

# A Great Success Firgrove Open Day!

*A really big thank you to everyone who came to celebrate our special Open Day in April at the new Firgrove Surgery, Yateley.*

Mayor Mr Gerry Crisp, was our guest of honour who along with all the visitors, was able to tour the new clinic, and see what happens 'behind the scenes' of a veterinary practice. It was a great turn out, with goodie bags for everyone. Sarah, one of our student nurses, brought along a variety of her exotic pets, wildlife rescue animals and domestic pets for our visitors to see, hear about and have cuddles!

Moving our Firgrove branch from number 7 to 1-3 Aylesham Way, allowed us to expand our facilities. We now have a **more spacious waiting area, an on-site laboratory, a state-of-the-art enclosed radiography suite, operating theatre, plus separate cat and dog wards,** which help to reduce stress and anxiety for in-patients.

If you did not make it to our Open Day, please pop in and we can explain the many services we have available to help keep your pets happy and healthy!



Summer 2017

# News

## Acupuncture for your Pet?

We are pleased to report that we have now added a further service for your pets, **Acupuncture** - a technique that's been practiced for thousands of years.

Mostly recognised as part of traditional Chinese medicine, it involves inserting very fine needles into specific points in the body and muscle trigger points (muscle knots). By doing so, the nervous system is stimulated, pain messages are blocked, and the body's own natural painkillers are released.

**How long will it take?** On average four treatments, a week apart are needed

for the benefits to be seen. 80% of patients will respond well, and treatment intervals depend on progress.

**Will it hurt?** Most animals accept acupuncture very well. The needles are very fine. Some will briefly notice needle insertion, especially if placed into a trigger point (muscle knot). Some patients even fall asleep during treatment, and most appear happier afterwards.

**Side effects?** There is very little risk. Legally it must be performed by a Veterinary Surgeon. Some animals may become sleepy for up to 48 hours. A few sensitive animals may be sore for 24/48 hours.

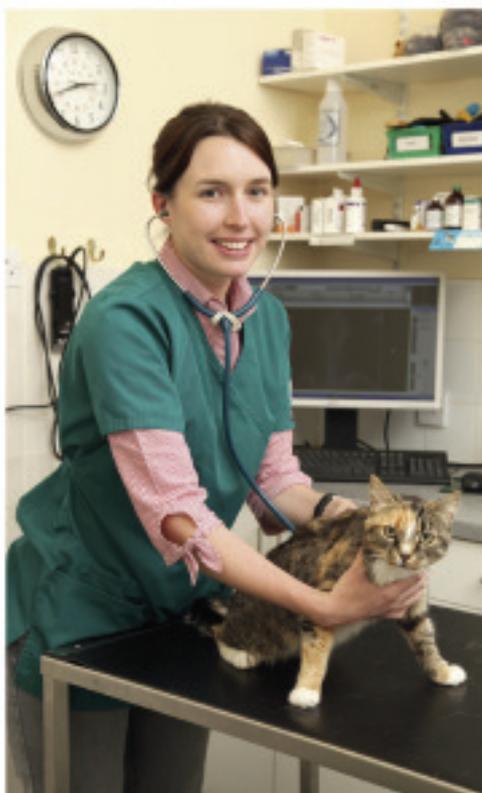
**Which conditions can it help?** Chronic arthritis  
Muscle sprains - Post surgery - Non-healing wounds  
Spinal arthritis - Inflammatory bowel disease  
Cystitis - Megacolon - Skin disease - other pain.

If your pet is insured, most companies will pay for acupuncture, but please check your policy.

**For more information on our Acupuncture service, just contact our vet Jemma Price on 01252 877799, or email [info@firgrovevet.co.uk](mailto:info@firgrovevet.co.uk).**



Our Acupuncturist  
Vet Jemma Price



**Hartley Wintney**

**01252 844044**

**Mon to Fri 8.00 - 19.00**

**Sat & Sun 8.30 - 16.00**

**Crookham Park**

**01252 913990**

**Mon to Fri 8.30 - 19.00**

**Sat 8.30 - 16.00**

**Sun at Hartley Wintney**

**Firgrove**

**01252 877799**

**Mon to Fri 8.30 - 19.00**

**Sat 8.30 - 12.00**

**Sun at Hartley Wintney**

**Basingstoke**

**01256 844944**

**Mon to Fri 8.30 - 19.00**

**Sat 8.30 - 16.00**

**Sun at Hartley Wintney**

**24 Hour Emergency Cover**

[www.stkittsvet.co.uk](http://www.stkittsvet.co.uk)



