



# CHB VETS LTD

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Veterinary newsletter

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## Importance of Mental and Physical Stimulation for Your Dog (Part 1)

*Article written by Renate Haveman, BVSc*

Dogs are like people—they need stimulation, they need to get out, and they need to be challenged both physically and mentally. Dogs who are exercised regularly are much happier and healthier than dogs who are not, and the same can be said for people.

*“If you do not give your dog a job to do, they will become self-employed. A self-employed dog will always cost the owner money.”*

What does that mean? If you do not keep your dog actively employed through a job (obedience, training, games, etc.) or exercise, he will find something to do as an outlet of for excessive energy (chew your carpet, eat your couch, chew your furniture, etc.).

When you start exercising your dog, you have to keep in perspective what type of dog you have, their needs, and their age. If you have a puppy, you really shouldn't be exercising them at all, no more than a simple short walk. A Bulldog requires less physical exercise than a Boxer or a Labrador. So keep in perspective the age and breed of your dog in order to get a good idea of adequate exercise requirements. What is sufficient for one breed would be too much for another breed, and what is too much for one breed wouldn't be enough for another breed.



It is a misconception that, for most dogs, simply taking them for a leisurely walk once or twice per day is enough. Often people say, “I walk them twice a day, I don't understand why they still have all this excess energy.” Even if you have a dog that is not super high-energy, it generally is still not enough to simply walk him. When you think about it—you are taking a dog who is born to run for a walk at your pace (which is even slower than the dog's walking pace), and restricting him to a six- to eight-foot leash while doing so. That is not considered “exercise” to a dog. Do you consider it exercise when you are walking in the mall next to a four-year-old with very short strides? Probably not. However, if you were outside for 30 minutes or more, running around non-stop, catching the ball, and running back and forth, you would get pretty worn out. Again, dogs are just like people, if it wouldn't be enough to wear you out, it definitely is not enough to wear out your four-legged friend.

## Balancing Feed Over Winter

If you haven't already done so, now is an ideal time to do a 100 day winter feed budget. Weather conditions and expected pasture growth rates can certainly change, but putting some figures down and having an idea where things are at is still going to put you in a better position to make strategic decisions while there are still options available.



Account for feed supply (feed on hand, pasture growth) and feed demand (stock class numbers & requirements) plus target pasture cover at the end of the 100 day budget period

Hopefully the end result will give you confidence to get through winter with what you have, if not you've got three options:

1. sell stock;
2. buy in feed;
3. lose liveweight off stock

Be cautious with allowing ewes to lose body condition in early to mid-pregnancy – during this period placental development is occurring, and underfeeding can lead to lower lamb birthweights. Also remember liveweight is 4x more expensive to put back on than it is to lose!



Supplements are better introduced early as ewes in later pregnancy are more sensitive to sudden diet changes. Sheep can take some time to get used to eating supplementary feed. Any feed changes should be made slowly to give the rumen time to adjust. Work out which are your priority classes of stock and put these first in your feed plan.

If you need help with feed planning there is a Feed Planning Service available that operates nationally and can be contacted by calling 0800 BEEFLAMB (0800 233 352). This service is FREE to use.



# Pet Poisoning Information

No matter how diligently you work to minimize the risk of pet poisonings, not all accidents can be prevented. Being as ready as possible for a worst-case scenario is just as important as prevention.

