



# VILLAGE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

October 2018

2 St Mary's Road, Kloof, 3610

Tel: 031 764 0588

Website: [www.villagevet.co.za](http://www.villagevet.co.za)

## Letter from Dr Mostert

Welcome to this month's newsletter. For those that have visited the practice in the past few weeks you will have noticed a lot of activity in our car park, there have been painters and pavers and plumbers and more delivery trucks than usual.

Yes, it's been a busy time, and that's because we have launched "Village Pet Parlour". This is such a complementary business to our practice and has already brought much excitement to our Village team.

We have had a tremendous response and are so gratified by everyone's enthusiasm for our new endeavour. Thank you all for your support and the encouragement that we and our parlour team have had already had.

We look forward to seeing you and your pets and caring for not only their medical needs, but their grooming needs too so they can feel fabulous, inside and out!

The guiding principles that everyone values at Village Vet will be carried through to our parlour. Reinvestment in the facilities, valuing the talents and abilities of the staff and developing everyone as much as possible. A happy and enthusiastic team does their job to the best of their ability and that is what we strive for. It is a philosophy that benefits everyone.

The Parlour has its own Facebook Page so you are cordially invited to visit it, look up 'Village Pet Parlour' within the facebook page and you will find us there.

On a practice note we are gearing up to the festive season and (gulp!) the Christmas catalogues are out. If you are going away please make sure, if sending your pets to a kennel, that their vaccinations are up to date.

This is also the time of year where sporadic fireworks are let off so if you have a pet easily traumatised by this, please come and speak to reception and they can help with some suggestions to keep them calm.

It is starting to get warm out there and whilst the summer evenings are blissful for us, it also means that the parasites are hatching and seasonal allergies are about to rear up. The quicker these are dealt with the better, so don't delay in treating them.

As always, thank you to all of you for your support.

Take care, and warm regards,

Dr Craig Mostert



## Village Vet has opened its own Pet Parlour !



Our Village family has grown and we welcome Agnes, Daphne, Dimitri, Julie, Priscilla and Prosper to our newly renovated Parlour. They are all very excited about this new chapter in their lives and can't wait to start pampering and beautifying your pets.

Collection and return of your pets will form part of our service to you.

We officially opened the parlour here on our premises on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018. You can contact Daphne on 031 655 1257 or 079 626 6927 to book appointments. She will be available to take your calls from 07h30 to 17h00 Monday to Friday. Our awesome opening special offers 20% discount on your first parlour visit.

We look forward to welcoming you and your pets to our new Parlour.

## Backhome Microchip special for October

One minute they're there, the next they're gone. It's impossible to keep track of your pets every minute of the day and night. As a pet owner, you know what a worry the prospect of them disappearing can be. No matter how careful you are, there is always the chance that your pet will go astray.

We strongly recommend all our clients consider microchipping their pets so we are offering Backhome microchips at a discounted price of R199 for the month of October.

Contact reception for more information on 031 764 0588.

## Boarding kennels & catteries - what to look for

The school holidays and festive season are just around the corner and we need to start preparing for the family trips away. Though it is not easy to leave our beloved pets behind, it is comforting to know that they have a safe, comfortable place to stay whilst you are gone. If you are considering boarding your pet, ask your friends and your vet who they recommend. Then, call several boarding kennels to learn more. Here are some questions pet owners should ask when making reservations.



### Where will my pet stay?

It is important to know what your pet's temporary living space will be like. Ask for a tour of the facility to ensure that the environment is neat, organised and odour free. Some pets can become very anxious in a kennel environment, especially if they have never been in one before. Try introducing your pet to this separation gradually by boarding them for a day or two before hand, this will help them realize they are not being abandoned.

### How often will my pet be exercised?

Some boarding facilities only let dogs out twice a day for a few minutes at a time. If this is something your dog is used to, then it might not be a problem. Ask if they have a fenced in area where your dog can roam a bit. If not, find out if the attendants walk dogs around for several minutes rather than just letting them relieve themselves quickly and go back in the cage.

