

Small Animal Newsletter

PADDY SEEING CLEARLY AGAIN

We'd like to share the heartwarming story of Paddy, a beloved 15-year-old feline companion, and how a sudden change in her behaviour led to an important diagnosis.

Paddy's elderly owner noticed she was acting strangely - confused, constantly meowing (especially at night), and not eating well. Concerned, he brought her into our Taupō Clinic, fearing the worst.

Veterinarian Sally examined Paddy and discovered she had lost vision in her right eye, with bleeding in both the front chamber of that eye and the retina of the left. The cause? High blood pressure, also known as hypertension. Read all Hypertension on page 2.

Thanks to a calm and quiet environment, our veterinary nurse Aya was able to accurately measure Paddy's blood pressure. With a confirmed diagnosis, her owner began treatment with half a tablet daily. Just four days later, Paddy's condition had improved significantly—her vision was returning, and she was even cheekily avoiding her medication!

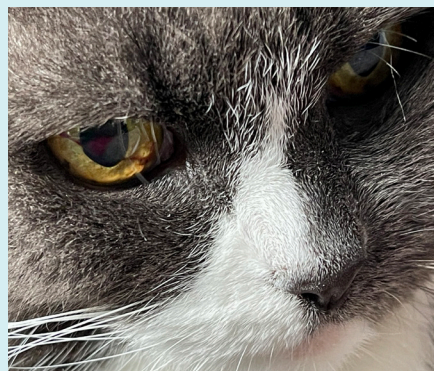
We're thrilled to report that Paddy is back to her usual self, and we continue to monitor her health closely.

We're so pleased with Paddy's recovery and proud to support her through her senior years.

If your cat is over 7, talk to us about a blood pressure check—it's a simple step that can make a big difference.



Paddy's eye after 4 days of treatment



Paddy's eye with 2 weeks of treatment



SMART NUTRITION, SMARTER PRICES

Check out our sharp prices.

Adult Dog 3kg **\$52.00**
 elsewhere ONLINE **\$58.00!!**

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT HYPERTENSION IN CATS

Hypertension is more common in older cats than many realise.

Here are some key facts:

- 1 in 6 cats over 7 years suffer from hypertension.
- It is commonly associated with other health problems such as kidney, thyroid, endocrine and cardiac disease.
- 34% of cats with hypertension have chronic kidney disease.
- 25% of cats with hypertension have hyperthyroidism
- Irreversible damage happens to the eyes (50% of cases), kidneys, heart, and the brain if it is left untreated.
- The International Society of Feline Medicine recommends all cats over 7 years of age have their blood pressure checked once a year.
- Cats with known hypertension, or high-risk illnesses such as kidney, thyroid and heart problems can be checked every 3-6 months.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS IN CATS

Measuring blood pressure in cats can be tricky, they often get nervous at the clinic.

That's why we:

- Use quiet, stress-free spaces.
- Allow time for your cat to relax.
- Offer treats and gentle handling.
- Take multiple readings and average the most accurate ones.
- Recommend dedicated appointments for blood pressure checks, separate from other procedures.

Our experienced veterinary nurses use the same techniques as human nurses, with added steps designed to help your pet feel calm, safe, and comforted throughout their care.



GOLD CARD WEDNESDAYS ARE HERE!!

GET \$20 OFF
CONSULTS EVERY WEDNESDAY!!!



Enjoy our **WINTER WARMER DEAL** - Keep your pets wellness in check with \$20 off Consults for Super Gold Card Holders every **Wednesday** from 1st May through to 31st August.

Terms and Conditions apply - Applies to regular consultations only (not extended, skin or ear consults). Valid for the months from 1st May - 31st August 2025. Discount applies to consult fees only, not drugs, testing or surgery. Card must be shown at time of consult.

Code: DISCGC

MEET THE TEAM

Rebecca

Head Nurse - Taupo Vet Centre

We're excited to introduce our Head Nurse Rebecca from our Taupo Clinic. Many of you will already know Rebecca, who has been a valued member of our nursing team for the past 2.5 years. Her recent promotion to Head Nurse is a reflection of her dedication, expertise, and the compassionate care she brings to both our patients and their owners.

