



Practice News



**Dogstar
Foundation**



Paula one of our Qualified Registered nurses has recently just come back from Sri Lanka. Volunteering with the Dog Star Foundation. Whilst working out there she got to see the fantastic work Dog Star do for the street cats and dogs in Sri Lanka from their neutering programs to their vaccination and mobile veterinary clinics.

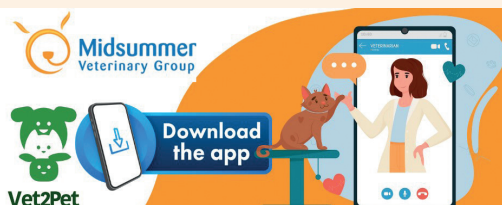
The Sri Lankan veterinary team has brought its world-class expertise directly to the streets and communities in the Gampaha District, sterilising over 75000 dogs on board a purpose-built, off-grid solar-powered surgery truck.

Dog star also engage and educate local communities which is crucial for sustainable change, especially in addressing the dog overpopulation crisis. They collaborate closely with communities by employing local staff.

Paula was also using her time there to help with her dissertation towards her Canine behaviour degree.



If you would like to find out more about Dog Star Foundation, then please visit their website <https://dogstarfoundation.com>



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HAVE YOU DOWNLOADED OUR APP YET?

Many of you are using the app to book your appointments and order your next prescription or even just having a chat about a minor worry you have with your pet. If you would like to have these benefits for yourself then do not delay download the app today!

CAT NEUTERING SUCCESS

As a practice in collaboration with the Cats Protection neutering scheme, we have neutered an extra 101 cats since July 2023! Since cats on average can have 18 kittens a year! this is a Crucial Step in Preventing Unwanted Kittens in Milton Keynes.

If you require more information about the Cats Protection neutering scheme, then please ask a member of the team.

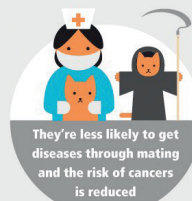


Why should I neuter my cat?

Getting your cat done is good for them... and you! Why? Read on...



Your cat will fight less, meaning fewer injuries and therefore lower vet bills



They're less likely to get diseases through mating and the risk of cancers is reduced



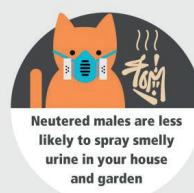
Your neutered male is less likely to roam, so there's less chance he'll be hit by a car



Got a female cat? No more being woken up by her wailing when she's in heat!



Kittens are very cute but hard work. Their care takes time, effort and money!



Neutered males are less likely to spray smelly urine in your house and garden

WHAT DOES NEUTERING MY CAT INVOLVE? HOW LONG IS THE OPERATION?

- Neutering is the general term for the operation in all cats and this includes either spaying or castrating. Spaying is the word used to describe a female cat getting neutered, and castrating is the word used to describe a male cat getting neutered.
- Neutering your female cat takes 20-30 minutes theatre time. Males significantly less time (10 minutes). You will be asked to drop your cat off in the morning and collect them later the same day.
- Your cat will have a general anaesthetic, so ask a member of our team about when to feed them before the procedure. It is advisable to keep them indoors the night before, do not forget to give them a litter tray!
- Effective pain relief means that the process is painless. Our vets operate using an incision on the left side (flank) of the female cat and will give pain relief injections to all cats being neutered. Your female cat will also come home with pain relief medication. A member of the nursing staff will discharge your cat where they will explain all the after care they need to receive after their procedure.
- We would recommend getting your kitten neutered at around six months old. This is because female cats can start having kittens from around this age, so to prevent any unwanted litters it is important to get them neutered as soon as possible. Remember, cats are not selective about who they breed with and will even breed with siblings and parents.
- We recommend microchipping if your cat is not chipped at the time they are neutered. This is a discounted price of £7.20 (normally £15) We recommend all cats are chipped. **Do not forget it is a legal requirement from June 2024.**



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www.midsummervet.co.uk

Antibiotics - Your role as a pet owner



Antibiotic resistance in pets is becoming a greater challenge, much like it is in humans. Antibiotic resistance is when the bacteria causing an infection are not affected by the antibiotic, making it ineffective as treatment.

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Antibiotics are not always the answer

Not every infectious disease needs antibiotic treatment (for example, viral infections). Do not demand antibiotics if your vet says that your pet does not need them.

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Diagnostic tests might be needed

Your vet may need to conduct a laboratory test to find out whether treatment with antibiotics is really necessary and, if so, which antibiotic will work best. Our vets will then be able to prescribe the right antibiotic for the right bacteria. Older antibiotics, such as penicillin, are often as effective as modern antibiotics.

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Follow the dosage instructions

Make sure that you give your pet all the recommended doses of an antibiotic as prescribed by your vet, even if your pet seems better after a few doses. This helps cure the current infection and will also help to keep the bacteria from discovering new ways of being resistant to the antibiotic.

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Our practice is proud to support the safeguarding of antibiotics

We would like pet owners to return unused and out-of-date antibiotics to our practice so that we can dispose of them safely **FREE OF CHARGE** (we can only accept veterinary medicines) .

Your cat must be microchipped by 10th June 2024!



New legislation is to be introduced to make microchipping your cat compulsory, making it easier for lost and stray cats to be reunited with their owners and returned home safely.

All cats will have to be microchipped by 20 weeks of age and their contact details stored and kept up to date on a compliant microchip database.

Your cat must be microchipped by 10th June 2024, and owners found not to have microchipped their cat will have 21 days to have one implanted or may face a fine of up to £500.

How it works:

The process of microchipping involves the insertion of a microchip under the skin between the shoulder blades. It only costs £15.00!

If you are not sure if your cat has a microchip, then book a free appointment for your cat to be scanned with them.

Are you planning to take your pet abroad on holiday this year?



In recent years, pet travel has become increasingly common, with many families choosing to bring their beloved pets along on international journeys.

However, with this privilege comes the responsibility of ensuring that

your furry companions meet the necessary health requirements for safe and smooth travel. One crucial aspect of international pet travel is the acquisition of an Animal Health Certificate, and staying informed about the latest legislation is essential.

The issuance of an AHC involves paperwork and documentation, which takes time to process. Providing early notice allows for a smooth and timely completion of these administrative tasks:

- You need an animal health certificate for your dog, cat, or ferret if you are travelling from Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) to an EU country or Northern Ireland
- If your pet needs a rabies vaccination, you must wait 21 days after the vaccination date before you get an animal health certificate. Day one is the day after vaccination
- We require a minimum of six weeks notice that you intend to travel with your pet
- Your pet must be microchipped

Your pet's animal health certificate will be valid after the date of issue for:

- 10 days for entry into the EU or Northern Ireland
- Four months for onward travel within the EU
- Four months for re-entry to Great Britain

Your pet will need a new animal health certificate for each trip to an EU country or Northern Ireland from Great Britain. **If you're travelling to a non-EU country, you'll need to get an export health certificate. You will also need to complete an export application form if you are in England, Scotland, or Wales.*

For up-to-date information please see <http://tinyurl.com/y92khuv4> (Gov.uk website).