### What will my pet eat?

Boarding can be stressful for your pet, even if it is accustomed to it. A change in diet can add to the stress on their body, possibly resulting in diarrhea or vomiting. Bringing your pet's regular food is the best way to prevent this. Find out if there is an extra fee to feed a special diet. Some pets will not eat well while boarding, so you may want to bring along something healthy that can be added to their food to make it more palatable. Be sure to leave specific instructions as to what your pet can or cannot eat.

### What happens if my pet becomes sick or injured?

Every boarding facility should monitor the daily habits of boarders. Most keep a log of appetite, water intake, urination and defecation. Vomiting, diarrhea or other abnormal activity should be noted also. If the boarding facility is not part of a veterinary hospital, find out where they take pets that become sick. Ask if it is possible to have your pet transported to your own vet if it needs medical attention.

### How much is this going to cost?

Part of planning for a holiday includes budgeting for your pets accommodation. Ask about the base boarding fee per day based on the size and type of pet you have. Find out if there are any hidden costs or add-ons, such as fees to feed your pet a special diet, administer medications or take your dog for extra walks. Try to get a written estimate in advance if possible.

### I can't seem to find the right boarding facility, what other options do I have?

Consider hiring a pet sitter. Though this can be more expensive than boarding, it may not be as much as you think. Plus, you may find that it is worth the extra expense. Knowing that your pet receives individual attention in your own home adds peace of mind.

Relax! You've done your research and your pet is in good hands. Enjoy your holiday!

Without my cat,  
my house would probably be cleaner  
and I'd probably have more money  
but my heart ...

My heart would be empty!



## Birds and bathing

Never underestimate a good bath – even for birds. Watching birds socialize and take their turns at the bath can be an entertaining sight, but have you ever wondered why birds bathe or what they're actually doing to get clean?

Most people know that feathers are a significant lifeline for our flying friends. In addition to providing the ability to fly, feathers help to insulate and waterproof a bird's delicate body. While feathers are periodically replaced – every few months to a year – they need to be well maintained while they remain. Flying, mites, bacteria, and other factors all wear down feathers in the time before they are replaced.



However, regular bathing and preening help to keep these vital feathers in optimum condition for longer periods. Additionally, since clean feathers allow birds to be agile fliers, bathing could also be considered an important aspect of survival – birds that are more adept at flying can escape predators with much more ease.

During their bath, birds can raise up some of their feathers on certain areas of their bodies as they splash the water. They work the splashing water down into their skin, helping them get a thorough bath and remove any parasites that may be buried down beneath their feathers.

Bird feathers also feature crevices where dirt can build up. This is where the preening process comes in handy. By applying a bit of oil from their preen gland, which is typically located near the tail, birds are able to "unzip" and "zip" their feathers with their beaks after removing the dirt. Preening oil keeps feathers soft and flexible for flying, but too much can also cause feathers to clump. Water helps to wash off some of this oil.

## General tips for cat owner

Whether you are new to living with cats or a seasoned cat owner, our feline friends insist on presenting an air of mystery. Some of the following tips may be old hat, but others may help you provide an even better home for your cat.

