

A POTENTIAL TREATMENT FOR YOUR AGEING PET

**Totton
Practice**
023 8066 0400

*Open
Monday to Friday
8:30am—6:45pm
Saturday
8:45am—12:00pm*

**Lyndhurst
Practice**
023 8028 2358

*Open
Monday to Friday
8:30am—6:00pm
Saturday
8:45am—12:00pm*

**Easter Opening
Hours:**

Good Friday
Fri 14th April
Closed
Sat 15th April
08:45—12:00
Sun 16th April
Closed
Easter Monday
Mon 7th April
Closed
24hr Emergency
Number:
023 8066 0400

On average we are all living longer lives than at any other time in history, and this includes your pets!

Much like humans, as pets age there may be noticeable signs of loss of brain function and mental sharpness—the medical term for this is cognitive dysfunction.

Not to be confused with simple ageing, cognitive dysfunction may be a disease state that can be assisted with treatment.

Signs to look out for:

Unlike humans, cats and dogs cannot be diagnosed with dementia or senility, however some similarities have been noted with changes in the brain. Signs to look out for are:

DOGS

Changes in sleep patterns,
loss of house-training,
Increased anxiety,

loss of alertness, changes in levels of aggression, and not wanting to play.

CATS

Changes in sleep patterns, no longer using the litter-box, excessive vocalisation, loss of alertness, changes in levels of aggression, and isolating themselves.

If your pet is displaying a number of these symptoms it is best to get them reviewed by a vet in order to establish the possible underlying cause.

Treatments for some of these disorders vary from simple behavioural modifications, supplements or diet changes, to drugs. What some consider ageing may be a disease state that can be helped with intervention and can help to make an ageing pet feel much better.



TEAM TALK

A SMILEY BABY GIRL FOR NINA



Our Lyndhurst receptionist, Nina, has been blessed with the safe arrival of a beautiful little girl called Elodie Grace. Elodie was born on 10th February, weighing in at a healthy 7lb 4oz. Nina tells us that Elodie has just started to smile, so we are looking forward to lots of happy visits at the practice from them both.

A BIG WELCOME TO EMILY

Read all about our new nurse overleaf ...



KAT FIGHTS FOR SRI LANKEN DOGS AND CATS



Many of you will remember Kat Round who up until recently worked from our Lyndhurst practice. She is currently working in Sri Lanka with a university friend, Janey Lowes, who runs WeCare Worldwide, a charity dedicated to improving the welfare of dogs and cats in the country. Sri Lankan veterinary care is generally very poor with little sterility and virtually no equipment or drugs so WeCare provide a free veterinary service which works in several important ways. The WeCare volunteers aim to assist with the countless sick and injured street dogs, many in pain and distress, that need urgent medical help. WeCare also run Catch, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Release clinics, neutering up to 70 dogs a day (and the odd cat!) with the aim of controlling the 1 to 3 million roaming dog population, many of whom carry the rabies virus—a deadly danger to the local human population. Finally, the charity provide an education programme on animal welfare and responsible ownership to the local population who are generally uninformed about the need for such care. The work of WeCare Worldwide costs a huge amount to fund, so please take a look at the charity website to discover more about their work and how you might want help fund their important work. www.wecareworldwide.org.uk



FLEAS AND TICKS ARE SPRINGING BACK!



Spring is in the air which means increased numbers of fleas and ticks alongside the warmer weather.

If your pet is scratching, chewing fur, and over-grooming the chances are that they have picked up an infestation of fleas or an annoying tick. Check for fleas by grooming your pet's lower back and flanks using a fine-toothed comb over a large sheet of dampened white paper. Flea droppings will soon become evident, appearing as reddish brown spots on the paper. Ticks can be found buried head first into any area of your pet's body; the tick's exposed body after it has fed generally resembles a kernel of sweetcorn in size and can vary in colour from cream to dark red. Don't attempt to remove a tick without using a tick removal tool, or get professional help from us at the practice. Prevention is much better than cure, so talk to either the Lyndhurst or Totton reception team about flea and tick products that will keep your pets free of parasites this spring.

TEAM TALK

A BIG WELCOME TO EMILY



We're delighted to welcome Emily Loosemore to our Totton practice. Emily joined the Midforest nursing team at the end of January 2017 having moved into the area from Dorset. She qualified in March 2012 and has special interests in canine behavior and in-patient care. Emily has a cheeky border terrier called Oska as well as two rescue cats called Norbert and Maggie. Her little boy keeps her busy at home, but when she does

have some spare time, Emily and her family enjoy taking long walks in the New Forest with Oska. You will meet Emily at our Totton practice, however she will occasionally be covering at the Lyndhurst practice so be sure to say hello when you see her.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR FEEDBACK

You may remember that during the early part of this year we developed an online client survey and invited you to leave feedback on our services to you and your pets. We are delighted to report that, on the whole, you've told us we seem to be getting it right! We've really appreciated the lovely comments that you've left and have noted what you like about our service, but just as importantly we've listened to the concerns that you have too and looked at ways that we can improve.