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## New Appointment

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As hinted in our December issue, we have an exciting new appointment to the sales team in Sandi Bowles.

Sandi is very highly credentialed having worked for several years in the medical industry. Originally from South Africa Sandi obtained a degree in biochemistry at the University of Port Elizabeth and followed up with a master's degree and a PhD as the facility changed its name to Nelson Mandela University.

From research science and lecturing in South Africa Sandi moved to New Zealand being a research technician at

Auckland University before becoming a sales specialist, concentrating on key accounts, with a major medical company, specialising in laboratory equipment.

In terms of family, Sandi is married and travelled to New Zealand with her husband and two boys (10 and 13).

An outdoors family, they live in Torbay on the North Shore, where they enjoy boating and fishing, tramping and overnight camping on and around many of the Hauraki Gulf and Northern islands.

Sandi's new role at EA is to continue working with key accounts and corporates plus generating new business.

Sandi's background in diagnostics and in biochemistry, plus her experience in corporate marketing make her a very welcome team addition.



## In With The New For 2026

It is not truly a case of out with the old and in with the new.

For starters we have a new name for an older product with Vetsep Anti-septic Sunblock being renamed more succinctly as Vetablock.

Then we have two new product launches that are both older technology but based on very sound science.

These are the L-lysine supplement for cats, Purr and the calcium supplement CalciPET.



## The Best and Worst Human Foods for Dogs

When floating around the internet there are lots of random advice pages, some good, some not so good. One recently spoke about foods common to humans that are either good or bad regarding dog diets.

While some of the advice is pertinent some of it is quite generic and can apply to humans as well as to dogs. For example, the section on peanut butter states, "It can be a healthy treat if it's done in moderation. It's best to remember that peanut butter does contain high amounts of fat and calories, which can lead to weight gain and an upset stomach." Such advice is well followed if one is either feeding or eating peanut butter!

Another such example is the recommendations for ice cream, with the hoary old subject of lactose intolerance being raised. It is true that lactose intolerance does occur in dogs, as it does in humans, but the difference is that about 10% of dogs are affected as opposed to 60-65% of humans. Mostly in humans it affects those of Asian, African, and Native American descent but it is not breed specific in dogs.

Most dogs continue to produce lactase, so the odds are good that a particular dog is not lactose intolerant. The proof will be in the eating, so ice cream is not necessarily a treat to be avoided, especially if used as an occasional treat, just as it should be for humans.

So, if we leave peanut butter and ice cream to normal common sense

**"the three big items to be avoided are chocolate, avocados and grapes or raisins."**

what are the 'good and bad foods' for dogs.

Listed in the good are white rice and carrots.

A human food that can aid an upset stomach for dogs is cooked white rice. After they digest the bland white rice dogs' stool will firm up and give them the nourishment they may be missing out on from their normal food.

The carbohydrates from the rice also provide a good source of energy, especially for older dogs. White rice is preferable to brown rice because the latter has a higher glycaemic index, which causes blood sugar to rise.

As for carrots the website states, "Cyber Pet cites carrots as one of the best foods to incorporate into a dog's diet. This orange vegetable is packed with vitamins, fibre, antioxidants, and more. Not only do dogs get a lot of health benefits from it, but it's also perfect for rewarding good behaviour."

Another benefit for carrots, not mentioned on this site, is for control of 'doggy breath.' Dogs with a predominant meat diet often have owners complaining of how smelly their breath is.

This actually can be rectified by feeding grated carrot with the meal.

So overall, carrots are a very beneficial food additive for dogs, as is white rice for those with upset stomachs.

So what are the bad foods? Principal among these are chocolate, avocados and grapes or raisins. All veterinarians will be well versed in the dangers of chocolate for dogs. Chocolate does contain theobromine and caffeine which dogs cannot metabolize so is quite toxic.

As to avocados, opinions are mixed. Mention of the high amount of fat in avocados would really come under the aforementioned generic advice as for humans, but the major issue with avocados is that they contain persin.

Persin is a natural, oil-soluble fungicidal toxin found in avocado leaves, bark, skin, and seeds, which acts as a defence mechanism for the plant. While generally harmless to humans, it is highly toxic to many domestic animals and, in dogs, can cause vomiting and blockage in the heart.

