



RIVONIA VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC  
011 803 3122

NEWSLETTER  
AUG/SEPT '09



SUNNINGHILL VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC  
011 803 1221

### CLINIC UPDATES

We bid a sad good-bye to Dr. Fiona Hapelt of RVV this month, but wish her all the very best with her future career in industry. She has been a valuable team-member and will be missed by clients, patients and staff.

#### DENTAL DYNAMICS

Together with obesity, dental disease is one of the most common complaints dealt with by veterinarians. Although the movement of their rough tongues keeps the inside surfaces of pets' teeth fairly clean, the outer surfaces develop build-up just like our teeth do and, without intervention, this can result in serious problems for the animal. Dental disease can cause bad breath, loss of teeth, gingivitis, abscesses and, in severe cases, *death*, resulting from the spread of bacteria from the mouth to the heart through the bloodstream.

The best defence against dental problems is daily brushing using a pet-friendly toothpaste (which does not need to be rinsed out and can safely be swallowed) and a toothbrush made to fit over the owner's finger. Even twice-weekly brushing can go a long way towards preventing dental disease. Should the animal not tolerate brushing, there are a number of alternatives which, although not as effective, can guard the pet against serious dental problems. Hexarinse Oral Hygiene Rinse contains dental enzymes to break down plaque and tartar. Aquadent is ideal for animals that are reluctant to have any attention given to their mouths - a capful of this product is added to the drinking-water daily, thereby eliminating any "wars" associated with teeth-cleaning! C.E.T. dental chews are impregnated with dental enzymes to combat bacterial growth as the pet chews on the rawhide treats. There are also a number of veterinary diets on sale which can further assist in keeping teeth clean: most products in the Iams/Eukanuba range have the kibbles coated with polyphosphate crystals to break down plaque and tartar as the animal eats, and Hills and Royal Canin manufacture special dental diets geared towards oral health.

In the event that your pet is already suffering from dental disease, a dental scale and polish will be indicated. This procedure is carried out under a full general anaesthetic and any rotten teeth will be extracted, by the veterinarian. Before having a dental, any pet over the age of 7 years should have blood and urine tests to ascertain the state of the liver, kidneys and blood parameters and, consequently, the animal's suitability to undergo an anaesthetic. Should the organs not be in peak condition, the veterinarian may elect to use a drip during the anaesthetic for added safety, or advise further tests before the procedure is performed.



**DON'T FORGET**  
- we recommend 3 monthly deworming and  
monthly tick and flea prevention



#### NEWSFLASH:

Please support our raffles to raise money for the South African Veterinary Association Community Veterinary Clinics initiative which goes into rural areas, setting up veterinary clinics, educating disadvantaged communities on all aspects of pet/livestock care, and supplying veterinary services.

You stand to win one of three exquisite framed sketches of different dog-breeds.