoing prevention after the dental with the products mentioned earlier.



Severe dental disease (and smelly breath!)