Finally, grapes and raisins are very toxic to dogs and can cause kidney failure and death.

So, in conclusion we can summarise from a rather long winded 'clickbait' item that, white rice and carrots can be useful additions to a dog diet, peanut butter and ice cream should be treated, as they should be also with human diets, as treat items and only in moderation, and that the three big items to be avoided are chocolate, avocados and grapes or raisins.



## Wedding Telegram

To the groom: Congratulations from the mafioso. We have just kidnapped your new mother in law.

If you do not pay the ransom money, we will send her back.

## Foraging, Friends, Freedom

If ever we needed evidence that horses are social animals the following excerpt from the KER Newsletter shows this.

Many domestic horses experience limitations in movement, foraging opportunity, and social interaction. These factors, often referred to as "foraging, friends, and freedom," are key indicators of equine welfare.

Constant stabling restricts these activities, resulting in significant deviations from natural equine behaviour.

Researchers examined how different horse populations allocate their time to these activities by synthesizing data from 14 studies involving 364 feral, free-living, and stabled horses. The objective was to evaluate time-activity budgets as a robust metric for assessing equine welfare.

### Study Findings

**Feeding:** Horses managed under natural-living or free conditions spent significantly more time feeding than horses housed indoors (56% versus 38%, respectively).

Horses allowed to graze spent significantly more time feeding compared to horses fed hay (56% versus 39%, respectively).

**Friends:** Horses living alone spent significantly less time feeding than

those living in groups (39% versus 54%, respectively).

Horses living with others spent significantly more time lying down than horses living alone (20% versus 4%, respectively).

Horses maintained in groups were significantly more active than horses housed alone (6.6% versus 4.6%).

**Movement:** Grazing horses spent significantly more time lying down than horses fed hay (20% versus 9%).

For total movement activity, horses living freely spent significantly more time being active than horses housed indoors (7.5% versus 4.5%).

### Study Interpretation

Noteworthy findings from this study included:

The presence of other horses positively influenced feeding behaviour.

Horses on pasture spent more time foraging than those fed hay;

Feeding hay and reducing feeding duration may contribute to the development of stereotypic behaviours.

On the flip side, extended access to pasture is not ideal for all horses.

Grazing muzzles and dry lots are management strategies that allow horses to be turned out while limiting or preventing pasture grazing.

Fresh pasture is an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin E.

Horses maintained on conserved forages (hay, haylage) benefit from supplementation with specific sources of omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin E to help replace nutrients normally obtained from fresh, green pasture.

Sociality also plays a role in rest and sleep, another important indicator of welfare.

Horses require sleep, and this study demonstrated that horses living with other horses laid down substantially more than horses residing alone. A similar trend was noted for total activity.

Horses evolved to continuously consume small portions of fibrous food.

Owners are encouraged to consider management practices such as housing and access to other horses that mimic natural conditions for horses to maximize welfare as measured by feeding time and time -activity budgets.

**Reference:** Lamanna, et al 2025. Time-activity budget in horses and ponies: A systematic review and meta-analysis on feeding dynamics and management implications. Journal of Equine Veterinary Science:105684.



## The Witness

The old man was a witness in a burglary trial.

The defence lawyer asks Sam, "Did you see my client commit this burglary?"

"Yes," said Sam, "I saw him plainly take the goods."

The lawyer asks Sam again, "Sam, this happened at night

Are you sure you saw my client commit this crime?"

"Yes," says Sam, "I saw him do it."

Then the lawyer asks Sam, "Sam listen, you are 80 years old and your eyesight probably is bad. Just how far can you see at night?"

Sam says, "I can see the moon, how far is that?"

## CalciPET

Supplementing calcium to small animal diets was commonplace before the advent of 'full' dry food diets. This was because most people fed mainly meat diets as, in the wild, the dog or cat is a carnivore or 'meat-eater'. In fact, while the cat is an obligate carnivore, the dog is really an omnivore, although a major portion of the dog diet is meat.

The problem is that many people associate the word 'meat' with the products purchased in the butcher



shop. All meat or high meat diets, which are high in phosphorus and deficient in calcium are not recommended.

In the wild a dog or cat eats the entire body of its prey including the bone, skin and cereal content in the gut.