### General Tips

- When traveling with your cat, keep him in a carrier. Letting your cat wander free in your car can be dangerous for both of you.
- Feed your cat in a quiet area where he is unlikely to be disturbed. Cats often feel vulnerable while they're eating and appreciate the safety of peace and quiet.
- A timid cat will generally be more social if he is aware of a safe hiding place in every room. A covered cat bed or kitty tent placed in a quiet corner will help him spend less time under the bed and more time out and about.
- The aroma of catnip loses potency over time. To keep your kitty's catnip toys fresh, store them in a plastic container and take them out for a special treat two or three times a week.
- Cats are naturally nocturnal, so training them to sleep when you do may take time. Help your cat learn faster by having a lively, interactive play session right before you go to bed.
- Be consistent with house rules right from the start. It makes things much more difficult if you let your kitten jump up on the kitchen table, but expect her to stay off when she grows up.
- Make sure to change your cat's water **at least** once a day. You don't like to drink water with hair and dust in it, and neither does your cat.
- Cats lose weight the same way we do: eating less and exercising more. Try to spend more time playing with your tubby tabby to help him lose unwanted pounds.
- If your cat is ignoring her scratching post, it may be too short. Cats like to be able to reach up above their heads and anchor their claws for a good stretch, as well as a good scratch.
- Always support your cat's hindquarters when you pick him up. Holding your cat with his paws on your shoulder and your hand under his rump is generally comfortable and safe for both of you.
- Many cats like to be picked up and snuggled. Some only like it for a short time though. The instant your cat begins to fuss or struggle, put him down.



## Breed Specific - The Bengal Cat

The Bengal derives its name from that of its wild ancestor - *Felis Bengalensis* (the Asian Leopard Cat). First bred in the U.S., this beautiful new breed of feline is the result of crossing an Asian Leopard Cat with a domestic cat, giving it the genetic make up of the former with the temperament of the latter. This gave breeders exactly what they were looking for, namely a pleasant and trustworthy nature coupled with a stunningly wild-looking physical appearance.



What sets the Bengal apart from the other species of cat, besides its obvious physical aspects, is its nature. Being athletic and intelligent, they approach their environment as if it were a playground or obstacle course. It is this unique outlook that makes them ideal companions for children - it's not uncommon to see a child and their adoring Bengal exploring the world together. It is

basically a loving and trustworthy miniature leopard, constantly on the prowl for the next bit of fun. The Bengal even differs from other cats in terms of its voice, sounding like a chirping or cooing sound, even gravely. Equipped with a large vocabulary, they are a very vocal breed of cat that become quite strident in unfamiliar situations. Not to be confused with aggression, it is simply a form of individual expression. Unlike the majority of other cats, the Bengal loves to play in and with water and interacts astonishingly well with other household animals.



If you love a cat with an exotic and wild look then the Bengal was bred with you in mind. Their beautiful and playful nature makes them the perfect addition to any family.

### Dear Reader

Whilst looking for information on the Bengal cat breed, I found this warning below on the Southern Africa Cat Council website. Whether it is current or not doesn't really matter, the warning is something everyone should pay attention to if purchasing a pet over the internet. Mandy Flowers, Editor

"There is a fast-spreading pedigree kitten scam doing the rounds. Scammers are using the name and cattery name of registered breeders, creating credible-looking email addresses and are marketing kittens at exorbitant prices and even more exorbitant shipping fees. Of course the kittens do not exist and once payment has been received, the 'breeder' vanishes and the number no longer works. Some complainants have mentioned "West Africa/French accents" when they did, in early phases of the buying process, speak to these fraudulent "breeders".

We urge you to please do due diligence and confirm email addresses and telephone numbers of breeders with the 3 South African cat registration bodies before responding to any adverts. If what is seen in an advert or email differs from what the registration bodies' supply, BE AWARE! All reputable breeders have to be registered with at least one of these bodies.

SACC website: [www.tsacc.org.za](http://www.tsacc.org.za)

### **AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY:**

**Hillcrest After hours 084 520 1417**

**Westville Veterinary Hospital**

**031 267 8000**

# Puzzle page



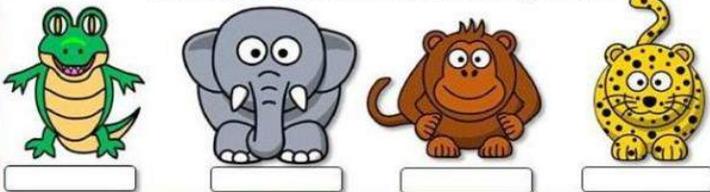
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## Wild animals wordsearch

Find out the animals and label the pictures.



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