

AMBER

TIMES

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HAYDEN SAYS HEALTH IS WEALTH!



Bow-wow-WOW! It's the second issue of Amber Times, and we're easing towards the year-end festive season. My master loves to decorate and have friends over – which means I am going to get a lot of attention, which I enjoy. All this excitement means that sometimes, accidents happen. Read all about the dangers and actions to take in our main features on First Aid for pets and Holiday Hazards, and remember that while you may enjoy wines and other alcoholic beverages, never ever feed them to me – alcohol can be lethal for us pets.

I tend to be fed a lot more than I should consume over the holidays. Do you know that obesity is extremely common amongst us pets? It really isn't healthy, and a good vet can help with a weight loss plan – see our Q&A section for details.

Speaking of vets, Amber Times is proud to feature my master's friend, Dr Jansen Ng in our Chatter Box section. You'll find out just how much he loves us furry pals. I'm always sneaking over to him for extra pats when master isn't looking!

A great veterinarian is also able to devise effective wellness plans so that any ailments can be nipped in the bud or else kept under control. Also, when it comes to dental hygiene, there's the often difficult issue of putting us under anaesthesia. I've decided to dispel the myths here – anaesthesia is really quite safe in the hands of a qualified veterinarian.

Hmmm...before I end, I have to say that master decided to turn the spotlight a bit more on cats this time, so I'm not on the cover. Instead, there's Mojo, and an interview with his owner, Sarah. Plus, there's also some advice on adapting kitty to a new home.

Until next time, enjoy this issue. Remember: there's nothing happier than a healthy dog (or cat)!



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AMBER Q&A

My 5-year-old female Jack Russell Terrier has always been obese. I do not feed her much and she gets walks daily but doesn't lose weight. What else can I do for her?

DR BRIAN LOON

It's great that you recognise your dog's weight needs attention. Obesity is common amongst pet dogs and cats, and leads to a variety of health issues:

- Arthritis: the weight puts stress and wear and tear on the joints, leading to painful arthritis
- Obstructed airways: Fat accumulates around airways causing noisy breathing and respiratory difficulties
- Reduced lifespan: A study of Labrador Retrievers found that those kept on the slender side of normal lived a median of 2.5 years longer than overweight dogs
- Increased anaesthetic and surgical risks: Anaesthetic drug doses are calculated based on lean body weight, which is harder to estimate with an obese patient. Breathing is also more difficult for obese patients, especially when under anaesthesia. During abdominal surgery, the extra fat often obscures internal organs.

Weight gain is usually caused by excessive food intake and insufficient exercise. Note that a little food goes a long way. The amount fed to small-sized pets is approximately equivalent to 10 times in human terms. Feeding a Jack Russell Terrier one banana a day is equivalent to us eating 10. Some sterilised pets are more prone to weight gain, so their diet, exercise levels and weight must be closely monitored. Medical conditions such as hypothyroidism can also cause weight gain and must be properly treated by a veterinarian.

If your dog is of ideal weight, you should be able to see a waist tuck around her abdomen, and the ribs should be felt easily across the chest with a thin layer of fat, though not visible.

Achieving successful weight loss requires a precise weight management plan devised with the help of your veterinarian. It should cover the following:

