



SPAY IT FORWARD

A normal day at TAH Animal Hospital will see a number of pets booked into theatre - many of these operations are dedicated to sterilizing pets over the age of 6 months.

Other than the many health and behavioural benefits, prevention of unwanted litters is a big positive outcome to sterilizing your pet.

Welfare organisations face an overflow of unwanted or lost animals that are not neutered (Male) or sterilised (Female), leaving the responsibility with these organisations to ensure that animals in their care are sterilised.

One animal welfare group close to our hearts has taken it a step further. Fisantekraal Animal Welfare work in underprivileged areas in the Northern suburbs, educating the community on proper pet care. Together TAH Animal

Hospital and FAW have sterilised over 600 dogs and cats in 2015 alone.

A dog can have six puppies per litter, twice a year, and a cat can have an eight kittens per litter, three times a year. Take these numbers and multiply them by 600, to get an idea of the potential epidemic that has been averted.

We cannot emphasise the importance of pet sterilization enough. To help all of our clients join the sterilization campaign, we have fixed our prices to stay the same going into 2016.

Further to this, and to show our appreciation to the FAW team and the communities they serve, we will be running a donation drive called **Santa Paws**. Up until 21 December, anyone is welcome to drop off donations at TAH Animal Hospitals or TAH Vetshops.



Anything is welcome from canned food, dry food, bedding, second hand goods (To be sold in their second hand shop.) treats and blankets etc.

All animals deserve to be spoiled this festive season.



DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR PETS THIS Xmas

Here are two easy gifts that will get tails wagging for sure.

CAT: AS EASY AS IT GETS.

Pop in to your nearest garden nursery and purchase a catnip plant. Choose a spot in the garden your pet likes to spend time in and plant your catnip.

Catnip has been said to have a positive effect on cats leaving them happy, calm and sometimes playful.

DOG: STUFFED MONKEYS FIST KNOT BALL.

What you will need:

- 2 meters of diamond braid rope.
- Lighter to melt the rope ends, to prevent fraying.
- Scissors or a sharp knife to cut the rope (Be careful!)

A monkey fist knot is basically three (or more) turns of rope, three more turns around the first three, and a final set of three more turns locking them all together.

A good site (with pictures) of how to make a monkey fist knot is: <http://animatedknots.com/monkeyfist/>



Jingle bells, festive SMELLS

THE HOLIDAYS ARE A FESTIVE TIME FOR US AND OUR PETS. HOWEVER, DUE TO ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND CONSTANT DISTRACTIONS, WE CAN EASILY OVERLOOK POTENTIAL DANGERS TO OUR FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS.

Every year the staff on duty at TAH Animal Hospital witness numerous cases where pets require medical or even emergency attention, due to instances that may have been avoided. Make sure you are proactive in ensuring a memorable festive season for the **whole** family.

Here are a few things to keep in mind;

FOOD HAZARDS

Festive events often mean edible treats — and lots of them. Unfortunately, some of the most popular holiday goodies, such as chocolate, bones and nuts, can be extremely toxic or fatal to pets. Lay down the law with friends and family so they know to keep the following edibles out of your pets reach.

- Chocolate, caffeine and coffee
- Macadamia nuts
- Yeasty bread dough
- Alcohol
- Raw meat and eggs
- Anything with bones
- Onions and garlic
- Lilies, holly and mistletoe
- Milk
- Salt



HOLIDAY LIGHTING & CANDLES

Twinkling, shiny and dangling holiday lights may be another source of danger to your curious pets. Be aware of cords that could tangle around an excited pet, or become the victim of a chewing session.

If you have candles on display, place them in a hard-to-reach spot so that your pets can not access them. Not only can pets seriously burn themselves, but knocking over candles creates a fire hazard and may leave a trail of hot wax that will easily burn the pads of paws and more.

GIFT WRAP RIBBON

You may be tempted to dress your pet up with a decorative ribbon "collar" but beware that this could become a choking hazard.

Also, it's best to quickly discard ribbons and bows wrapped around holiday gifts so that your curious companions won't be enticed to chew or swallow them. Ingested ribbon

can cause a choking hazard and ultimately twist throughout the intestines, leading to emergency surgery.

A ROOM OF THEIR OWN

Give your pet his own quiet space to retreat to complete with fresh water and a place to snuggle. Shy pups and cats might want to hide out under a piece of furniture, in their carrying case or in a separate room away from the hubbub.

