

AVIAN INFLUENZA (BIRD FLU): ADVICE FROM DEFRA

**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



**Your chance to
win a £25 John
Lewis shopping
voucher.**

Find out how
overleaf...

A recent outbreak of bird flu at Abbotsbury Swan- nery near Dorset has left 8 swans dead, all of whom tested positive for the H5N8 strain of the disease.

Although this strain of bird flu (Avian Influenza) is not harmful to humans, it is still causing alarm to local poultry keepers who are concerned about their chickens, ducks and geese. It is thought that the outbreak has been brought to UK shores by wild birds either transmitting the flu virus directly bird to bird or via their droppings.

Containing the Spread

In an attempt to contain the spread of this most recent outbreak, **DEFRA** (Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs) has announced that all poultry keepers are

required by law to house their birds, keeping them indoors and separate from contact with wild birds.

This can be achieved by using a shed, out-building or a temporary structure, but whatever is used it is important to ensure the birds' environment is as stress-free as possible.

Monitoring Welfare

It is important to manage and monitor the welfare of birds kept in such close proximity. Keep different types of birds separate using wire enclosures, checking them regularly. The poultry should have access to plenty of food, water, and dry bedding, and where possible, provide natural light which follows typical day and night patterns. Straw bales, perches, and

hidden goodies such as grit and small amounts of feed in the floor litter will provide an enriched environment which will help to reduce stress and feather-pecking. Housing must be monitored for red mite, the scourge of poultry keepers, as they will thrive in this environment given the chance.

Haven't Got an Out-House?

In the absence of a suitable building, a temporary enclosure can be created using close-mesh netting. The area should be kept clean and tidy with spilled feed removed.

Observe Sensible Precautions

Movements should be minimised in and out of the birds' enclosure and footwear cleaned before and after entry.

Signs of Avian Flu

Loss of appetite
Swollen heads

Respiratory problems

Please note: there is no risk to human health from the current strain of bird flu.

If you suspect bird flu call the DEFRA helpline on 03000 200 301.

or visit www.defra.gov.uk for more information.



LEAVE YOUR FEEDBACK FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A £25 JOHN LEWIS SHOPPING VOUCHER



Midforest Veterinary Practice values your feedback. In order to offer the best possible veterinary service to you and your pets we are very keen to hear about your experience when you last visited our Totton or Lyndhurst practice. Your feedback tells us about what we're doing well, but just as importantly, about areas where we can improve.

Simply complete our online survey and as a thank you we will enter you into a monthly draw for a chance to win a £25 John Lewis voucher. This is what Jeff Seed did last month and he was the lucky winner of our December voucher. Many congratulations to Jeff from all of us at Midforest.



Jeff Seed Wins the December Draw

For your chance to win a £25 John Lewis voucher in our January draw here's what to do:

Visit our website and click on the homepage survey link or Email us on enquiries@midforestvets.co.uk for link to our survey or:

[//www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SFW3RJW](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/SFW3RJW) or

Scan this QR code to take you to the survey page.



A HEALTHY NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION FOR YOUR PETS!

Why not start your pets' new year off with some good resolutions too!

Overweight pets are much more likely to develop related health problems such as diabetes, respiratory conditions, arthritis, even behavioural problems so it really is important to try and keep them trim. Ideally, your pet should have a visible waist and abdominal tuck; although the ribs should not be visible you should be able to feel them by running your hands over your pet's chest (applying minimal pressure – no cheating!) You can pop in any time, unannounced, to weigh your dogs on the scales (cats will need an appointment). It may be enough to reduce the amount of food being fed or increase the amount of exercise but sometimes you will need a bit more help. One of our nursing team can advise you how much weight your pet needs to lose and the special low calorie diets available. They will help you monitor your pets' progress and provide you with support when the going gets tough!



STAFF NEWS

WELCOME BACK TO EVA!



We're delighted to announce that Eva will be returning to our Lyndhurst practice now that her maternity leave has come to an end. She will be continuing her nursing duties on a part-time basis with us as well as looking after her lovely little boy, Freddie.

HELLO TO DONNA

Practice nurse Donna will be moving from our Totton practice at the end of January to join the nursing team at Lyndhurst. She will be working on a part-time basis alongside Eva and Ali. Donna qualified as an RVN in 2014 and is very excited about her latest career move.



WE'RE RECRUITING FOR A FULL-TIME SMALL ANIMAL VET AT OUR LYNDHURST PRACTICE

We're looking for a caring, enthusiastic and confident colleague to join 4 other vets. Ideally, you will be 2+ years qualified, a great team player, with a compassionate and caring nature.

If this is you and you are looking for a competitive salary and a lovely working environment click on our website for more details

www.midforestvets.co.uk

or call Liza Datlen on

023 8066 0400/023 8028 2358