

CAT BITES AND ABSCESSES

Every week we treat a large number of cats for bite wounds and abscesses. Cats are territorial and will fight, some cats being more aggressive than others. Neutering your cat usually helps to reduce fighting but often doesn't prevent it especially if there are numerous cats in the neighbourhood. When they fight cats often bite each other and infected puncture wounds from their sharp canine teeth will often make the recipient unwell.



After the initial bite, a cat may become unwell, stop eating and become lethargic.

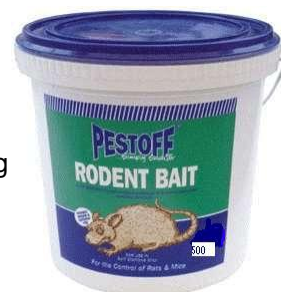
In the early stages only a very small puncture wound which may be tender will be found on examination and a fever may also be detected by the vet. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatories prescribed by your vet at this stage may prevent progression to an abscess. An abscess forms when an infected bite wound heals over on the skin surface, sealing the infection inside.

As the infection brews underneath the skin, diseased tissue and inflammatory cells liquefy to form pus. Initially the abscess will present as a painful, fluid swelling which eventually usually will burst and release the foul smelling pus. Your cat however can become very sick and toxic from the pus accumulating under the skin as the abscess forms. Treatment usually involves sedation or general anaesthesia to lance and drain the abscess. The abscess cavity is flushed with sterile saline and if necessary a penrose drain is placed to allow the infection to drain from under the skin for another 3 to 5 days. Antibiotics and anti-inflammatory/pain relief medication will be prescribed to help clear the infection.

Some cats even require overnight hospitalisation, IV fluid treatment and more extensive surgery depending on the severity of their symptoms and the extent of the abscess. If your cat frequently suffers from cat bites and abscesses, your vet may recommend that they are tested for the FIV (Feline Immunodeficiency) virus which is transmitted via bite wounds. Cats can now be vaccinated for this disease so check with your vet whether your cat is at risk or not.

WINTER TOXIC HAZARDS FOR PETS

- **Antifreeze** has a pleasant taste to both cats and dogs. Unfortunately, very small amounts can be lethal and will cause irreversible kidney damage and failure. As little as one teaspoon of antifreeze can be deadly to a cat; less than four teaspoons can be dangerous to a 10-pound dog. It's essential to thoroughly clean up any spills and to store antifreeze in tightly closed containers in secured cabinets. Automotive products such as gasoline, oil and antifreeze should all be stored in areas that are inaccessible to your pets.
- **Rat and mouse killers** are used more commonly during colder weather. When using rat and mouse bait, place the products in areas that are inaccessible to your companion animals. If you suspect your pet has eaten any rat or mouse bait you should contact us immediately so we can administer a drug to induce vomiting to prevent your pet absorbing any of the poison. Once eaten, your pet may not show symptoms of poisoning for another 3 to 5 days but then may deteriorate rapidly. Blood tests can help to detect the poisoning and antidotes such as vitamin K can be given early to counteract the deadly effects of the poison.



[Reporoa](#)
Broadlands Road
Phone: 333 8038
Fax: 333 8080
Reporoa@thevetclub.co.nz

[Rotorua](#)
Marguerita Street
Phone: 348 2152
Fax: 348 2150
Rotorua@thevetclub.co.nz

[Ngongotaha](#)
Western Road
Phone: 357 2982
Fax: 357 2984
Ngongotaha@thevetclub.co.nz



Rotorua:

Veterinarians

Dr Craig Kusabs
Dr Anna Goodman
Dr Chris McKenzie
Dr Edith Brascamp
Dr David Barrowman

Nurses

Paulette Brownlee
Patricia Gleason
Isabella Felber
Anita Marshall
Rebecca Baldwin

Ngongotaha:

Veterinarian

Dr Rachel Anderson
Dr David Barrowman

Nurse

Louise Hill

The **renovations** are finally **complete** at our main branch on Marguerita Street. Our brand new modern veterinary hospital is up and running.

Call into see the new spacious reception area and you will still find the same friendly receptionists, nurses and vets as before.

Our **VIP clients** are invited to a special preview open evening on **Wednesday 26th May 2010**. They will get an opportunity to look around our new facilities, chat with the staff and enjoy some cheese and wine. So if you are not already a member of the VIP club and want to attend this evening see a receptionist about joining and check out all the other benefits of becoming a VIP client.

An open day for all clients is being held on **Saturday 29th May 2010** from 11am to 3pm. So come along and join in the fun we look forward to seeing you there.

this issue

RENOVATIONS COMPLETED P.1

CAT BITES P.2

www.thevetclub.co.nz



NEW ARTHRITIS TREATMENT IN DOGS

A new treatment for arthritis combining **green lipped mussel extract** (glucosamine, chondroitin and omega-3) and a **non-steroidal antiinflammatory drug** (carprofen) in the same tablet is now available for dogs. Called **Initialize**, this product has been developed in New Zealand by Bomac. The tablets are flavoured to increase palatability making **Initialize** an easy and convenient multimodal treatment for arthritis. So if you have noticed your old dog stiffening up as the cooler weather arrives ask your vet whether **Initialize** may be suitable to provide relief for your pet from the discomfort of arthritis.



Why not pamper your pooch and keep them warm this winter.

Call into the Rotorua or Ngongotaha clinics and check out our new selection of pet beds and winter coats.