



CLINIC UPDATES

We are excited to welcome Dr. Yecinta Naidoo back after her maternity-leave. She and hubby, Reagan, welcomed a beautiful baby boy, Leáshan, on 10 December. Congratulations to them both!

DO THE LOCOMOTION!



It's that time of the year when our older patients (and many of their human companions!) battle with arthritic conditions. Keeping your pet warm and comfortable, with plenty of thick bedding, is of paramount importance. A joint supplement such as GCS-dog, Canosan, Fortiflex or Glucon M, which contain a mix of Glucosamine and Chondroitin Sulphate and/or green-lipped mussel extract, may help to lubricate the joint capsules and enable more freedom of movement. There are also a number of fantastic joint diets available, such as Hills J/D (for dogs and cats), Royal Canin Mobility Support and the brand new, Eukanuba Joint Mobility Diet, all of which are giving many struggling "pensioners" a new lease on life. In severe cases, a non-steroidal, anti-inflammatory drug may be prescribed to ease pain and discomfort. Moderate exercise is a good idea in most cases, but dogs should not be taken on long, strenuous walks and common sense should prevail in judging the level of exercise the

older pet is able to cope with.

Similarly, young puppies, particularly large-breeds, should never be over-exercised. A daily constitutional around the block is encouraged, but anything more strenuous, especially jogging, is an absolute no-no until the growth plates have closed at around 18 months

We often have queries about the exercise requirements of specific breeds. With so many of us living in townhouse complexes these days, where most gardens are very small, it is vital that all breeds of dog are exercised regularly, daily if possible. Lack of the stimulation that is derived from a visit outside the yard to check out the latest "emails" from other pets keep abreast of events in the neighbourhood will result in behavioural problems like incessant barking, digging, chewing, etc. as well as predispose animals to health concerns like obesity.

Cats that are kept exclusively as indoor pets must have access to enough toys, scratch posts and activity "trees" (kitty jungle-gyms) to provide stimulation and encourage exercise. They should also be fed a diet suited to indoor living (eg. Hills Feline Indoor, Royal Canin Indoor 24 or Iams Multicat) – these are lower in calories for reduced activity, and contain a hairball formula due to increased grooming.

NEWSFLASH: Please note that due to the current economic slump and the fact that we are not registered as a Credit Provider in terms of the National Credit Act, we regret that we will no longer be able to extend payment arrangement options to our clients. Payment for all goods and services will need to be presented on discharge of the patient or collection of goods. Credit card budget facilities will be accepted and clients wishing to make Electronic Fund Transfers will also be accepted in advance as well as done at the practice on the office computer.

THE FUNNY FARM

TO: GOD
FROM: THE DOG

1. Is it on purpose that our names are the same, only reversed?
2. When we get to heaven, will we be allowed on the couch or is it the same old story?
3. **Suggestion:** more meatballs, less spaghetti please!
4. Are there postmen in heaven? If so, will I have to apologise?
5. When I get to heaven, may I have my testicles back?



