

The Clock Ticks By...



Winter  2021/22

News

Practice life has certainly been very busy during 2021 and has given us many challenges! Winter is now ahead, so it's time for cosy, cuddly evenings with our pets and warm coats on walks. Your pets are our number one priority and we always work towards helping them live healthier and longer lives.

There is so much we can do to help your pets enjoy a good quality of life during each life-stage. A combination of preventative healthcare, a good diet, regular exercise, and the ever-increasing advancement of medical care now available, means that your pets are living much longer than in the past.

One Step Ahead

Young, middle-aged or old, there will be constant yet subtle changes in your pet's physical condition. You may see a little weight gain or incontinence, but others are not visible like sore joints, failing eyesight, loss of hearing, and organs such as the heart, kidneys, liver or thyroid glands, may not work as well as they used to. Don't wait for your pet to show signs of illness; be prepared by being one step ahead. Have a chat with our team, as they can best advise about tests and changes you can make to accommodate your pet's ageing process, especially as they enter the senior and geriatric stage.

Regular health and blood checks can help identify problems in their early stages.

Examinations to check out the condition of their teeth, skin, weight, eyes and ears.

Simple blood & urine tests help identify diabetes, hyperthyroidism, arthritis or how well their organs are functioning.



If results show your pet is developing a condition, we can discuss the many forms of treatment that modern veterinary medicine now provides. Not all conditions can be cured, but lifestyle changes or medication may help to improve your pets' quality of life.

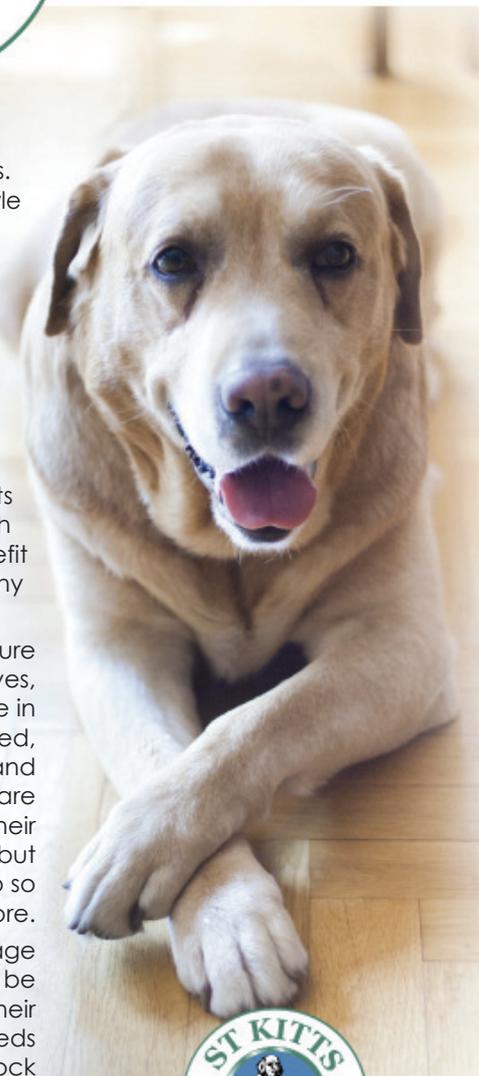
Eating is probably one of your pet's favourite pastimes, but.....

- ✔ **Is it right for your pet?**
- ✔ **Will it suit their age or any medical conditions?**
- ✔ **Is your pet allergic to any ingredient?**

It is important that what your pet eats suits their needs, so book an appointment with us to discuss which food would best benefit your cat or dog to help keep them healthy and maintain a good weight.

Our pets give us so much pleasure and love throughout their lives, and ask for very little in return. Being loved, hugs, walks, food and a comfy bed, are probably all their hearts desire, but we can do so much more.

Whatever age your pet is, be aware of their different needs as the clock ticks by to help them enjoy an even better life!



Welcoming Our New Team Member!