## In the Event of a Pet Poisoning



**DON'T PANIC!**



**TIME IS CRITICAL.**  
YOUR FIRST STEP SHOULD BE A CALL TO A QUALIFIED SOURCE OF HELP



**GATHER ALL MATERIALS**  
RELATED TO THE POISONING



**IF APPLICABLE,**  
SEAL YOUR PET'S VOMIT OR STOOL IN A BAG FOR TESTING



**KEEP TRACK OF ALL THE SYMPTOMS**  
YOU OBSERVE AND THEIR TIMELINE



**NOTE HOW MUCH OF THE TOXIC SUBSTANCE** YOU BELIEVE YOUR PET WAS EXPOSED TO AND WHEN THE EXPOSURE OCCURRED.



**WHEN CALLING A PET POISON CONTROL HOTLINE OR OTHER SOURCE OF HELP,** BE PREPARED TO PROVIDE THE ABOVE INFORMATION, ALONG WITH BASIC DETAILS ABOUT YOUR PET. IDENTIFY YOUR PET'S SPECIES, BREED, SEX, AGE, AND WEIGHT. IF MULTIPLE ANIMALS ARE AFFECTED, COMPILE SEPARATE INFORMATION FOR EACH ONE.

## Pet Poisoning Preparedness Kit

- A **pet carrier** for easy transport to your vet's office or animal hospital
- **Phone numbers** for an animal poison control hotline, your vet, the nearest animal hospital, and the nearest 24-hour animal hospital
- A bottle of 3% USP **hydrogen peroxide** to induce vomiting, along with a baster or oral syringe for administration
- **Saline solution** to flush the eyes and artificial tears to lubricate them afterwards
- A mild degreasing **dishwashing liquid** to remove hazardous substances on the skin and coat
- **Tweezers** to remove stingers or objects embedded in the skin
- A **muzzle** for safety when your pet is agitated, afraid, or stressed
- A can of your pet's preferred **wet food**

## Poison-Proofing Your Home

When poison-proofing, keep these facts in mind:

- **Ingestion of human drugs and supplements** is the leading cause of calls placed to animal poisoning hotlines
- **Pets will potentially eat or drink anything** with a scent that catches their attention
- Cats, dogs, and other animals demonstrate surprising ingenuity, resourcefulness, and determination when exploring surroundings or trying to get something they want
- Almost all **chemical cleaning products** contain at least one hazardous component
- Most **pest control products**, whether they are made for pets or not, are poisonous
- Numerous **common indoor and outdoor plants** are toxic to animals
- An estimated **10,000 cats and dogs** die each year from ingestion of antifreeze, commonly found in puddles outside

If you know or suspect your pet has been exposed to a potentially hazardous substance, contact your vet as soon as possible.

We have an out of hours emergency vet available on

027 249 3731

# Strange Facts

ThePetsCentral.com



# About Cats



The word **cat** refers to a family of meat-eating animals that include tigers, lions, leopards, & panthers.



Cats have true fur, in that they have both an **undercoat** and an **outercoat**.



Cats sleep **16-18hrs** per day.



A female cat may have **3 to 7** kittens every **4** months.



A cat can jump even **7 times** as high as it is tall.



Cats respond better to **women** than to **men**.



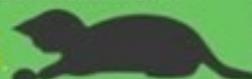
You can tell a **cat's mood** by looking into its **eyes**.



Many cats cannot properly digest **cow's milk**. Milk and milk products give them diarrhea.



A cat can live **20** or more years but the average life span of a domestic cat is **14 yrs**.



Cats must have **fat** in their diet because they can't produce it on their own.



Almost **10%** of a **tail**.  
catt's bones are in its



Cats with white fur & skin on their **ears** are very prone to sunburn.



Cats respond most readily to names that end in an **"ee"** sound.



A cat can spend **5** or more hrs a day **grooming** himself.



Cats take between **20-40** breaths per minute.



Kittens remain with their mother till the age of **9 weeks**.

It is estimated that cats can make **over 60** different sounds.



A queen (female cat) can begin mating when she is between **5&9** months **old**.



A cat is pregnant for about **58-65 days**.



A tomcat (male cat) can begin mating when he is between **7&10** months old.



The cat has **500** skeletal muscles.



A cat taken far from its home can return to it. But if a cat's owners move far from its home, the cat **can't find them**.



Cats have **30** teeth (12 incisors, 10 premolars, 4 canines, and 4 molars)



A cat **can not see** directly **under its nose**. This is why the cat can not seem to find tidbits on the floor.