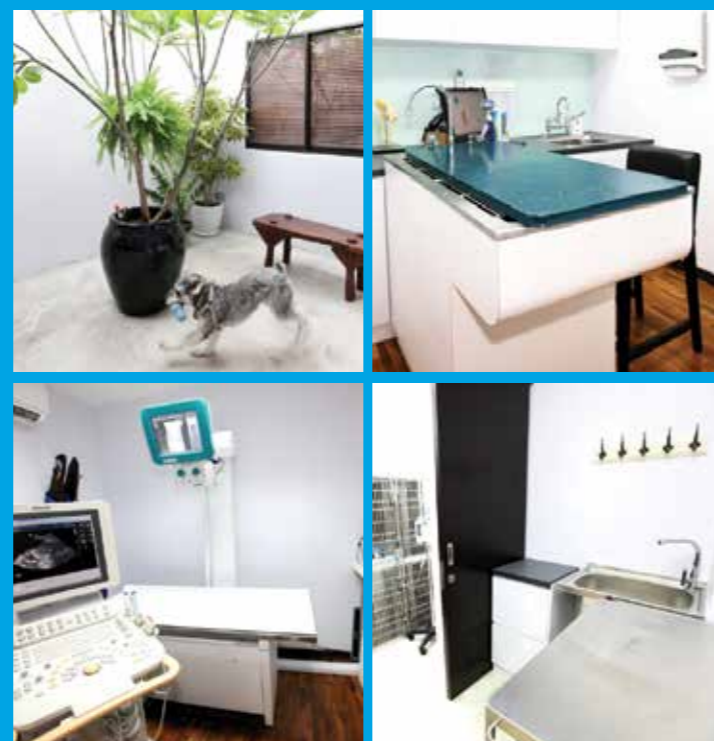
- Amount of food fed: ALL food fed must be weighed precisely. The total food intake should match the pet's caloric requirements.
- Type of food fed: Most obese pets require specifically formulated prescription diets to achieve successful weight loss. Regular commercial "light" or "weight management" diets are usually more appropriate for preventing weight gain.
- Exercise: An appropriate level of daily exercise is needed to burn the calories. The level of activity must suit the stage of weight loss and not pose health risks such as heat stroke or joint injuries.
- Supplements: Supplements that increase metabolism such as white kidney bean extract, green tea extract and L-carnitine may assist with weight loss, in combination with an appropriate diet and activity level.
- Weight checks: Your pet should be weighed weekly to monitor her weight loss progress.

Weight loss must be achieved steadily and gradually, with most pets losing 1-2% of their body weight per week, and achieving their ideal weight within three to six months. Rapid weight loss through severe restriction of food or a sudden increase in activity can be hazardous to your pet's health. Do work with your veterinarian on a weight loss plan that best suits your dog.

FURRY EMERGENCY?

These practices provide after-hours services, but always call before you rush over:

EAST Amber Veterinary Practice Pte Ltd 50 Burnfoot Terrace (Behind Siglap Centre) Singapore 459837 Tel: 9660 5543 (After-hours) ambervet.com	SOUTH / CENTRAL Animal Recovery Veterinary Centre 466 Serangoon Road Singapore 218225 Tel: 6252 2623
NORTH Mount Pleasant Vet Centre 2 Jalan Gelenggang Singapore 578187 Tel: 6250 8333 (After-hours hotline)	Companion Animal Surgery Pte Ltd 12 Boon Teck Road Singapore 329586 Tel: 6255 7950 Heart2Heart Veterinary Hospital (Awaiting details)



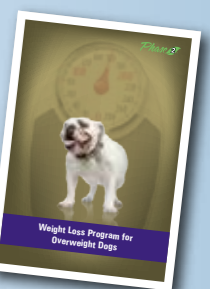
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FIRST ON THE SCENE

As the first ones to know when their furry friends have sustained an injury, pet owners should have some basic first aid knowledge and a simple kit on hand. Amber Times presents a quick dive into the fundamentals...



BANDAGING

Bandages serve a few purposes: they protect wounds from further infection, prevent contact with the environment and vice versa, and discourage a pet from licking or irritating a wound. Bandages may also be applied as support for strains or sprains or to prevent motion.

Cleaning the wound

Bandaging begins with a careful cleaning of the wound. All dried blood, dirt, and debris should be washed away, ideally with sterile saline. Otherwise, mild soap and clean water can be used for initial cleaning. Hair should be clipped so that it does not lie in the wound. The area should then be patted dry.

Applying the bandage

Use a non-adherent pad (such as sterile medical gauze) as the first contact layer with the wound. Apply an antiseptic ointment (like an iodine-based one) to the pad, and gently cover the wound. After the contact layer is in place, wrap a second absorbent layer to hold the contact layer snugly, but not tightly, over the wound. This layer is usually of cotton material in various widths. Generally, 1-inch rolls are used for small limbs and the tail; 2-inch rolls are for medium-sized legs; and the 3- and 4-inch rolls are for large legs and the body. Materials that are too narrow can cause a tourniquet effect, especially if the wound causes swelling. Uneven pressure may cause necrosis (tissue death) of the underlying tissues.

