



CEDAR SNIPPETS

The Newsletter of Cedar Veterinary Group

March 2003

OPENING HOURS:

RINGWOOD HOSPITAL
69 Christchurch Rd
Ringwood
01425 473683

Mon-Sat:
Appointments all day

VERWOOD SURGERY
17 Ringwood Rd
Verwood
01202 825217

Mon-Fri:
Morning and Afternoon appointments available.
Tuesday:
Appointments to 7.30pm

Saturday:
Appointments morning only

FERNDOWN SURGERY
522 Wimborne Rd E
Ferndown
01202 861622

Mon-Fri:
Appointments morning and in afternoon

Saturday:
Appointments 9.00 to 11.00am

EMERGENCY SERVICE

24 hrs a day,
365 days a year
Phone your local surgery and you
will be diverted to the vet on duty

OPERATIONS AT YOUR LOCAL SURGERY

One thing that many of our clients have asked us in the past is why we do not perform more operations at our Verwood and Ferndown surgeries. One reason is that we do not want to duplicate a lot of the specialist equipment which we have at Ringwood—monitoring equipment, xray machines, endoscopes and the like. More important than this is the group of trained nurses we have there, so that we can deal with almost anything which comes through the door. Having one of them up all night to look after your pets is also an expensive business, which is why no other practice locally can offer this level of care, and we could not do this at all three sites.

However, we are improving our facilities all the time, and we have now started to carry out less complex operations at our Ferndown branch. This has the advantage for you that your pet does not have to travel down the road to Ringwood, and will be with people he or she knows from other visits. At Ferndown, our nurse Merrill assists with operations, and Matthew Harris and Collette Gibbs are the vets who operate there.

We are also starting to build our extension to our Verwood surgery, with the builders already in. This will give us two more rooms, and the ability to operate and run clinics with our nurses. We hope to have this in place for this Summer, so watch this space!!

We will be continuing with our ever-popular free ambulance service into Ringwood for more complex procedures. The ambulance is also due to be replaced in the next few months so watch out for a new look in the near future.



BABY



BOOM

Although we are all quite used to our patients having a dozen offspring at a time, it came as a bit of a shock last Summer when our three most experienced nurses all became pregnant within weeks of each other. We are pleased to say that everything went well, and we now have a regular procession of buggies when they come visiting. Congratulations to Donna, Sharon and Laura on their new additions—two boys and a girl! Laura and Sharon are returning part-time, while Donna is still planning her next move.

MICROCHIPS—ARE THEY WORTH IT?

We are often asked about the value of microchipping dogs and cats. Here are the common questions:

Q> Will it hurt my pet?

A> The microchip is a small tube about 1cm long and it fits into a needle. When we implant the chip, we just inject it under the skin. The only pain is that which your pet may feel from having an injection.

Q> Does my pet need a sedative or anaesthetic?

A> No.

Q> Where is the chip put?

A> We put all chips in the loose skin over the shoulders. This is the standard site so that we know where to look for it with the scanner.

Q> Who has scanners and do they read all chips?

A> Rescue societies, local council wardens, and vets all have scanners. Nowadays, only a few older chips are not read by these scanners, so you can be confident that any new chips implanted will be readable.

Q> I've heard that the chips can move and cause damage. Is this true?

A> The chips do sometimes move, although it is only underneath the skin. We have seen one or two which have moved six inches or so, and we have had to remove a few, but these are very rare.

Q> Is membership of the register an annual fee?

A> No it is a one-off payment for life, and this is included in the cost of the implant. If you move house, you may be charged a few pounds admin fee when you inform the registry.

For a microchip implant, just book an appointment at any surgery. Cost is £18.50 incl VAT (or £15.00 if implanted during surgery).

TEETH CHATTER

One way in which we try to keep up to date is to arrange visits from specialists, and we were pleased to welcome Cedric Tutt, a veterinary dentist, last month. Cedric is one of the dentists who runs our dentistry referral service for other vets.

We stopped consulting at 10am, and all vets and nurses converged on the Ringwood Hospital. Following a lecture on various aspects of dog and cat dentistry, Cedric put us through our paces and helped us with the dental procedures we had booked in for that day. Discussions on different techniques and use of different instruments went on well into the afternoon, when we had to get back to work. The vets and nurses felt it was a day well spent, and a good way for a larger practice such as ours to keep everyone informed of latest techniques. You may not see a lot of difference but your pets will be sure to benefit!