

Surgery Opening Hours
Totton Surgery
 Mon-Fri 8.30 am—6.45 pm, Sat 8.45 am—12.00 noon
Lyndhurst Surgery
 Mon-Fri 8.30 am—6.00 pm, Sat 8.45 am—12.00 noon



MATTHEW OXFORD BVM&S, MRCVS

We are delighted to welcome a new veterinary surgeon to Midforest Veterinary Practice. Matthew will be joining us in June. He will be working at both the Totton and Lyndhurst surgeries for the moment but in the future he will be based at Lyndhurst. I know he is looking forward to meeting all our clients and their furry friends. Matthew graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 2005. He has lived most of his life in Bournemouth and couldn't wait to get back to the sea and forest after completing his degree. He has spent the last 3 years in a busy, predominantly small animal hospital, gaining a large amount of experience in all areas of veterinary practice. His main interests are in anaesthesia and pain relief, chemotherapy and cancer care, and he is also keen on orthopaedics, Outside work, most of his time is spent walking with wife Helen, and his dog Louis, enjoying the beauty of the New Forest and local coastline.



Matthew and Louis



Flystrike on Rabbits

Flystrike is a common, extremely distressing and often fatal disease, which affects rabbits most commonly during the warm summer months. Rabbits at the highest risk are those that suffer from obesity, dental disease, arthritis, diarrhoea and skin wounds. Eggs are commonly laid in the fur of a rabbit's hind-quarters when rabbits develop a sore area, usually caused by faecal and/or urine soiling. These eggs hatch into maggots in as little as 12 hours, eating into flesh and causing it to die off and decay. The maggots eat further and further into the rabbits often emerging in the abdomen and then pupate in just a few days to produce new adults. The entire cycle can be completed in 7-15 days. Flies are also attracted to rabbits when environmental conditions are poor e.g. dirty hutches, therefore, it is very important to keep their living area clean and disinfected and to regularly remove waste and soiled bedding. Flystrike is easily prevented with good housing, husbandry and hygiene. Ensure that you feed a diet which is high in fibre to avoid diarrhoea and check your rabbit daily for any soiled areas and ensure that it is clean and dry. Never neglect rabbits. They must be handled daily and are allowed to exercise to prevent them from becoming obese and not being able to keep themselves clean. Further insurance against fly strike may be provided by use of suitable insecticides and insect repellents. Ask at reception for more details. If you find eggs or maggots on your rabbit, call the vet immediately.



Blood sucking locals...

Visitors to the New Forest can be assured of a warm welcome especially from a particular inhabitant who really likes to get under your skin. The tick is a delightful creature that sucks blood, and a few carry Lyme's disease that can effect dogs and humans. Ticks vary in colour according to species from pale cream through to brick red and dark blue. The best method of removal is with a special 'tick hook' removing tool, and to twist the tick rather than pull it. Forget the burning them off with cigarettes Humphrey Bogart style and whisky is only useful to toast your success afterwards. Prevention is better than cure and ticks can be discouraged from latching on to pets by a range of products available from your veterinary surgeon. *As a foot note, the signs of Lyme's disease to watch out for in humans are a red spot that develops at the bite site weeks afterwards and spreads to become a large red patch followed by flu like symptoms. Lyme's disease can be serious, so seek medical attention as soon as you suspect a problem.*



Kitten Club

We run FREE kitten clubs at our Totton surgery for all new kittens . They are run by a qualified veterinary nurse who has first hand experience of kitten rearing. This is aimed at new owners wishing to learn more about how to care for their pet, and a chance to meet other cat lovers. You will receive general advice on all aspects of kitten care, including behaviour, neutering, fleas and worms, dental advice and much more. FREE kitten packs will be given containing food samples, toys and a certificate of attendance and lots of useful information. We ask you not to bring your kitten with you but please bring along a photograph for discussion and to display on our notice board. Please telephone 023 8066 0400 for information on when the next kitten club will be held.

Puppy Socialisation



Why is socialisation important?

One of the most important things you can do for your puppy is to familiarise him with the things he will encounter in later life. A very well socialised puppy will hopefully grow up into a friendly, confident dog that relates well to people and other animals.

When should you socialise your puppy?

Before 12 weeks of age a puppy will approach anything or anybody willingly and without fear. Therefore it's vital that a puppy meets a wide variety of people, situations and other animals between 3-12 weeks of age. After 12 weeks of age socialisation is still necessary and an essential part of your puppies development. If you continue to make an effort until the puppy is a year old, you will end up with a friendly dog that can be taken out and about. As part of the socialisation programme for your dog, attending a high quality socialisation and training class would be beneficial. This should give you the opportunity for your dog to meet other puppies of a similar age in a controlled and safe environment. A professional, experienced trainer will be able to help and advise you on any questions you have about this important time in your dogs' life. It is really important that the experiences your puppy has are good ones, so ensure the class you choose can provide this, big classes are not always the best way to socialise your dog as it can be overwhelming for your pup. Small classes with only young puppies attending, using reward based training methods, will give your pup the best start. Your puppy needs to be vaccinated before it is allowed to mix with other dogs and taken out, ask your vet for details on vaccination programmes available at your practice.

What to consider if you have not already purchased your pup?

Choose your breeder carefully, a portion of the important socialisation time in your dogs' life will be whilst they are still at the breeders: the more good socialisation done before you bring the pup home the better chance you will have in helping your pup grow into a social adult. It is equally important to know your pup has come from parents of good temperament.

A dogs first year is really important and continuing to provide them with opportunities for positive experiences with people and other animals is highly beneficial.

Sarah Matthews Puppy School Tutor. Dog Behaviourist & Trainer.

Tel 01794 323908, www.4leggedfriend.co.uk www.puppyschool.co.uk



Our website is full of information.

- Surgery opening times
- Vets, nurses and staff
- Nurses clinics
- Animal fact sheets
- News page
- Insurance information
- Childrens' fun pages
- Articles written by the vets
- Our 24 hour emergency service
- Dog training
- Boarding kennels and catteries
- Rescue centres

Log on and have a look for yourself.

STEPS TO TAKE IF YOU HAVE LOST YOUR PET

1. Contact all veterinary surgeries. If someone finds a pet they will often take it to their usual practice or the nearest practice. We can also give you other useful phone numbers.
2. Ask neighbours to check their sheds and garages.
3. Put posters up in local newsagents. Do not put them on telegraph poles etc. as the council will remove them.
4. If you have lost your dog, phone the local dog warden 023 8028 5131 Mon - Fri 9am-5pm, or Lost Paws 0870 609 1449 Mon to Fri 5pm - 1am, Sat and Sun 9am - 1am. The police will no longer deal with stray dogs.
5. You can phone the local council as they will sometimes remove deceased animals from the side of the road.