

Specials!

March \$5 Crazy Deals!

All Catnip Toys
\$5 for March



HOT Tips

80% of pets suffer dental disease.

Ask us how **you** can promote oral and overall health.

 **Emergency Service**

 **House Calls**

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 **Stockists of Hills Science Diet**

March 2015

Catnip The Inside Story - Part 1

Many cats will go crazy for the smell of catnip. Exposure to this simple herb can reveal a new side to their feline personality, it can be very entertaining to watch a cat's pure joy when they encounter this plant in the garden.

Catnip has a reputation of being a feline drug and many cat owners wonder if it is safe to give it to their pet. Giving catnip in small doses does no harm. Using it as a treat can be quite good for your cat's emotional health. It relieves stress and can help them get rid of nervous energy.

WHAT IS CATNIP?

Catnip is a type of mint plant found in many countries throughout the world. It can grow up to three feet high and has many branches filled with purple flowers and heart shaped leaves.

The catnip plant has an aromatic oil called nepetalactone. When cats smell this compound, it triggers the part of the feline brain that responds to happy pheromones. This is why cats react the way they do.

Many cats seem to go crazy when they smell catnip by rolling, rubbing and running around. Eating catnip seems to produce the opposite effect. Cats often become mellow when they ingest the plant. This response to catnip usually lasts up to 10 minutes before the cat loses interest.

Creative cat owners can use catnip as a reward or incentive to promote good behavior in their felines. Rubbing dried catnip on a scratching post or cat tree can entice your cat to go there when they need to sharpen their claws instead of tearing your couch to shreds.

Lacing a cat toy with some catnip can be beneficial for inducing an indoor cat to exercise. It will encourage them to be more active and play and prevent obesity. These cat toys should be stored in an airtight container when not in use, so the catnip stays fresh longer.

Dr Mike

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BRUSHING YOUR PETS TEETH!

Brushing your pets teeth regularly is as important for your cat or dog as it is for you. Ideally, you should aim for brushing three or more times weekly.

For this to be a success, it needs to be a pleasurable activity for your pet. First off begin by wrapping a soft cloth around your index finger to use as a toothbrush. Start with the front teeth and work your way gradually around to



the side and back teeth. Practice until your pet is used to the idea of having its teeth rubbed, initially these sessions will be very short, but you can gradually build up over time. It is best in the early stages just to let your pet be comfortable with you sticking your finger in their mouth!

In the initial stages this can be made more pleasurable by dipping the cloth in canned food. Once your pet is used to the cloth, you can progress to using a fingerbrush or size appropriate toothbrush. Stroke the teeth in the same manner as when using the cloth, in a downward motion to the gumline, paying particular attention to the crevices between the teeth and gums, this is where plaque, infection and odor begin.

Never use human toothpaste, you need a specially formulated pet toothpaste, which come in a variety of flavours which are palatable to dogs and cats.

Early signs of dental disease include red, swollen or bleeding gums, bad breath, or loose teeth. A reluctance to eat can also be a warning sign. If you notice any of these signs or feel something is not right, please phone us on 4783880 or email info@animalmedicalcentre.co.nz.

**NORDIC
NATURALS** 

NOW STOCKING!

Nordic Naturals Omega-3 Pet - Soft Gels We have been seeing awesome results with this product helping to improve coat condition, and joint mobility by increasing the joint lubrication and decreasing inflammation.



For any dog approaching the age of 8, these soft gels are something you should consider to help with the early signs of arthritis.

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