

Micro-chipping Month— Special Offer £10 per chip

What is a micro-chip?

A micro-chip is about the size of a grain of rice and each chip has its own unique 15 digit number.

Where is the micro-chip implanted?

It is implanted in your pet's scruff above the shoulder blade area and is made of special material to sit comfortably under the skin. (Just like having an injection). It is designed to last for life.

How does it work?

If your pet goes missing or gets lost on a walk, it is unlikely to find its own way back home. Most vets, animal charities and your local authority dog warden will have micro-chip readers. These readers flash up the unique 15 digit number on the chip. The National Database Centre can be phoned, given this number and the owner's name, address and phone numbers are obtained and your pet can soon be re-united with you.

Every year 300,000 pets get lost or go missing. At Midforest Veterinary Practice we recommend micro-chipping so you can have the best possible chance of having your pet re-united with you.

Pet Passports

The steps to obtaining a Pet Passport are as follows:

1. First, your pet needs to be micro-chipped.
2. They then must be vaccinated against rabies. This can be done at the same time as the micro-chipping.

3. Fourteen days after the rabies vaccination, a blood sample is taken to measure the level of antibodies against rabies that the vaccine has produced. Providing the minimum level is attained then a Passport can be issued, but it will not allow re-entry to the UK immediately. Six months has to elapse after the date the successful blood sample was taken. Before this six month period has elapsed, your pet will be able to travel out of the UK to other EU countries, but will not be allowed to return to the UK.
4. Every time your pet comes back into the UK they have to be treated by a vet for ticks and tapeworms 24 - 48 hours before embarkation.

NB Providing the rabies vaccination is boosted before the date it is due, then the Passport can just be updated. If the rabies vaccination is allowed to lapse, then steps 2 and 3 will have to be repeated and another six month period elapse before re-entry to the UK is allowed.

It would seem that some ferry companies and airlines may require a 'fitness to travel certificate' which can be written by us a few days before travel following a clinical examination of your pet.

Please check well in advance if this is needed. For the latest information contact DEFRA on 0800 241 1710 or www.defra.gov.uk (go to A-Z and look up Pet Travel).



Stress in Cats

Believe it or not, stress amongst our feline friends is on the increase. This in some ways is due to our attitude towards them and our desire to include them in our family.

Stress can manifest itself in many different ways—too many to go into detail here, but the common symptoms are:-

- ◆ Spraying and inappropriate toileting
- ◆ Aggression
- ◆ Over grooming
- ◆ Hiding away

Many factors can increase the stress in their lives, for example:-

- ◆ Changes to their routine e.g. building work, house move, addition of a new pet or person into the household.
- ◆ Owner absence.
- ◆ Inappropriate facilities e.g. too few litter trays, hiding places, keeping an outdoor cat indoors.
- ◆ Visit or hospitalization at the vets, cattery or groomer.

Never fear! With some careful detective work and possibly the help of a qualified behaviourist and TLC on your part, most of these problems can be either reduced or eliminated.

Firstly, we advise getting any cat with a sudden change of behaviour examined by the vet to exclude any medical cause. Once this is ruled out we can examine the cat's normal routine.

Simple things to start with:-

- ◆ Ensure sufficient resources e.g. litter trays should be one per cat and one spare. These should be placed in different locations and not near feeding stations—would you eat near your toilet?
- ◆ Allow the cat to control interactions with its owner
- ◆ Keep cat populations down and within own family groups.
- ◆ Allow cats access to outside even if only on a lead/harness or an enclosure for stimulation.

- ◆ Provide play opportunities
- ◆ Stimulate house cats—play/scratch posts allow them to perform natural behaviour.
- ◆ Avoid cleaning any urine with bleach or other ammonia based products as ammonia is the main component of cat urine and so to them you are cleaning cat urine with tiger urine! This just encourages them to urinate again.

Please ask at reception for further information on the correct cleaning of cat urine.

Senior Citizens Club (for the over 8s)

Happily pets nowadays have a longer life expectancy than 20 years ago. Along with this it also means that age related physical and mental problems are becoming more common e.g. arthritis, incontinence, and heart disease. Therefore we believe that middle age and senior pets require a higher level of attention.

FREE clinics have been set up at both our surgeries, by qualified veterinary nurses, designed for pets of 8 years or over to help early detection of any problems that may be present, which means they can often be managed and treated more successfully. In these appointments, there will be plenty of time to discuss any problems you may have noticed with your pet (if there are any) or any particular concerns you may have and special attention will be paid to finding solutions and treatment programmes for each individual case. There may be referrals to the vet, if thought necessary, which will then be charged for in the normal way.



If your dog or cat is 8 years old or over and you are interested in attending one of these clinics, please phone either the Totton surgery, 023 8066 0400 or Lyndhurst surgery, 023 8028 2358 for an appointment.