Essentially the dog or cat in the wild eats a balanced diet with the optimum calcium to phosphorus ratio of 1.2 to 1. Too much phosphorus in the diet can suppress calcium absorption.

Diets which are high in meat are poorly balanced because meat contains 2-4% phosphorus and very little calcium, giving a calcium to phosphorus ratio of 1 to 20.

Dry foods are well balanced on average. The addition of a small amount of meat, fresh or canned, not only improves the flavour but also increases the overall quality of protein in the diet. Owners also like to treat pets with more than just a bland dry diet.

The addition of calcium to such a diet is essential in offsetting the phosphorus increases from the additional amount of meat. This ensures an overall balanced diet which contains a higher quality of protein and maintains a correct calcium to phosphorus ratio.

**"In the wild a dog or cat eats the entire body of its prey including the bone, skin and cereal content in the gut."**

There are also various periods throughout a dog and cat's life that require higher levels of calcium per kilogram body weight compared with those normally required for daily maintenance.

Extra calcium is needed for:

### 1. Growing Pups and Kittens

Growing puppies and kittens require twice as much calcium per kilogram of body weight than that of an adult dog or cat. During the rapid growth stage, they combine together and give bone its strength – but it is essential that they are present in the body in correct proportions, 1.2 parts calcium to 1 part phosphorus [1.2:1]. Many manufactured raw dog foods do not contain enough calcium for this period of the dog's life and also contain phosphorus which inhibits the uptake of calcium.

### 2. Working Dogs

Hard working, active or racing dogs have a higher demand for calcium to sustain strength and mobility in their bones. Calcium supplementa-

*(Continued on page 5)*

## The Decision

Two mates were leaning on a bar.

"The problem is," confided Bill, "I can marry a widow with heaps of money whom I do not really love, or I can marry a girl on the dole whom I love very much."

"Follow your heart," was Fred's advice.

"True love is best."

After a few moments reflection Bill agreed.

"You are right Fred, I will."

"Great decision," said Fred.

"By the way, what is the widow's address?



## CalciPET

(Continued from page 4)

tion is required especially when feeding high protein diets. Working dogs need a strong bone structure and this is built when they are pups.

### 3. Pregnant Bitches and Queens

During pregnancy, a bitch or queen requires higher levels of calcium, especially in the last trimester when the developing puppies or kittens begin forming their skeletons.

During pregnancy, the calcium requirements of the foetuses will be met before that of the bitch or queen, which means the bitch or queen will lose calcium unless given a supplement.

Calcium supplementation can also be useful during whelping.

### 4. Lactating Bitches and Queens

Calcium supplementation is essential during lactation, when the bitches' calcium requirements rise 2 to 3 times above the normal level for adult maintenance of calcium.

The calcium that is required for milk production comes from the blood stream, but since less than 1% of the body's calcium is stored in the blood, calcium that is taken

**"Therefore, without extra calcium in the diet, it will be taken from the mother's bones."**

out of the blood must be replenished quickly by absorbing calcium from the gut and/or resorbing calcium from bone.

Therefore, without extra calcium in the diet, it will be taken from the mother's bones.

Common supplements do have disadvantages:

Calcium carbonate, or powdered chalk, has a low absorption rate because of its low solubility. Originally used as an antacid it may cause constipation with prolonged use.

DCP (Dicalcium Phosphate) contains a relatively high level of phosphorus, approximately 18%. By adding phosphorus to a high meat diet, it decreases the absorption rate of calcium



and does little to correct any imbalance which may result from high meat diets.

Bone meal is simply powdered bone and has roughly the same calcium and phosphorus ratio as DCP. Consequently, it is of little use in offsetting a high phosphorus level in the diet. Also, the calcium in powdered bone is not well absorbed by the dog or cat.

CalciPET avoids these disadvantages by utilising calcium gluconate and calcium lactobionate instead.

Both these compounds are unique because the calcium portion of these salts are easily released in the gut, making the calcium fully absorbed.

By the same token, if the bone and blood are satisfied regarding their calcium requirements, then the calcium will not be absorbed. The body is given a choice, decided solely by its need for calcium. CalciPET contains no phosphorus.

Calcium gluconate and calcium lactobionate are readily soluble. Calcium lactobionate is fast acting and absorbed within 1 – 2 hours, calcium gluconate is available for 24 hours.