Say hello to our new Veterinary Surgeon

Charlotte Tindel BVetMed MRCVS

who joined St Kitts Veterinary Group in October 2021.

From a young age, with a love of animals and an interest in science, Charlotte always wanted to be a vet. This actually became reality when she qualified in 2019 from the Royal Veterinary College. While a vet student, Charlotte worked for the RSPCA and PDSA charities based in London, but since qualifying has been working in Hampshire. She enjoys all aspects of general practice, but has a particular interest in ophthalmology. Charlotte is very much looking forward to meeting you and your pets, and she does have a pet of her own; a long-haired chihuahua called Romeo who she adopted from a rescue centre.



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



Most of us have experienced the feelings of stress or anxiousness and our pets are no different. There are many reasons, so you may have to do a little investigation to identify the underlying cause. For some pets it can be when left **alone at home**, during **fireworks, thunderstorms, car travel**, in **public places** or even because of a **noisy household**. None of us like to see our pets unhappy and hiding in the corner or shaking. If you have a rather anxious pet, you could consider some aids that may help to ease your pet's tense feelings. There are products from calming **pheromone plug-in diffusers** to special **thunder shirts**. Even an **animal behaviourist** could be the answer to your pet's problem.

Pheromone diffusers can help to build up a calming atmosphere by emitting a comforting scent similar to the soothing pheromones produced by nursing animal mums to babies.

Sprays and collars are also available, which can be helpful for car travel and visits to the vet.

Thunder Shirts are worn by your pet, and designed to put gentle pressure on the body to mimic the feeling of being hugged to help create a calming effect.

A Safe Haven for your pet to disappear to for 'time out' that is in a quieter part of the house, with a cosy bed and a piece of your clothing for a comforting scent.

It can take preparation and time for the results to show. You may even need to try a few before finding the correct one for your pet, but we have lots of help and suggestions. Our friendly team will be happy to discuss your concerns and which treatments may best suit your dog or cat to help them keep calm.

"Hello" said Arnold "I hope I'm not too late
Because I have an order that just can't wait
My food cupboard well it's looking rather low
So I'm calling to ensure there's a constant flow

Of my special diet over the long festive season
So you see vet my call has a very good reason

The cat also says about his long-term medication
That he needs enough to cover the vacation".



Remember to place your pets' food and medication orders before the holidays!

Keep your Chips Hot!

Hot chips are just the best when you are hungry, but these are not the only 'chips' that need to be at their best to hit the spot. The microchips that identify your pets need to be hot too, and that means ensuring that all the details are up to date!

If old details are stored, then you sadly run the risk of not being reunited with your pet should he or she become lost.

Have you

- ☛ moved recently?
- ☛ changed email address or phone numbers?
- ☛ updated these details on the national database?

It only takes a short time to amend and keep your pet's record piping hot, so check all is correct....now!
If you are not sure how to do this, just give us a call and we will do our best to help.

Wintry Walkies!

There's a little chill in the air now, so you may need to wrap up more for the daily dog walk, but it's certainly good to have some fresh air and get those leg muscles working.... the four and two-legged kind! Some of you may walk early morning and others late afternoon, which can mean it might be rather dusky as the sun rises or sets.

It is important that you and your dog are visible, so to help keep you safe, consider reflective clothing for you both. Should your pet be having a run around off lead whether in the countryside or town park, there are also lighted collars and harnesses to help you and others see your dog in darker conditions. Even on an early winter afternoon visibility can be very poor, so an 'illuminated' pet is a real bonus!

On your wintry walks remember -

- ☛ **When walking past frozen ponds or rivers to keep your dog on the lead as their weight could cause the ice to break.**
- ☛ **Salt and grit on icy pavements are an irritant to paws, so ensure you give all four paws a good wash on returning home.**
- ☛ **Antifreeze for cars tastes sweet to pets, but is potentially fatal if swallowed. Please don't let your pet drink from puddles.**



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