If the wound is on a leg or the tail, wrap from the toes or the tip of the tail towards the body. If you begin at the top of the leg or the tail, the bandage is more likely to restrict blood flow and cause swelling. Apply several layers of absorbent material, which will soak up the fluid from the wound and enhance comfort by cushioning the wound. Gauze wrap can be applied next to hold the cotton wrap in place and to add extra support. This step can be skipped for small wounds or for temporary bandages.

Finally, apply the outer layer, usually made up of porous adhesive tape or elastic tape. As before, wrap from the paws up towards the body. The tape should be in contact with the skin (fur) at the bandage margins, anchoring the bandage so it will not slip. The outer layer of a bandage should be applied smoothly and snugly, but not tight enough to cut off blood circulation. An Elizabethan collar should be kept on to prevent the pet from chewing off the bandage.

This first aid bandage should not stay on for more than 12 hours in general. Veterinary attention must be sought by this time. If wounds are deep, continuously bleeding after 15 minutes of pressure or has bone exposed, the animal must be attended by a veterinarian immediately.

TRANSPORTATION

The first aid provider must also safely transport the patient to the veterinary facility for further treatment.

Handle the pet gently and as little as possible

Try to make the pet comfortable by encouraging it to lie down and stay. Smaller dogs and cats are best transported in commercially available carriers or in a cardboard box with a lid. Rough handling may cause further internal bleeding, more damage to the soft tissues around a fracture, and many other complications.

Position the pet on its side if possible and avoid putting pressure on the stomach

If the pet seems to resent this or has more difficulty breathing on its side, it may indicate the pet has an injury to the chest or lungs. Avoid laying it on the stomach if the pet is experiencing pain in the abdomen. In this case, it is better to leave the pet in a comfortable position of its choosing.

Minimize movement

If possible, gently tie or tape the pet to a flat surface such as a large sturdy board or piece of plywood. This is imperative when handling an unconscious animal or if there is a suspected back injury to ensure that they do not thrash about – this could worsen any internal or spinal injuries. Grasp the skin over the back of the neck and over the small of the back and gently slide the pet on to the support. Try to keep the back and neck straight. Gently tie or tape the pet to the support.

If this causes the pet to struggle, you will need to find another method of transport, such as a large blanket that can double as a stretcher.

Use a blanket

Covering an injured pet has a calming effect and prevents heat loss. A blanket can also be used as a makeshift stretcher. Gently slide the pet into the centre of the blanket. Roll the edges of the blanket to provide a better grip. Lift the blanket and the pet into the transport vehicle. This may require two persons. A blanket should not be used to cover the pet if it is suspected to have heat stroke.

Know the route to the veterinary facility and call ahead

Get precise directions and drive directly to the facility. This will result in the fastest delivery of the pet for professional care. Call them to let them know you are on the way, providing them with the necessary requested information so they can prepare for your pet's emergency, and drive carefully.

FINAL NOTE

Only a few veterinary clinics provide after-hours service (see page 2). To avoid wasting time in a crisis, ask your veterinarian about emergency services available, and learn the shortest route to your veterinarian and to an after-hours emergency facility.

REFERENCE

www.veterinarypartner.com

Number of OUNCES of CHOCOLATE a Pet Would Need to Ingest for SEVERE TOXICITY

Weight of Pet in Pounds	5	10	15	20	25	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
Milk Chocolate (oz)	2	4	6	8.2	10.2	12.3	16.4	20.5	24.5	28.6	32.7	36.8	41
Dark Chocolate (oz)	0.7	1.4	2.1	2.8	3.5	4.2	5.5	6.9	8.3	9.7	11	12.5	13.8
Baking Chocolate (oz)	0.23	0.5	0.7	0.9	1.2	1.4	1.9	2.3	2.8	3.2	3.7	4.1	4.6

Generally, less than half an ounce of milk chocolate per pound of body weight is considered to be toxic.

