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We would like to thank our clients for their continued loyalty and wish you all  
a Happy and Healthy New Year.  
From everybody here at Ikin & Oxenham

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### **Neutering - Know the Facts!**

Neutering is the general term used for the surgical removal of the reproductive organs in both male and female dogs and cats. Castration is the removal of both the testicles in the male cats and dogs, spaying is the removal of the ovaries and uterus in the females. If you decide that you would like to get your pet neutered we would generally suggest that cats are neutered from 4 months old, male dogs castrated between 4-12 months according to their breed and temperament and bitches spayed from 5 months of age. The operation should not be performed if the bitch is showing any signs of being in season or of a false pregnancy.

There are many benefits of neutering including:

- It prevents females from coming into season, avoiding the mess and disruption associated with this, females can bleed for up to 3 weeks during their seasons.
- Neutering avoids the risks of unwanted pregnancies and false pregnancies.
- It removes the significant health risks associated with pregnancy as well as the possibility of potentially fatal womb infections (pyometras)
- Neutering prevents cancer of the mammary glands in later life, this effect is greater if spayed before their first season.
- In male dogs and cats, neutering can reduce roaming and urine marking, thus reducing the risk of being involved in a road traffic accident.
- It prevents the risk of testicular cancer in males.
- It can help to reduce aggressive and unwanted sexual behaviours.
- Prostatic diseases are much less common in neutered dogs.

There are some disadvantages too, such as:

- Any major surgical procedure performed under general anaesthesia always entails a risk to life. The risk is very, very small but we would never say that the risk is zero.
- Weight control is more difficult in the neutered bitch. Spayed bitches do not have to get fat but close attention to diet and exercise is necessary to ensure that they do not do so.
- Urinary incontinence is more likely to occur in later life in spayed bitches. In general this is more likely to occur in larger breeds and certain breeds in particular e.g. Doberman, Bearded Collies. When it does occur it is usually possible to control with medication.

For additional information visit our website and navigate to our Advice pages. If you have any queries, please give us a call or pop in and speak to one of our members to staff who are always happy to help.

### **Lily Poisoning - Beware!**

Lilies are poisonous to cats, they affect the kidneys and cause kidney failure. All parts of the plant are thought to be toxic including the leaves, flowers and pollen. Ingestion of even a small quantity (e.g. less than one leaf or part of a flower), as well as grooming pollen from the fur is enough to potentially cause severe poisoning in a cat. Onset of symptoms is usually between 1-6 hours from ingestion. Initial signs are vomiting, reduced appetite, drooling, lethargy and weakness. After this kidney failure starts to develop, the onset of renal impairment is usually between 24-72 hours post ingestion, this may cause increased and then reduced urine output, depression, thirst, painful kidneys and convulsions.

Treatment would be to wash the fur/skin thoroughly to remove any pollen. Intravenous fluid treatment and monitoring the renal function (blood sampling) may be considered. Activated charcoal may be given, this absorbs toxins and can help reduce further absorption from the stomach.

Cats that are treated promptly usually recover fully but cats that develop kidney failure have a much more guarded prognosis.

If you think your cat has eaten any part of a lily then contact the vet immediately.

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### **Microchipping Law - from 6<sup>th</sup> April 2016!**

The microchipping of Dogs (England) Regulations 2015 will introduce compulsory microchipping of dogs in England on April 6th 2016.

Veterinary Nurses are able to microchip your dogs, so if you wish for your dog to be microchipped before the deadline then contact the surgery and book an appointment to see the registered veterinary nurse for a £10 microchip.



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### **Contact Us**

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