## Directions

A helicopter was flying around above Seattle when an electrical malfunction disabled all of the aircraft's electronic navigation and communications equipment.

Due to the clouds and haze, the pilot could not determine the helicopter's position and course to steer to the airport.

The pilot saw a tall building, flew toward it, circled, drew a handwrit-

ten sign, and held it in the helicopter's window.

The pilot's sign said 'WHERE AM I?' in large letters.

People in the tall building quickly responded to the aircraft, drew a large sign, and held it in a building window.

Their sign said 'YOU ARE IN A HELICOPTER.' The pilot smiled, waved, looked at his map, determined

the course to steer to SEATAC airport, and landed safely.

After they were on the ground, the copilot asked the pilot how the 'YOU ARE IN A HELICOPTER' sign helped determine their position.

The pilot responded 'I knew that had to be the MICROSOFT building because they gave me a technically correct, but completely useless answer.'

## Nipah Virus

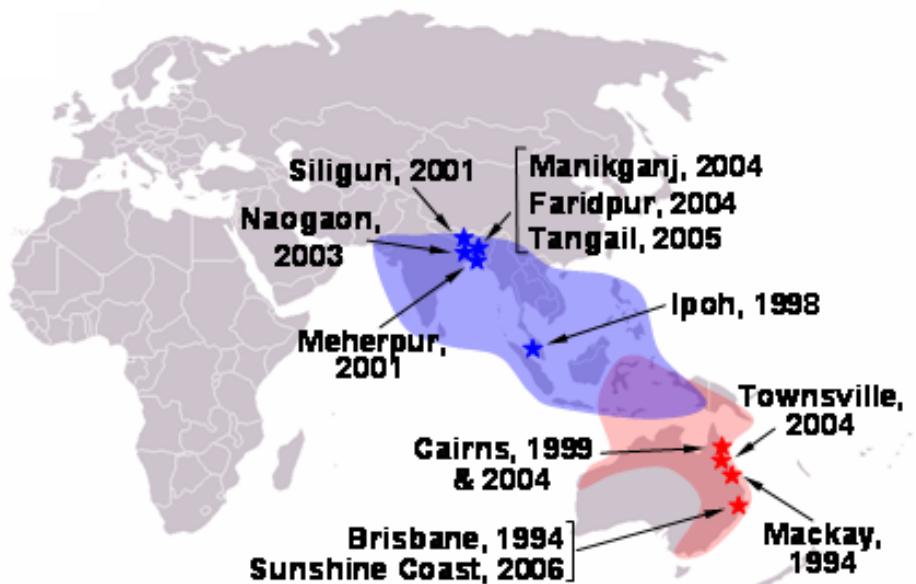
Nipah virus is currently in the news as a next possible pandemic. So, what is Nipah virus? Nipah virus was discovered in 1999. It is a paramyxovirus in the genus Henipavirus; Hendra virus is also within this genus. As with Hendra virus, fruit bats, also known as flying foxes, are the natural reservoir hosts of Nipah virus, they carry the virus but are not affected.

Nipah virus in swine is highly contagious and easily spreads by transport of pigs from farm-to-farm. After Nipah virus first emerged in pigs in Malaysia in 1998, pig-to-human (zoonotic) transmission, associated with severe febrile encephalitis, was described.

Different variants of Nipah virus were involved in outbreaks in Malaysia, Bangladesh, and India, and at least two major strains of Nipah virus were isolated from pigs in Malaysia.

Nipah virus causes severe, rapidly progressive encephalitis in humans, and severe respiratory illness in pigs. Some pigs may also demonstrate nervous system signs. Nipah virus infection has a high mortality rate in humans.

Transmission of the disease to humans is associated with close contact with infected pigs. Nipah virus



Flying fox distribution, blue stars are Nipah virus outbreaks, red stars Hendra virus. By Rhys at English Wikipedia

survives in the environment for long periods in favourable conditions; it survives for days in fruit bat urine and contaminated fruit juice.

Currently, there are no licensed treatments for Nipah virus. Individuals with Nipah virus infections are limited to supportive care, including treatment of symptoms. Also, there are no licensed vaccines for Nipah virus, though research to develop a vaccine is ongoing.

The upshot of this is that control is mainly via hygiene. Like other henipaviruses, the Nipah virus is an

enveloped virus so is susceptible to detergents and disinfectants.