HOLIDAY HAZARDS



As house-proud hosts, many of us love to decorate our homes for the holidays in traditional style, but do be wary of the dangers these pretty items present to our beloved pets. Amber Times shares our list of potentially deadly things. Keep them in mind so you and your furry friend will have a panic-free time over the year-end holidays.

TOXIC PLANTS

Many festive plants can be harmful to pets (and humans). While some have a low toxicity, others are very toxic and can result in death. The following plants can harm companion animals. As it is best to err on the side of caution, refrain from having toxic plants in and around your home or at least ensure that they are inaccessible to pets and children.

- Holly and Mistletoe** The berries of these plants are moderately to severely toxic. Seek medical attention at once if ingested.
- Lily** Cats suffer from kidney failure after ingesting even tiny amounts of this plant and flower. The gastrointestinal and nervous systems may also be affected.
- Poinsettia** The sap of Poinsettias is considered to be mildly toxic or irritating, and will probably cause nausea or vomiting, but not death.

Other plants where ingestion should be avoided include Christmas Rose, Christmas Cactus, Ivy, Star of Bethlehem, Yew, Jerusalem Cherry, Hibiscus, Jequirity Bean and assorted Christmas green (e.g. pine, cedar).

CHRISTMAS TREE

Problems can arise when pets have access to the Christmas tree. Cats can climb the tree while dogs may knock it over. The tree should be safely secured at the top and the bottom and all electrical cords and wires made inaccessible to pets. Ensure the tree has a solid base so that it can withstand substantial knocking or shaking. Do not position the tree near furniture or shelves which pets can use to launch themselves onto the tree. Real Christmas trees are more dangerous than artificial ones. If you have a real tree, don't allow your pets any access to the tree's reservoir and don't use tree preservatives in the water – ingestion can result in poisoning. Pine needles can puncture internal organs if eaten; they can also be toxic.

REFERENCES

- Crosby, Janet Tobiasen, Poisonous Holiday Plants, vetmedicine.about.com
- Kahn, Cynthia M. (Ed), Merck Veterinary Manual, The, 2010

DECORATIONS

While adding a festive atmosphere, some decorations can be harmful to pets. Decorations that can break into little pieces, like glass baubles, should not be used. Ribbon and tinsel, which can cause gastrointestinal blockages if eaten, should also be avoided. A safer alternative is hardy strands of beads. Artificial snow is also toxic and best avoided. Any evergreen needles from decorative boughs which have fallen should be immediately removed. Ornaments should be securely attached to prevent them being knocked off. Place delicate ornaments up high where they are less likely to be accessed and broken. When there is nobody around, unplug all decorative lights. You may want to try applying a repellent like bitter apple to deter your pet from chewing the wires, which could cause electrocution.

CANDLES & FIRE

Pets can be burned by candles. A fire can easily start if a lit candle is knocked over by a merrily wagging tail! Avoid using candles in the presence of pets and young children. Use common sense to ensure that your animal companions are not injured by fire.

ALCOHOL

Giving a dog or cat alcohol at a party is no laughing matter. Ingestion can permanently harm or kill the animal. Alcohol can depress a pet's central nervous system, leading to slowed respiratory rates, cardiac arrest and death. Less fatal doses may result in damage to the liver and kidneys. It is also important to keep pets away from home products and personal care products that contain alcohol.

HOSTING A PARTY?

Some pets will become overexcited or frightened when around unusual noises such as children's toys, balloons popping and party bangers. Intoxicated visitors can also cause uneasiness - being grabbed and cuddled excessively by strangers is not a pet's idea of a fun day out, so plan in advance to help keep your furry friend relaxed. Prepare a 'retreat area': make sure there's a familiar place to go to unwind, away from all the noise and excitement, for example, a room upstairs or a crate in a quiet corner. Provide some favourite chews as well.

