



## Puppy Newsletter

### Special Offer Milbemax Wormers

To protect your pet and family, it's essential to worm your dog regularly.

To help you with this, if you purchase a year's supply of worm treatments, Midforest Vets will give you 10% off. Make sure you have an accurate weight for your dog and contact either surgery for the special offer.

### Do you have trouble remembering when your dog's worm pill is due?

If so then you sign up for our free text messaging service. Let us have your name, address and mobile number and when your dog was last wormed and we will send you a text message letting you know when the next treatment is due. If you would like further details or would like to sign up to the text messaging service, then contact reception or ring 023 8028 2358/023 8066 0400.

### The Benefits of Vaccination

Your dog will have been vaccinated as a puppy to protect them against the following:-

#### Canine distemper (Hardpad)

The virus targets a number of areas such as the gut, respiratory tract and nervous system. In some instances the pads and nose can become cracked. Distemper is often fatal.

#### Infectious canine hepatitis

This is a disease which attacks the liver, kidneys, eyes and lungs of dogs. The disease is rapid and causes death within 24-36 hours. Some dogs can recover and then shed the virus for many months, posing a threat to other dogs.



#### Canine parvovirus

The virus is very persistent in the environment and is unaffected by many household disinfectants. Dogs of all ages can become infected and many affected dogs die despite veterinary treatment. Vaccination has proved very successful in reducing the incidence of this disease.

#### Coronavirus

Coronavirus infections cause diarrhoea and other upsets of the digestive system.

#### Leptospirosis

This is a condition which is caused by bacteria. We vaccinate against two different forms of *Leptospira*. One is picked up from watercourses contaminated with the urine of infected rats. Dogs can encounter this when swimming or drinking. This form of the bacterium attacks the liver and kidneys and is often fatal. It can also be transmitted to humans.

The second form is caught from the urine of other infected dogs. It targets the kidneys and damages them. Sometimes the damage only becomes evident as the dog becomes older and develops kidney failure.

**This protection needs to be maintained by an annual booster vaccination to ensure that your dog remains protected throughout its life. At this annual vaccination a FREE health check is carried out to ensure the continued well-being of your dog. Your dog's preventive healthcare requirements will change through maturity and old age and the vet will advise you of these changes.**

## Midforest Vets 24hour emergency service.

We are proud to be able to offer a personalised 24 hour emergency service for our clients. You may wonder exactly what this means and why it is such a good thing for you and your pets. If your pet becomes ill and needs to be seen outside normal surgery hours many veterinary practices will insist that you travel, often many miles, to be seen by an emergency vet service, who have never seen your pet and will know nothing of its history or previous conditions.

However, at Midforest, we will always see your pet either at our Totton or Lyndhurst surgery, so you don't have to travel far to get the urgent care your pet needs, even in the middle of the night. You would always see one of our vets, quite possibly your own regular vet, who will be familiar to you and your pet. The surgeries are linked by a computer system, so all your pet's notes can be accessed at either site. This means that the vet can see exactly what treatment your pet has had, whether or not it is on any medication and if there is any other relevant information specific to your pet's health. Any treatment given at this time will be noted on the records so if any follow up treatment is necessary then your regular vet will see this at your next visit and make the necessary changes. If the duty vet feels you should bring your pet in sooner or be referred then the receptionists will be alerted to this the next morning and arrangements made as required.



We feel that our emergency service offers the best possible service by providing continuity of care for you and your pet outside the normal surgery hours at what might be a very stressful time.

For emergencies ring 023 8028 2358 and you will be given another telephone number to call Molly, our night receptionist. Molly is very experienced and will liaise with the duty vet for immediate help and advice. Please be aware, however, that using the emergency service will cost more, as out of hours fees will apply.

## Getting active with your dog

We all know that being active is good for our health, that it is not only good for our bodies, but also improves our psychological well being and even increases our IQ. The same is true for our pets. We all enjoy a stroll with our dog, but did you know that there are many organized activities for dogs and their owners that may be just what the doctor ordered for a bored dog and an owner keen to try something new? Here are just a few suggestions:

**Canine agility** is quickly becoming one of the most popular dog sports. It involves coaching your pet through a course of tunnels, jumps hoops and other obstacles. Anyone who's ever watched a tournament can see how much fun the dogs are having. This sport does not discriminate—any dog can compete. Your dog should be relatively fit to start agility and most clubs require basic obedience and that dogs be at least 1 year of age before starting.

Fancy something with a bit more dramatic flare? How about **heelwork to music**? "Doggie dancing" involves choreographing a series of obedience moves in sync to the movement of the owner and in time to music.

**Flyball** is the fastest canine sport around. Essentially a relay race, a team of several dogs take it in turn to run a series of hurdles, pounce on a specially designed box, catch the tennis ball flung forth and run back to the start. This is a fantastic sport for dogs with energy to burn.

**Canicross** is relatively new in Britain but is gaining in popularity with dog owners keen to keep fit and have fun. It is cross country running with dogs and each runner is attached to his or her dog and races usually take place in forests or country parks.



If you and your canine friend are interested in any of the above activities, get in touch with training clubs in your area or look at the kennel club website for links to associations.