

Take Comfort



Winter  2020/21

News

In these rather unsettling times, we would like to give you some reassurance that your pet will receive the very best care and attention from our team, here at St Kitts Vets. We understand just how important your much-loved pets are to you, and should he or she require treatment that involves a general anaesthetic, it is only natural that you may feel anxious on the day of your pet's procedure. Every hour your pet is away from you can seem like a day as you await our call. So to calm your nerves and help you to understand what is happening to your pet when they have a procedure, we are going to take you on a journey through their anaesthetic.

Always remember that your pet will be totally unaware of their surgery and feel no pain, as they will be fast asleep!

Before

Your pet will have a health examination, and in some cases a pre-anaesthetic blood test, which will highlight any underlying problems that might increase any potential risks. This also helps the vet to decide on a suitable anaesthetic for your pet's age and health.

The 4 Stages of Anaesthesia

Our kind and compassionate team reassure your pet all the way, and he or she will be closely monitored by our trained staff throughout the process.

1. Pre-Anaesthetic Some patients can be a little anxious, so we administer a calming and relaxing pre-operative medication.

2. Induction We shave a small area on the front foreleg where we inject the anaesthetic drug into a small vein. Gradually our patient becomes anaesthetised.

3. Maintenance A tube is passed down the windpipe, which is connected to the anaesthetic machine that passes a mix of gases and vaporised drugs via the tube. Your pet's breathing and heart rate are constantly monitored.

4. Recovery Once their procedure is complete, the anaesthetics are stopped and soon your pet will begin to wake up. We constantly observe, comfort and reassure our patient during this time, keeping them safe, warm and comfortable until they are fully conscious and ready to go home.



We hope this information has put your mind a little more at rest if your pet should require an anaesthetic.

Further information is available from our team, who will be more than happy to answer all your queries.

Staff in the Spotlight

We welcome two new Veterinary Nurses to our team who both look forward to meeting you and your pets!

Zoe Tracey RVN

Say hello to Registered Veterinary Nurse Zoe who joined the team in 2020 and is **Head Nurse at our Firgrove branch**. She has worked in the veterinary industry for over 15 years both in the United States and United Kingdom. Zoe is currently studying feline behaviour, which she is due to complete in 2021.



Got Enough?

Just a reminder that if your pet requires medication or other pet supplies over the holiday season, **please do order well in advance**.

The surgery and our suppliers opening hours vary during this period, so please call us with your order to ensure your pet's cupboard is topped up before Christmas Eve!



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

Life outside the practice still involves animals, as at home Zoe has an array of pets! Two lovely dogs Dora and Bauer; Feline beauties Yoda and Gingerbread; a small parrot, a budgie and an indoor bunny called Marco.

Sophie Campion BSc RVN

Sophie qualified as a Veterinary Nurse in July 2020 after studying at Middlesex University. Outside of work she enjoys running, travelling and going on adventures with her three dogs named Bella, Toby and Bobby.





More Staff in the Spotlight

We welcome two new Animal Nursing Assistants to our team who are looking forward to meeting you and your pets!

Yulieth Solano Santanilla ANA

Yulieth volunteered at Crookham Park Veterinary Centre for a few months and fell in love with nursing. She is originally from Colombia, and has always had a passion and love for animals, which she hopes shines through in her job.

Yulieth's future wishes are to train and study to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

Carmen Garcea ANA

Carmen arrived in the UK in 2016 after growing up in Romania, where she spent a lot of her time caring for the stray dogs. She spent two weeks work experience with us at our Basingstoke Branch in July 2020, and fell in love with the idea of becoming a Registered Veterinary Nurse. In October 2020, she joined our Basingstoke Team as a Nursing Assistant and is waiting to start her studies to become a RVN. Carmen has no pets of her own, however can't wait to own her future German Shepherd called Chiquita.



What kind of fish goes well with ice-cream? Jellyfish!

Ask us about the wide range of well-balanced nutritious cat food we stock.

What is a dog's favourite day of the week? Chewsdays!

We have lots of advice about safe and healthy treats for your dog to chew on!

Remember fleas are a year round problem, so it's important to maintain your pet's parasite treatments. If you would like more information please call our friendly team.

What did the flea say to his wife as they came out of the movies? Shall we walk or take the cat?

Winter Ways

Cuddles with your pet by the log fire, comfort food, cosy jumpers and brrr..... early morning scraping ice from the car windscreen, are just a few things that mean it's winter! This cold and also festive season, brings a few hazards for our pets, so please do take great care to avoid any accidents!

Keep your dog on a lead when walking close to **frozen ponds and rivers**.

Fireworks can cause some pets much distress. We have plenty of help for nervous pets and advice for their owners, so please do contact us.

The festive season means there are more rechargeable and regular **batteries** around, which **are extremely dangerous if chewed or swallowed** by your pet. Call us immediately if you think your pet has been in contact with or swallowed a battery.

Plenty of **chocolate** too during the festive season, but it contains theobromine, which is **poisonous to dogs and cats**, so store it well out of their reach!

Supervise all pets near **open fires and log burners**.

Turkey carcass bones are sharp when broken and can get lodged in the throat and stomach. Please do not feed them to your pet!



Small pets living outside require **extra warm dry bedding**, regular checks and unfrozen drinking water.

Mince pies and Christmas cake contain **raisins**, which **can be toxic to dogs** if ingested....grapes too!

Antifreeze for cars tastes sweet to pets, but is **potentially fatal if swallowed**. Please clear away any spills and don't let your pet drink from puddles.

Liquid Nicotine in vaping equipment and e-cigarettes is **highly toxic to cats and dogs**. Pets can very quickly become seriously ill if they ingest just a small quantity, as liquid nicotine is more rapidly absorbed into the body. Do not leave this equipment in easy reach of your pets!

Mistletoe, its berries and poinsettias, can cause problems if chewed or eaten by your pet. Any signs of stomach upset, breathing difficulties, itching or swelling, then contact us immediately!



Published by www.vetarazzi.co.uk 01284 361429

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