We strongly recommend spoiling your furry friend with a new pet toy. This will keep them entertained and divert their attention from potentially dangerous acts.

- Perrett, N. Glenn, Looking Out for Pets at Christmas, www.amorak.net
- How Harmful is Alcohol to Dogs and Cats, www.natural-wonder-pets.com
- Keeping Your Cat Safe During the Festive Season, www.cat-world.com.au

CHATTER BOX

1 WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A VETERINARIAN?

My passion and love for animals started as a young boy and it has only grown over the years. However, it was only after finishing National Service that I made the choice to address my first love by pursuing this career.

2 WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR ROLE?

Seeing people experience the joy of having pets in their life, and the unique dynamics of the relationship they have with their furry loved ones. The companionship that our pets give to us is truly beautiful. It is my privilege to support and enhance their lives.

3 WE UNDERSTAND YOU HAVE ADOPTED A SHIH TZU. TELL US MORE?

The mutt that I adopted has been named Gino, and he is really a cross between a Shih Tzu and a Miniature Schnauzer. He came to me about a year ago from one of our clients who had a litter of five pups and needed to home all of them. Gino spends most of his time playing around the house with the countless toys he has, or else snoozing in his bed.

4 WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR ASPIRING PET OWNERS?

Research and understand the commitment that comes with pet ownership (especially for first time owners). Talk to someone who has pets about their experiences, take your time and do not rush, and last of all, adopt. Your new family member will bring you a joy that just can't be described.

5 ANY INTERESTING MOMENTS WHILE ON THE JOB THAT YOU CAN SHARE?

There are too many to share: the good, the bad, the heartwarming and the sad, the serious and the funny. One of the most unforgettable and joyful moments of my job to date is when I aided in the delivery of two pups. The stress of the moment was very quickly replaced with sheer exhilaration at seeing the start of two new lives.



INTERVIEW WITH DR JENSEN NG
Veterinary Surgeon

Seeing people experience the joy of having pets in their life, and the unique dynamics of the relationship they have with their furry loved ones. The companionship that our pets give to us is truly beautiful. It is my privilege to support and enhance their lives.

THERE'S A **NEW CAT AT HOME**

Introducing a new feline into your home needn't be a trying experience. Cats are largely adaptable to new living arrangements and households with or without other pets if a few precautions are taken. Still, no plan is a one-size-fits-all for cats due to their different natures (they differ in breed, personality, early experience, and so on). However, cats are most likely to successfully integrate into a new home if the following steps are taken.

- Find a room the cat can use as its "home-base" for the initial several days. The room should have a door, or some other way to separate it from the more active hustle and bustle of daily living (including infants and other pets).
- Position the cat's litter box in a corner opposite the door.
- In a separate corner, place fresh water and food. We recommend placing a plastic base beneath both the feeding area and the litter box for ease of cleaning.
- Select another corner for the cat to sleep; you will probably have to change this location to its self-proclaimed sleeping area later!
- Place the cat in the room with you, with the door closed. Allow kitty to explore and find its own bearings. Do not take the cat to the various locations, or place the kitten in the litter box. You may wish to place a little soiled litter (from kitty's previous home) in the box so it can tell where it is supposed to go.

- Allow the cat to discover the room's strong points, like window ledges to view the outside world, a comfy sofa or chair, tables and shelves for climbing, and anything else that might be used as an "escape route" should one be needed (from the cat's point of view).
- You may leave the cat by itself when it appears ready for a snooze, or when it appears relaxed and confident in its new surroundings. If kitty opts to nap in your lap, consider yourself lucky. You can also attempt to place it in the selected sleeping area, and then leave the room.
- Your new companion animal will let you know when it is ready to take on the rest of the house. It is important that you allow kitty to do this at its own speed. A partially-open door just large enough for kitty to enter or exit its refuge is a good starting place.
- Keep other pets and family members away from the "home base" room. Introductions to these individuals should be controlled. Always allow the cat to approach or withdraw at its own pace. If there is a dog, monitor kitty's interactions with it carefully – the animals will usually establish their own house rules given time.
- Once kitty has become accustomed to the new home and its members, you'll become aware of its preference for playing, eating, sleeping and other activities. At this point (anywhere from a few hours to a few days), you may try changing the location of the litter box and food bowl to areas preferred by both you and kitty (hopefully the same areas!)