Rebecca brings over eight years of veterinary nursing experience, having worked in clinics across Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and Taupo since graduating in 2013. Her broad experience and deep knowledge make her a fantastic asset to our team.

She has a particular passion for surgical nursing and is often found scrubbing in to assist with complex orthopaedic procedures. Her calm presence and attention to detail are invaluable in the operating theatre. Rebecca also plays a key role in the care of hospitalised patients, ensuring they receive the highest standard of post-operative care and comfort during their recovery.

Rebecca's love for animals extends beyond the clinic walls. Whenever she gets the chance, she enjoys heading out on farm visits and lending a hand to our large animal technicians. Her versatility and willingness to jump in wherever needed make her a true team player.

Outside of work, Rebecca embraces rural life to the fullest. She enjoys spending time outdoors, whether she's riding her pony Indy, hunting, fishing, or simply soaking up the beauty of the countryside. Her connection to nature and animals is evident in everything she does. We're thrilled to have Rebecca leading our nursing team and know that her skills, experience, and warm personality will continue to make a positive impact on our clinic and the care we provide.



WORDSEARCH...

Can you find them all?

ITCHY
RABBIT
VACCINATION
SURGERY
BIRD
GUINEA PIG
CONSULT
CAT
TABLETS
SEDATION
STITCHES
TREATS
EARS
FLEAS
DOG
VETERINARIAN

T	A	V	A	C	C	I	N	A	T	I	O	N	H
N	I	T	H	G	U	I	N	E	A	P	I	G	U
N	I	S	T	A	E	R	T	H	E	A	R	S	T
T	B	Y	I	S	E	D	A	T	I	O	N	I	A
C	O	N	S	U	L	T	S	I	L	L	T	N	U
B	U	G	R	T	S	U	R	G	E	R	Y	T	S
T	O	A	E	T	T	N	E	C	A	C	T	R	T
V	A	T	N	D	A	T	S	I	U	R	A	A	I
H	F	I	D	I	B	F	I	Y	N	A	T	B	T
A	T	A	O	E	L	L	D	T	D	E	E	B	C
G	L	C	G	B	E	E	P	C	C	S	N	I	H
I	I	C	I	H	T	A	T	R	A	H	I	T	E
E	E	R	U	A	S	S	B	T	A	T	Y	G	S
I	D	V	E	T	E	R	I	N	A	R	I	A	N

Routine blood tests for our senior pets



Aging gracefully is a part of life for us all – including our pets! And just like us, as our pets age their health needs often change. Senior animals are more prone to underlying conditions such as kidney disease, liver disease, thyroid disorders and diabetes.

Sometimes these problems can go undetected until there is a bigger issue. Blood tests are a very useful tool for our senior pets. They can help us identify some of these underlying issues early, allowing for early intervention and better long-term management.

Additionally, if your pet needs to start a medication that may have side effects (eg. anti-inflammatories for arthritis) then a blood test gives us good reassurance that your pet's health is in good order before starting these medications.

If your pet needs to undergo an anaesthetic (as is often the case in our senior animals), then a pre-anaesthetic blood test lets us know if your pet's liver and kidney function is adequate to cope with the anaesthetic.

Finally, routine blood tests also provide us a “baseline” for what's normal for your pet which is useful for us to refer to if your pet unfortunately becomes unwell later down the road.

What kind of things do we look at on a blood test?

Most of our in-house blood tests will comprise of two parts: the haematology and the biochemistry.

The **haematology** looks at the red blood and white blood cells. For example, looking for: anaemia, dehydration, infection, inflammation, certain autoimmune disorders.

The **biochemistry** gives us a good look at their overall organ function – including their kidney, liver, protein levels, blood glucose, digestive enzymes, electrolytes. This list is not exhaustive and there are many more factors we can test if needed!

Regular routine blood tests can help keep your senior pet happy, healthy and thriving. If your pet is over 7 years old, consider it as a part of their next health check.



WINTER WELLNESS EXCLUSIVE
Book your dog or cat in for a Winter Wellness check and save up to \$50 through July and August!

Includes Wellness consult & Wellness Blood Test.
Free 4Cyte joint supplement, \$20 off Hills Prescription diets plus other great offers.

Code: WINWEL

