



What We Have and Do

At The Veterinary Hospital each day is different. It can be a day of routine vaccinations or it is all hands on deck for an emergency life saving operation. In the past, our options were limited in how we treated and cared for the animal community. Now though, with extensive scientific research and modern technology, this has opened up an advanced level of animal care, which almost matches that of human medicine.

We understand it can be an anxious time for you when your pet is ill, and an unsettling experience for them too. However, we can assure you that our dedicated, compassionate, professional and experienced team, calming atmosphere and excellent well-equipped facilities will benefit you both.

Reception and Waiting Area Consultation Rooms Nurse Room
Operating Theatre Prep Room Pharmacy Dog and Cat Wards

Our advanced diagnostic equipment enables us to identify and treat your pets' symptoms quickly and accurately.

Digital X-Ray Ultrasound Endoscopy ECG In-House Laboratory

We also offer a comprehensive range of services to our patients

Preventative Healthcare Routine Vaccinations and Check-Ups
Well Pet Health Assessment and Blood Screening Dental Care
Referrals Neutering Repeat Medication Pet Healthcare Plans
Prescription Diets Nurse Clinics Puppy Parties Pets Passport
Ambulance Food Toys and Merchandise

If you would like further information on any of our facilities and services, please do not hesitate to contact our friendly team. We would love to hear from you!

Hours

The Veterinary Hospital
Hungerford

01488 683999

Mon to Fri 8am - 6pm

Sat 8.30am - 12.30pm

Belmont Veterinary Clinic

Pewsey

01672 563413

Mon to Fri 8.30am - 6pm

Sat 9am - 11.30am

24/7 Emergency

01488 683999

Pyometra

Making you aware of as many conditions as possible that could affect your pets' health, may help you recognise a problem in its early stage. Obtaining advice or any necessary treatment contributes greatly towards helping your pet recover and remain healthy to enjoy a happy life with you. Some conditions are fairly minor and need little treatment, while others are of a more serious nature that require immediate veterinary care, like **Pyometra**. This condition can occur in those female pets that have not yet been neutered. A simple description of pyometra is an infection of the uterus (womb), however it is a complicated and serious problem that does require urgent treatment.

What is Pyometra? The womb fills with pus. This can be due to various problems such as cysts, a build up of mucus and bacteria inside the uterus, an infection or a hormonal imbalance. Toxins (poison) from the pus inside the womb are released, and enter the blood stream making your pet very ill.

Symptoms of Pyometra.

If your pet shows any of these signs contact your vet without delay.

**Vaginal Discharge Loss of Appetite
Excessive Drinking Lethargy and Depression
Vomiting Swelling of the Abdomen**

The sooner treatment can begin the better.

Treatment If pyometra is suspected, we may take blood tests, x-rays and do an ultrasound examination to assist us in diagnosing the condition. Once confirmed, treatment can begin, but sometimes a pet is so poorly that an immediate hysterectomy operation is required.

Neutering your Pet If you are not planning to allow your pet to have puppies or kittens, then perhaps you should consider having them neutered. Not only will this prevent pyometra, but also other related conditions such as ovarian cysts, mammary tumours, cancer and of course unwanted pregnancies.

If your pet has not been neutered, we would be happy to fully discuss any concerns you may have, so please do contact us at the surgery.



Staff in the Spotlight



Laura

Pip

If you have not already met our two new Vets **Laura Bland** and **Pip Overgagge** who joined our team in summer 2019, we would like to introduce them both to you. We popped each one in our 'question hot seat', so you could get to know them a little better!

Hi Laura, so where did you train to become a vet?

I grew up in Northumberland and trained at Liverpool University. After qualifying, I worked in East Sussex for three years before moving to Newbury due to my partner's job as an equine vet.

What do you feel are the best parts of being a vet? It would be working with our lovely team and meeting our clients with their pets, but ultimately it has to be seeing our poorly patients get better.

We take it you had pets when you were young, but what was your first ever pet and the pet you would most like to own? Well it wasn't anything unusual or big but a very small hamster called Twister. Now I would like sheep.

Give us one thing from your bucket list? I'd like to travel round Canada in a camper van!

What is your favourite drink? Well a bit of bubbly Prosecco goes down very well!

And lastly your favourite snack? Green pringles & dairy milk chocolate!

Hello Pip, tell us a little of your life before joining us at Hungerford.

I qualified from Liverpool University in 2018, and then went to work in a mixed practice in Ross-on-Wye before joining the Hungerford team.

Which of our branches do you work at? I consult and perform surgery at Hungerford and Pewsey.

There's always a best part of a job, what's yours? I really enjoy the variety of cases that we see as you never know what is going to arrive each day and also watching a poorly inpatient recover and go home well again.

What was the name of your first pet? I had a cat called Sooty, and yes you've guessed right it was black! My grandfather had a farm and the cat was rescued from a haystack.

What amazing thing would you like to do from your bucket list? The first one that comes to mind is to drive a classic car around Cuba!

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Christmas Chat

Last Orders Please! December is such a busy time of year for most people. With endless lists of food shopping, cooking and present buying in preparation for the festive season, something always gets forgotten! If it's **your pet's long-term medication or food**, then it could cause a real problem for you at a time when the surgery might be closed. So do contact us well in advance of Christmas with your pet's food or medication order, and then you can tick that job off your list, **but do remember to collect it!**

Weighting for Christmas?

The festive season brings plenty of indulgence in the food department and here at the surgery, we enjoy a big dinner and a second slice of chocolate log just as much as the next person! Christmas also usually means **extra treats and food** for our pets too, but do go easy as obesity in dogs and cats can cause diabetes, heart disease, arthritis and breathing difficulties.



What's Cooking in the Kitchen?

Foods that are prepared in advance of Christmas such as the cake and puddings, require a lot of raisins and sultanas! Unfortunately, **these and also fresh grapes can be toxic** to dogs and if ingested can cause kidney failure. Store grapes or any foods containing raisins and sultanas (don't forget the mince pies) well out of your pet's reach!



A Kiss Under The Mistletoe!

Ancient Druids and Norse Mythology tell stories of this seasonal plant, but the truth is that fresh or dried mistletoe and berries contain substances that are **toxic for your pet**. Poinsettias and holly berries can also cause problems. If any are ingested, this can cause a range of **signs such as skin, mouth and throat irritation, swelling, excessive drooling, vomiting, lip licking, and diarrhoea. Do not delay in contacting your vet for advice.**



We say **BIG congratulations** to one of our vets **Laura Somers** who welcomed her baby daughter **Isobel Rose** to the world on October 22nd 2019 weighing 7lb 8oz. Laura is currently on maternity leave, but we are looking forward to baby cuddles when she comes to visit us!



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