Although it does survive in the environment it will be readily inactivated by alcohol hand washes and/or soapy water.

It goes without saying that, just like other enveloped viruses such as Covid and influenza, it would be no match for a quality disinfectant such as SteriGENE.



## Ethics

A young lad was learning economics and asked his father about business ethics.

“Ethics?” repeated his father, “Well my boy, let me put it this way. Suppose a woman comes in and buys a garment for \$95 and pays with a \$100 note.

She is very excited while I wrap the garment and, as she leaves with the parcel under her arm I notice that she has absent mindedly left the \$5 change on the counter.

This is where the big question of ethics comes in my son.

“Do I tell my partner or not?”

## What's In a Name?

Late February is time to prepare for facial eczema season and, in a La Nina year, it is doubly important.

Despite all the effective preventative measures now available there is always the odd cow that slips through clinically affected.

For those the best course is vitamin and amino acid supplementation.

Carnitine, rumen protected choline and rumen protected methionine are readily available as an oral drench in Hep-Ora.

For more immediate supplementation in acute cases there is Metabolase for veterinarians to infuse and then the possibility of leaving Hep-Ora or the intramuscular injection

of Metabolase Forte for the farmer to administer.



For those white skinned areas showing photosensitivity lesions an effective sunblock is required, preferably with antiseptic properties.

Now available is Vetablock, which is an up market rebranding of the previous Vetsep Antiseptic Sunblock. The new name being much more succinct and marketable.

Vetablock contains zinc oxide, a total block, and is not overloaded with titanium dioxide.

Too much titanium dioxide is detrimental as different emulsifiers are required to keep it in suspension. These emulsifiers, macrogols, have two major disadvantages; firstly they reduce the antibacterial po-

tency of quaternary ammonium compounds and also excessive dermal absorption can result in polyethylene toxicity, especially when renal insufficiency is present.

Vetablock has a superior antiseptic in chlorhexidine plus cetrimide and does not 'cake'; it provides a water miscible cream that is easily washed off prior to the next application.



## Change

A newly commissioned army lieutenant was standing outside a public phone box sorting through some coins.

He stopped a passing solder to see if he had change for a dollar.

"I think so mate," said the trooper nonchalantly, diving his hand into his pocket.

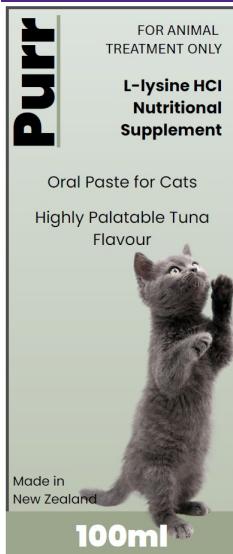
"Just a minute, that's no way to address an officer," snapped the young lieutenant,

"Let's try that again shall we. Do you have change for a dollar?"

The trooper snapped to attention and saluted. "No sir!"



# Animal welfare is our business



## On Vacation

Two priests decided they needed a break, so they booked a vacation to sunny Hawaii. Wanting to fully relax and go incognito, they made a pact: no collars, no black suits, nothing that screams "clergy."

As soon as they landed, they hit a local shop and stocked up on the wildest tourist gear they could find — think neon shirts, loud floral shorts, flip-flops, oversized sunglasses, and straw hats. They looked like walking postcards.

The next morning, they strolled down to the beach, drinks in hand, soaking up the sun and enjoying the freedom of anonymity.

That's when a gorgeous blonde in a tiny bikini walked by, gave them a sweet smile, and said,

"Good morning, Father. Good morning, Father."

She nodded at each of them and kept walking, calm as can be. The priests stared at each other, stunned. How did she know?!

Determined to be unrecognizable, they doubled down. The next day, they returned to the store and bought even wilder outfits — mismatched patterns, tourist hats with dangling beads, socks with sandals — the works.

Feeling completely undercover, they headed back to the beach, confident no one would suspect a thing. Right on cue, the same blonde appeared.

She walked right up, smiled again, and said,

"Good morning, Father. Good morning, Father."

One of the priests jumped up.

"Alright, young lady — we give up. Yes, we're priests. But how on earth did you know?"

She laughed, leaned in, and said, "It's me, Sister Angela."