NEW YEAR'S NOISE

As you count down to the new year, please keep in mind that noisy poppers and fireworks can terrify pets and cause possible damage to sensitive ears.

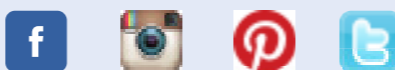
Taking precautions with pets during these festive times can help ensure that you and your family will enjoy a happy and healthy holiday season!

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"Where pets have been first for 50 years"

FOLLOW US



Bellville:
1 Kontiki Rd, Glen Ive
021 91 911 91

Parow:
20 Frans Conradie Drv
021 939 7102

Goodwood:
107 Vasco Boulevard
021 591 2571

Durbanville:
16 Plein Street
021 976 3015

Sonstraal Heights:
10 Verdi Boulevard
021 975 1870

Kenridge:
78 De Bron Ave
021 914 0886

Somerset West:
Bright St, Audas Est
021 851 5739

Darling:
17 Main Rd
022 492 2545

Moorreesburg:
26 Langstraat
Tel: 022 433 4883

DOGGY DENTISTRY

At TAH Animal Hospital we have discovered that many owners assume that pets don't need to have their teeth brushed or visit the dentist - it seems like a silly idea.

Unfortunately the consequences of poor dental health go way beyond bad breath. Many routine visits to the vet, result in stern advice about dental hygiene.

Plaque is the sticky, colourless film of bacteria and proteins that constantly forms on teeth. If plaque is left to accumulate on the surface of the tooth, the result will be inflammation of the gums. This is what we call gingivitis, and is completely reversibly if treated in time.

If left untreated, gingivitis can lead to periodontitis - the inflammation of the periodontal tissue below the gum. Eventually, this can lead to pain, infection, abscesses, and possibly even tooth loss. If infection is not treated, the bacteria can "seed" to other parts of the body affecting organs such as the heart, kidney, liver, lungs etc.

HOME CARE COMBINED WITH REGULAR PET DENTAL EXAMS WILL MAKE A SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT IN YOUR PET'S HEALTH, LONGEVITY AND HAPPINESS.

Bad breath is often the first indicator of dental disease, but look out for other symptoms like a change in eating habits - perhaps only chewing food on one side of the mouth. You may notice that your pet drops food or that

CHEWING ON A SILLY IDEA?

his or her mouth is painful. Drooling more than usual may also be seen. Your pet may not want to chew the usual toys, and may rub his or her face on the ground or paw at the face because of the discomfort. You may even notice weight loss and failure to groom.

If you suspect that your pet is struggling with a dental issue, please contact TAH Animal Hospital and request a dental examination.

Once your pet's teeth have been examined by a vet, a dental theatre booking may need to be booked by our receptionists.

The following is what you can expect:

- All animals have a pre-anaesthetic physical examination to look for factors that may place your animal at greater anaesthetic risk. In some cases pre-anaesthetic blood testing will be required to check organ function. Placing a drip is frequently advised, especially in elderly animals, or patients that have underlying medical problems (e.g. mild kidney disease) or where a prolonged anaesthesia/ dental prophylaxis is envisaged.
- After inducing anaesthesia, an airway tube is placed to prevent saliva, water, foreign bodies from entering the lungs. Once asleep, the mouth is examined, and thoroughly charted; the teeth are scaled with an ultrasonic scaler to remove plaque



and tartar and then polished to smooth off rough surfaces, thereby slowing the rate of new plaque and tartar build up.

- After the initial prophylaxis, teeth that require extraction are numbed with local anaesthetic and extracted.
- Thereafter the patient is allowed to wake up and recover from the anaesthetic. Painkillers are dispensed and antibiotics are given, when necessary.
- Depending on the procedure your pet will be able to go home the same afternoon.

At the head of our dental team is Dr Jose Almansa Ruiz, who is currently in the final stages of becoming a veterinary dental specialist. Dr Almansa Ruiz has a strong belief that good oral hygiene can be the key to happy and healthier animal lives.

LEAVE NO PET BEHIND!

Recently we had the pleasure of reuniting a cat and its owner after four months of being apart. It was all thanks to the cat being microchipped. With one or two scrapes the kitty was in good health and happy to be home.

Microchipping your pet gives them the best chance of being identified and returned to you if they are lost or stolen. A tiny microchip as big as a grain of rice - giving each animal its own unique identity code - is inserted under the skin, between the shoulder blades and doesn't cause any lasting pain. This gives your pet their own unique identity code, proving much more reliable than other forms of identification like collars or tags.

