

# Healthier and Longer Lives



Summer  2019

# News



## New Vet at St Kitts!

Welcome to...**Anna Joslin** DRMedVet MRCVS who recently joined our Veterinary Surgeon team here at St Kitts Veterinary Group. Qualifying from University of Zurich, Switzerland, in 2008, she has lots of animal experience, and enjoys spending time with her two lovely cats Jack and Beibs. Outside of work she is a keen runner and enjoys kick boxing. Anna is looking forward to meeting and getting to know you and your pets over the coming months.

## How old is your pet in human years?

Well an approximate example is a 1-year-old dog or cat is 15 in our years. Each year the number of human years in relation decreases, so do not panic, you won't have a 10-year-old pet that is 150 human years old! Even though ageing is inevitable, always remember there is so much we can do to keep your pets healthy and enjoying a good quality of life as they become older. A combination of regular exercise, preventative healthcare, a good diet, along with the ever-increasing advancement of medical and surgical care, can help your pets live much healthier and longer lives.

## Blood Screening Profile

A busy river of red liquid flows through your pet's body distributing oxygen and nutrients, fighting infections and collecting waste.

**Blood** carries a wealth of information about your pet's health. Here at our surgery, we can do a full blood screening profile to help detect signs of disease and organ dysfunction. There are many conditions and problems that can be diagnosed in the earlier stages, which provides an improved start in treatment to help your pet enjoy a healthier life.

The process is almost the same as for humans and is generally quick and simple. For our furry pets though, we shave a little of their hair, then a fine needle is inserted into a vein from where a small amount of blood is taken. A nurse will hold and reassure your pet during the process.

## Identify-Diagnose-Treat

The blood screening profile is done in-house using our advanced diagnostic equipment to provide rapid results. If the test shows that your pet is developing a condition of any kind, your vet can discuss with you the many forms of treatment that modern veterinary medicine now provides. Not all conditions can be cured, but treatments can help to improve your pets' quality of life.

**If you are interested in a blood screening profile for your pet, please contact us for further information.**

## Would you like to Work in the Veterinary World?

We recently visited the **Hurst Community School** to take part in their **Careers Fayre**. Our staff member Laura, spent the day talking to lots of interested future veterinary professionals. We wanted to give a good indication of what they could expect in day to day life at a veterinary surgery. Other information included what grades were needed to become a Veterinary Nurse or Surgeon, and how work experience will aid you in the future. If you think your school may benefit from our team visiting please contact **Laura** at [laura@stkittsvet.co.uk](mailto:laura@stkittsvet.co.uk).



### 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 8.00 - 19.00**

**Sat 8.30 - 12.00**

**Sun at Hartley Wintney**

### Basingstoke

**01256 844944**

**Mon to Fri 8.00 - 19.00**

**Sat 8.30 - 16.00**

**Sun at Hartley Wintney**

**24 Hour Emergency Cover**



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

# Neutering your Feline Friend

Our hearts melt when we see those cute wide-eyed kittens, but did you know that within a few months, these little ones can actually produce babies of their own? However, there is the option to neuter your kitten, which has many health and social advantages for your pet.

**A Male Cat (Tom)** begins to mature at around 5 - 8 months old, and starts to spray strong smelling urine to mark and protect their territory. He will also roam in search of females in season, and on meeting other male cats will fight, which can cause major bites, torn ears, deep scratches and possible infection. There is the added risk of the potentially fatal Feline Immunodeficiency Virus (cat aids) and Feline Leukaemia Virus, which can be transmitted via bites and scratches.

**Neutering helps to:** ● reduce roaming ● spraying ● aggression ● fighting ● injury ● limit the spread of fatal disease ● stop unwanted litters of kittens

**Female Cat (Queen)** can begin their seasons and 'call' at approximately 6 months old, so although still a kitten, she will probably get pregnant! Seasons are every three weeks during the spring and summer months. She is capable of 2/3 litters each year of her life, with around 3/4 kittens (but can be more) in each litter. No sooner has she delivered her babies, she will then begin another season and try to get pregnant again! There is also the risk of fatal disease through close contact with unvaccinated males.

**Neutering will:** ● end seasons and calling ● prevent pregnancies ● stop unwanted litters of kittens ● help limit the spread of disease ● prevent womb infection and mammary tumours

**The Operation** Neutering is quite a routine procedure. Your pet will receive the best care possible here at our surgery. He or she will require an anaesthetic for the operation, and a nurse will monitor their breathing throughout the procedure. A female cat needs a few stitches and to be



kept indoors while the wound is healing. For a male there are no stitches, and he will generally be back to normal within a day or two, but it can take six weeks after the operation for the male to become infertile.

*If you would like to know more, please contact us.*

## PETS Passport Post Brexit

We were hoping to have provided more definite details with regard to Brexit and travelling to Europe with your pets. However, at the time of going to press, issues have still not been resolved!

If you are planning to travel to Europe with your pet, guidelines are to **allow at least 4 months before travel** to prepare your pet for their outbound and inbound journeys.

We therefore advise you to visit [www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit](http://www.gov.uk/guidance/pet-travel-to-europe-after-brexit)

Here you will find current information on what course of action you should take, and as always, we will also endeavour to answer any queries you have.



### 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**



twitter



## DOG SHOW

### Summer Fun!

We shall be taking part in local fetes this summer, and are excited to announce that we will be running and organising a **Fun Dog Show** at the **Basingstoke Fete**. This is our first dog show, so we would appreciate all the support we can get! You can register prior to the show by contacting **Laura at [laura@stkittsvet.co.uk](mailto:laura@stkittsvet.co.uk)** or **from 12pm on the day**. All proceeds will go to our **charity Canine Partners**, so pop the following dates in your diary and make sure you visit our stands on the day to say hello!

**June 8th Hartley Wintney Fete**  
12.30 - 4.30pm **Oak Common RG27 8NS**

**June 30th Zebon Copse Fete**  
1 - 5pm **Church Crookham**  
**Zebon Copse Centre GU62 0ZE**

**July 13th Hatchwarren Fete**  
12 - 4pm and Dog Show Basingstoke  
**Hatchwarren Community Centre RG22 4XF**

## Basingstoke Branch open from 8am

Our Basingstoke Branch is now open from **8am WEEKDAYS!** We listened to our customer feedback and moved our opening times to make life easier for our clients who need to get to work. To celebrate our new opening times **we are offering 50% off to new clients** who quote the code **BAS8AM**. This offer is valid until 31/5/19. Don't forget current clients also get £10 for every friend they refer. So why not start earning today?