## Wear and Tear

*Cats, infamous for long snoozes and relaxed lifestyles, do actually lead very busy lives, defending territory, eating, tree climbing, checking the shed for mice, teasing the dog next door and ensuring plenty of attention is received from their owners!*

All this activity can take its toll over the years and as your pet ages, subtle changes may take place, which are not always visible. Joints can become a little stiff, hearing not so sharp and internal organs may not function so well. In older cats, kidney failure is common, as these organs have to work very hard throughout their lives. Special nephrons in the kidneys help filter the blood and remove waste products. These gradually disappear over time and are not replaced. With this loss, the kidneys then fail to function correctly.

### Watch out for signs

- Excessive Water Drinking
- Urinating Frequently
- Loss of Appetite
- Vomiting
- Weight Loss

Blood and urine tests can be done to confirm the condition and although incurable, there are ways to help your pet cope with the problem. The type of treatment will depend on the level of kidney failure. We may suggest a change in diet, medication or possible hospitalisation for care. If you are concerned that your cat could be showing signs of kidney failure, please do not hesitate to contact us.

**We offer a full health check and blood screening, which will help to show the start of more hidden conditions such as kidney disease.**

## Rabbit Talk

Summer and with it buzzing flies, which pose an enormous threat to our bob-tailed friends. **Flystrike** is a serious and life-threatening condition that can affect rabbits very quickly. Flies are attracted to wounds, sore skin, moist and soiled hindquarters of a rabbit, where they lay eggs. The result is hatching maggots literally feeding on the rabbit's skin and underlying tissue!

**In warm weather, please check your rabbit at least once a day**

- Ensure they are clean, egg and maggot free.
- Remove soiled bedding and waste daily.
- Clean hutches frequently.

At higher risk are unhealthy, less active and elderly rabbits, plus those that cannot groom properly due to obesity or overgrown teeth and claws.

**If you suspect your rabbit has FLYSTRIKE this is a real emergency, so contact us immediately!**



### Hartley Wintney

High Street RG27 8NS  
info@stkittsvet.co.uk

**01252 844044**

### Crookham Park

Queensacre Retail Centre  
Sandy Lane GU52 8LH  
info@crookhamparkvet.co.uk

**01252 913990**

### Basingstoke

4 Brighton Hill Parade RG22 4EH

info@basingstokevet.co.uk

**01256 844944**

### Firgrove

1-3 Aylesham Way  
Yateley GU46 6NR  
info@firgrovevet.co.uk

**01252 877799**



## Chips for Cats?

In 2016 microchipping a dog became law, and although not so for cats, I decided to research the importance of a cat being microchipped. On interviewing vets, I saw lost and found books bursting at the seams, and was told that rescue centres are full of cats waiting for new homes, or for their owners to hopefully turn up. Apparently some were chipped, but the owners new details had not been updated, for example after moving house. This makes it very difficult to reunite lost cats with their owners when they have no current identification! If only they had microchipped their cats and ensured the contact details were correct.

Felines are very independent creatures and can wander far and wide.....a little too wide sometimes, and are unable to find the way home. Even 'indoor only' cats can escape through that one open window. Unfortunately some, on their quest to get home, can be involved in road traffic accidents and require urgent medical treatment. Not being able to contact their owners becomes a very sad situation indeed. At times such accidents can be fatal, and if a cat is microchipped it means the owner can be informed of their loss. Albeit very sad news, but at least there is closure.

Just to prove how beneficial microchipping your cat can be; just recently a cat was taken into a veterinary surgery, as it had been living rough outside a coffee shop. When scanned, a microchip number was found. A few phone calls later, the owner was located and said that her cat had been missing for many months, and thought she would never see her pet again. Both were happily reunited!

So easy conclusion..... microchipping is a must for cats.

It's a simple and permanent means of identifying your much-loved pet.



**Carrie  
Cat**

Reporter extraordinaire



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