The microchip is scanned and linked to your contact details, which are kept on a central database and at your local vet.

Of course microchipping is only effective if you keep your details up to date. If moving house or changing your telephone number, make sure that you inform the company you are registered with to update your details.

It is best to have your pet chipped as early as you can, so you can rest easier knowing that if anything happens, you'll have a better chance of recovering your pet.

Depend on the species, size and condition of your animal, most pets can be microchipped including cats, dogs, rabbits and horses. Check with your vet for advice.

In July and August 2015 TAH ran a very successful microchip promotion. In the space of two months, 407 animals were given an identity The positive response has led us to permanently lower our price. Join the campaign to **leave no pet behind!**



A microchip scan is quick, simple and hassle free. Ensure that your pet is more easily returned in the event of going missing.

STEPS TO A happier PET

Along with the warmer weather, comes the onslaught of those infamous unwelcome guests: ticks and fleas. Here are some practical steps in dealing with these pests to ensure that you and your pets have an awesome summer!

1 Get rid of the initial fleas by either bathing your dog with special shampoo (Dip) or by giving an oral tablet that kills fleas in minutes.

2 Rid your home of these intruders, by using a (Doom) fogger, or (Flea-go) spray. Read instructions carefully as majority of these products require a considerable amount of time before it is safe to enter again. Vacuum your house thoroughly and wash all bedding, covers and upholstery.

3 Treat your garden; the first defence is to make your yard unwelcoming to fleas and ticks. Mow the lawn regularly, trim shrubs, rake leaves, and keep garbage covered so it won't attract rodents. You can also use 'flea go' and 'doom foggers' in infested areas.

4 Ongoing treatment. When chatting to your vet ask them which treatment option they would advise for your lifestyle. It can vary from monthly pipette treatments, infused collars that can last for 6 months to palatable chew tablets that can last for 3 months. Using any of these products year round will help you keep the pests at bay and save your pet from irritation and unhappiness.



DEALING WITH FLEAS

Flea droppings (dark specks) in the fur, flea eggs (white specks) in the fur, excessive licking or scratching, scabs or hot spots on the skin - these are warning signs that your pet has some unwelcome visitors.

Fleas are the most common cause of skin disease in dogs and cats. When a flea bites, it injects saliva into your pet's skin which may trigger an allergic reaction. Signs include intense itching, hair loss (especially just in front of the tail), scabs, and red, irritated skin, which may lead to skin infections.

Even indoor pets can pick up fleas in minutes, even if they just go out on the patio. Fleas can lay 50 eggs, leading to an infestation in days. Some eggs will fall off and hatch in your carpet or on furniture. The new fleas then target you and your pet, feed on your blood, and lay more eggs. Carpets and humid areas are favourites for fleas.



DEALING WITH TICKS

Ticks can carry life threatening diseases and should be removed as soon as possible.

You can feel a tick when you pet your cat or dog, and it can be seen when you part your pets hair. It most often attaches near the head, neck, ears, or on paws. On cats, ticks are found around the ears and eyes.

Safe Ways to Remove Ticks

- Use gloves or tissue to cover your hands.
- Grasp the tick with tweezers from the side, by its head, close to the skin.
- Pull straight up. Don't twist.
- Don't squeeze (or pop!) the bloated belly.
- Wash the bite area and your hands.

Ticks crawl onto tall grass and shrubs and wait for a host to pass by - sometimes for up to a year without feeding. Dogs are most likely to pick up ticks while walking in the woods or high grass from spring through to autumn.

If unsure of anything, please contact your nearest TAH Animal Hospital.



TAH HAS GONE GREEN

Under floor cage heaters, Dental equipment, x ray machine, under water treadmill are only a few of the tools used throughout the day at TAH Animal Hospital. Going through the long list of necessary equipment used day to day in our practises, made it clear to staff that we needed to do our part in reducing our electricity foot print on the grid and in turn reducing our involvement in adding to global warming.

Research was done to determine which route would be best taken in order for

our hospital to run at its optimal, but still reach our goal. When driving into TAH Bellville, there is little chance of missing our new accessories. Our first solar panel was placed in July 2015 and was followed by 159 more panels, which successfully started working in September 2015. During sunny days TAH Bellville proudly runs off of 100% solar energy and during over cast days this amount can vary.

Since September we have saved almost 200 trees and have put 5.65 tons less co2 emissions into our atmosphere.