REFERENCE

Wright, John C., Mercer University in www.animalbehavior.org/ABSAppliedBehavior/article-applied-behavior/how-to-introduce-an-adopted-cat-to-a-new-household

TEETHING ISSUES

WE CHEW AWAY THE MYTHS BEHIND ANAESTHESIA FOR PETS DURING DENTAL PROCEDURES



Good dental hygiene includes daily brushing of teeth and regular visits to the dentist for scaling, polishing and assessments of our oral health. For pets however, these routines often get neglected. Beginning this issue, Amber Times presents a series on dental health for pets. In our first instalment, we talk about the concerns regarding general anaesthesia as an essential practice for your pet's dental health.

I CAN GET DENTAL SCALING DONE AT THE GROOMER'S WITHOUT ANAESTHESIA. ISN'T THAT SAFER?

Veterinarians prefer not to perform procedures under anaesthesia whenever possible. General anaesthesia is the safest and only recommended way to perform a thorough oral examination, dental scaling and polishing for the following reasons:

- Sharp instruments are used to remove plaque and calculus from teeth. If an animal moves even slightly, teeth and gums can be severely injured.
- Proper dental scaling involves all a tooth's surfaces including beneath the gumline and the occlusal (chewing) surface. Without anaesthesia, only the outer surfaces of the teeth not covered by the gums can be reached. This results in a cosmetic outcome that does not improve dental health.
- Dental scaling causes micro-scratches on the surface of the teeth. Polishing is done after scaling to smoothen the surfaces, reducing the re-attachment of tartar to the teeth thereafter. This involves using a high speed micromotor with polishing paste which can only be done safely under general anaesthesia.
- During anaesthesia, oxygen is delivered to the lungs via a tube in the airway. This ensures that all the vital organs have sufficient oxygen to function well, and the tube prevents water, saliva, calculus and polishing paste from being aspirated into the airways. Your pet stays safe and life-threatening pneumonia (lung infection) from inhaling foreign material which can be life-threatening.
- Dental scaling and polishing is only one part of a complete oral health assessment, which also involves assessing the teeth and gums thoroughly for signs of decay, crown fractures and infection, and performing repair or extraction procedures on diseased teeth. This assessment can only be done when an animal has its mouth fully opened and relaxed under anaesthesia. Only trained veterinarians may perform these examinations. *

* The following link covers the Singapore Veterinary Association's position statement on "Veterinary Dentistry by Non-Veterinarians and Veterinary Dentistry without Anaesthesia": http://ctr.laccess.info/websysdocs/218.186.8.243201011335950_SVA_Position_Paper_on_Veterinary_Dentistry.pdf

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SMILE, YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE SHOT



Amber Times catches up with photographer **DENNIS CHONG**
Founder of Fotocology

1 HOW DID FOTOCOLGY COME ABOUT?

I was a forensic accountant pursuing a Masters in Finance when I decided to take a break and pursue my passion for photography. After I launched my first photography exhibition, I felt confident enough to start Fotocology. It's been eight years and Fotocology has become a creative establishment offering professional photography and design services.

2 WHAT CAN PETS AND THEIR OWNERS EXPECT WHEN THEY HAVE A SESSION AT FOTOCOLGY?

They can expect a photo shoot that is fun and uncontrived. We aim to capture true, intimate moments between pet owners and their pets. The final effect is a series of timeless, classic and natural portraits. We do not believe in heavy editing, special effects or embellishments.

3 WHAT'S DIFFERENT OR CHALLENGING WHEN WORKING WITH PETS AND THEIR OWNERS ON A PHOTO SHOOT?

We understand that it can feel awkward or intimidating as most of us are not on photo shoots regularly. We try our best to make all parties "forget about the camera" and just focus on having a good time. I also try to learn about the pet owners and express their stories and personality through my photos. With animals, the main challenge is their attention span. It usually takes patience but the results are well worth it!

