



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.



nurse



clinics

Our qualified and experienced Veterinary Nurses would like to remind you of the **FREE** nurse clinics on offer at both our Totton and Lyndhurst surgeries.

The clinics include:-

- ♣ New puppy advice (can be pre-vaccination) to discuss diet/worming/socialisation and training etc.
- ♣ Kitten club (Bev at Totton surgery)
- ♣ Bereavement counselling—if you have lost a much loved pet and would like to talk to someone who understands what you are going through. (Bev at Totton surgery)
- ♣ 'Pre' new pet consultation—if you are thinking of becoming a new pet owner, whether it be a dog or cat, rabbit or hamster, we can offer help and advice on finding the most suitable type of pet for your situation and lifestyle.
- ♣ Four and six month puppy checks—to help you monitor the progress of your new puppy
- ♣ Dental check/advice on dental hygiene—does your pet have bad breath?! (87% of dogs and 70% of cats over the age of three are affected by tooth and gum disease)
- ♣ Diet and weight management advice—obesity is on the increase in our pets and causes the same major health problems for them as for humans have you checked your pets weight recently?!
- ♣ Senior citizen health advice
- ♣ Administering worming tablets (there is a charge for the wormer)
- ♣ Tick removal
- ♣ Firework/thunderstorm phobia advice
- ♣ Arthritis clinic

The nurses can also microchip pets and clip nails. There is a charge for these services.

If you would like to make an appointment for one of these clinics, ring Totton surgery 02380 660400 or Lyndhurst surgery 02380 282358.

Stop Press— Pet Insurance Help

If you find the whole process of choosing a pet insurance confusing, then have a look on our website, where you will find all the pet insurance companies listed with their insurance details. We also have a search facility where you can list your requirements and we will tell you which companies meet your needs and list their details. We hope this will help you find the insurance company best suited to both you and your pet.

Midforest Vets provides information to assist owners searching for pet insurance. Any contract you may enter into is entirely at your risk. Please make sure you understand all the terms and conditions of your Pet Insurance Contract as we cannot be held responsible for any decision you may make.

www.midforestvets.co.uk