



## Puppy Alert!

Having a new puppy is exciting, fun and should be a happy time for all involved. He or she will look to you for a lifetime of love, food, security and care, but before their little paws step inside your door, please do your research first. What breed and size can your home and lifestyle accommodate? Caring for a pet takes a lot of time. Your puppy that will become an adult dog likes company, so consider how much time can you actually devote to your new family member. **Are you out all day? How much exercise can you give?**

**Do you have a large family to care for?**

A puppy is extra and quite hard work and can demand your attention day and night!

**Who will care for your dog if you go away, and what cost would this entail?**

**Can you commit to the lifetime care of a dog?**

**Will your budget suit a pet?** Quality food, vaccinations, flea and worming treatments are needed, to help keep your pet healthy.

If after your research and questioning you feel this is the right step, then most importantly..... **where will you get your puppy from?**

Sadly, in the media we have seen reports of very sick puppies being sold for tremendous amounts of money to the unsuspecting public. One very poorly puppy was actually sold to and collected by the new owner at a motorway services, and very sadly died just a few days later.

**It is vitally important that you fully research where your puppy originated.**

With research you can avoid funding **puppy farms** and **irresponsible breeders**.

### Where do you start?

1. Registered breeders and rescue centres are a good place to begin. Most are reputable and run by honest people who responsibly breed their dogs, and take great care of the puppies until they are ready to go to their new homes.
2. Maybe a friend or family member has bred their own pet who has produced a litter.
3. When viewing the puppies, they and the premises should be clean and warm.
4. You should see their Mum too. If not, be very wary and ask where Mum is!
5. At rescue centres, if possible obtain some history on how the puppy came to be there.

### NEVER BUY A PUPPY FROM.....

**A place with numerous adult breeds and many litters of puppies - The back of a van Motorway services - The street - A boot fair NEVER allow the puppy to be delivered to you.**

When wrong or hasty decisions are made it can be a heartbreaking disaster for the puppy and owner. We have plenty of advice and information to help you make the right choice, and are more than happy to discuss in detail about having a new pet. The right start for you both, is the way forward to a long, successful and happy life together.

## Welcome Back....to a New Normal!

*Well that was certainly the strangest few months that all of us went through! From social distancing with our clients to consultations via video link, we have still managed to care for your pets during COVID-19, which shows that no matter what is thrown at us, we will do whatever is necessary to provide veterinary care for our animal community. We would like to give a big heartfelt thank you to all our clients, for your amazing understanding and patience while full lockdown was in action. We fully understood how difficult it must have been for you at an already very anxious time, to have your pet poorly too.*

*Happily now with the easing of lockdown, we can begin to return to normality, but with caution. We like to call it a 'new normal' and although we can all now move around more easily, we still have some protocols in place for when you visit our practice, as the safety and health of all concerned is paramount.*

*If it is necessary for your pet to come to our clinics, **please wait in your car in the car park prior to appointments.** Call the clinic to inform us of your arrival, and when your appointment is ready, we will call and invite you into the clinic. **Clients are to enter the clinic on their own with their pet** wherever possible. Only in exceptional circumstances will two people be allowed.*

*Please **wear a mask and use the hand sanitisers** provided on the reception desk upon arrival and departure, and we kindly ask that you **keep your distance of 2 metres (6 feet)** between yourself, other clients and staff. Please also avoid leaning over the reception counters.*



### 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**

**A**pples on the ground can have wasps inside feeding on the fruit. Our pets cannot resist snapping, pawing and chasing wasps, which can result in a nasty, painful sting! Swelling, particularly around the face or mouth, drooling, difficulty breathing or collapse, then do not delay in calling us, as some cats and dogs can be allergic to stings.

**U**se caution when placing the Halloween goodies by the front door ready for your trick or treat visitors. Chocolate and sweets are toxic to pets if eaten.

**t**ake care if you come across conkers or acorns. Both contain substances aesculin/tannic acid, which can be toxic to dogs. Signs of anxiety, vomiting, diarrhoea, pain or dehydration....call us immediately.

**u**nder wood and leaf piles hedgehogs like to nest and feed on insects such as earwigs and woodlice in preparation for hibernation. **Before** lighting any autumn bonfires, please check our prickly friends are not inside!

**m**ulch is from old, damp, rotting, fallen leaves, and is the perfect breeding ground for mould spores and bacteria, which can be harmful to your pet if ingested.

**n**ow is the time to do repairs to rabbit and guinea pig hutches in preparation for the cold, wet winter months so as to keep your small furies warm and dry.

**D**on't ease up on your cat or dog's flea treatments. Maintain regular protection as these nippy little parasites are a year round problem!

**a**lways keep your dog away from any mushrooms or toadstools that appear in your garden or are found on walks. It's difficult to separate good from bad and the latter can be highly toxic!

**y**our dog's late afternoon walk in the autumnal sun, can soon turn to dusk with the nights drawing in. Ensure your dog wears a reflective or lighted collar.

**s**ee tiny orange/red flecks on your cat's skin?

These could be **Harvest Mites**, which are only just visible to the naked eye. Active in the late summer and autumn days, these cause extreme irritation for your cat. Treatment and prevention is available, so if your cat is excessively scratching and nibbling, please call us.



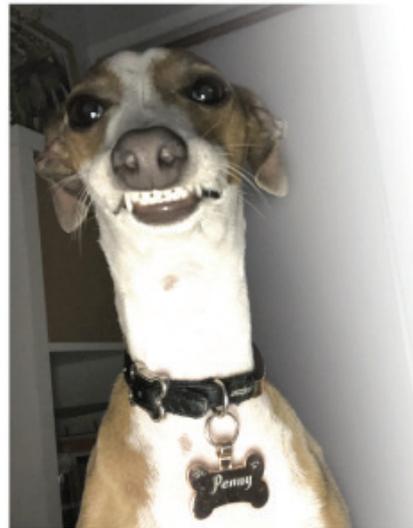
# Staff in the Spotlight

## Paris Wzsola

Receptionist and Nursing Assistant

We recently welcomed Paris to our nursing team here at St Kitts who in March 2020 travelled thousands of miles to the UK from Australia.

Previously working for the last five years as a nursing assistant in a veterinary practice in Australia, Paris is now very excited to begin her studies so she can become a Registered Veterinary Nurse here in the UK.



When she is not caring for our patients, in her spare time Paris loves to play Animal Crossing and fuss over her furbabies - Penny the Italian Greyhound, Trevor the Chug and Archie the ginger cat.

## Five Top Tips for Firework Fright

1. Create a safe haven for your dog or cat in one room of your house.
  2. Keep your pets indoors.
  3. Comforting your pet can reinforce their worry. Playing a game during the whizzes and bangs can encourage confidence.
  4. NEVER punish or scold a fearful pet.
  5. Use a pheromone diffuser or spray.
- Preparing in advance to combat Firework Fright is best. We are here with plenty of help for nervous pets and advice for owners, so please call us now to discuss the appropriate therapy for your pet.



### 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**