4 AS A PET OWNER YOURSELF, CAN YOU SHARE SOMETHING THAT YOUR PETS HAVE TAUGHT YOU?

I have two dogs. Hugo is a 3-year-old brindle Scottish terrier and Bianca is an 8-year-old white mini schnauzer. My pets taught me the importance of being pro-active in taking care of their well-being and anticipating their needs. Watching my dogs play brings me the most immense sense of joy and bliss.

COVER CAT

We check in with cover kitty Mojo and his owner, Sarah

1 SARAH, HOW DID YOU COME TO BE A PET OWNER?

My husband wanted to buy me a kitten for my birthday so we went to the pet shop to choose one. I was bent on getting a light grey, short-haired cat but a particular black, furry, long-haired kitten kept calling out to me to pick him up. As it turned out, Mojo proved to be the one! He's a Norwegian Forest cat (Amber Vet actually helped me identify his breed!) and he's been with us for almost eight years.

2 DOES MOJO HAVE ANY QUIRKS?

Mojo is very persistent in being shown affection - he comes straight to us for cuddles the moment he sees us. He also loves lying and sleeping atop of a stack of almost anything, like dirty laundry, paperwork and folded towels.

3 ARE YOU BOTH EXCITED THAT MOJO IS ON THE COVER OF AMBER TIMES?

We're thrilled because cat lovers can coo over Mojo, just like I do over other cats! I'm sure he's excited to be featured by his favourite vet as well.



Continuation from page 9



I'M AFRAID MY PET WILL NOT WAKE UP FROM THE GENERAL ANAESTHESIA. IS IT SAFE?

Pet owners are understandably nervous as anaesthesia will never be 100% safe. Certain factors such as allergic/adverse reactions to drugs cannot be eliminated. However, anaesthesia has come a long way in both veterinary and human medicine, and numerous "safety nets" are in place to allow for successful general anaesthesia. There is a wide variety of drugs available so that the ideal combination that best suits your pet based on age, temperament, pre-existing medical conditions and type of procedure to be carried out can be tailored. Dental scaling and polishing generally requires light anaesthesia. Nerve blocks with local anaesthetics can also be used prior to teeth extractions to keep actual general anaesthetic levels low. Thousands of anaesthetics are performed on pets in Singapore yearly by trained and licensed veterinarians with perfectly safe outcomes, even in geriatric pets over 10 years old.

HOW IS MY PET MONITORED DURING ANAESTHESIA?

Anaesthesia monitoring is the most important factor in ensuring safety. The following steps are taken:

- Monitoring of vital signs such as heart rate, ECG, blood pressure, blood oxygen levels, respiratory rate and temperature throughout the entire process by trained veterinary professionals. If an animal is in impending danger, there will usually be early changes in these vital signs, allowing the veterinary team to act immediately. Danger only arises when these signs are ignored.
- An intravenous (IV) drip is also administered to maintain and control your pet's blood pressure, electrolyte levels and hydration at normal levels.

IS IT WORTH TAKING THE RISKS OF GENERAL ANAESTHESIA JUST FOR DENTAL SCALING AND POLISHING?

While the risks from general anaesthesia are really minimal, dental diseases that cause significant health problems to your pet are almost a certainty, including bacteria from the mouth leading to infections of the heart, kidneys and liver via the bloodstream.

If you have had a toothache, imagine the pain that can arise from a mouthful of ill-kept teeth. Pets seldom show obvious signs of distress. They cope by chewing with the less painful side of their mouth, or swallowing food whole. They only stop eating when the entire mouth is excruciatingly painful.

FINAL WORDS

Most pet owners do not realise that their pets have been suffering from dental pain, but note a sharp improvement in their temperament, appetite and general health after a complete dental assessment and treatment.

Don't delay in getting your pet suitable dental care. Speak to your veterinarian today. Your pet will thank you for it!

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