



Open 7 days a week with a 24hr emergency service

Eastcott Veterinary Hospital & Clinic

Edison Park, Dorcan Way
Swindon, SN3 3FR

Tel: 01793 528341

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enquiries@eastcottvets.co.uk
www.eastcottvets.co.uk



Or follow us on Facebook

Opening times:

7am – 8pm Monday to Friday
8.30am – 8pm Saturdays, Sundays & Bank Holidays

Branch Surgeries:

Bath Road

59 Bath Road, Old Town,
Swindon SN1 4AU

Opening Times:

8.30am – 7pm Monday to Friday
9am – 12 noon Saturdays

Cricklade Road

6 Clive Parade, Swindon SN2 1AJ

Opening times:

8.30am – 10am &
4pm – 7pm Monday to Friday



Eastcott Vets wish all our clients and their pets a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**



Our main hospital at Edison Park is open 7 days a week

Monday to Friday: 7am to 8pm

Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays: 8.30am to 8pm

Our opening hours over the Christmas period are as normal with the following exceptions:

Saturday 24th Christmas Eve – 8.30am – 5pm

Sunday 25th Christmas day – closed for consultations with 24hr emergency cover

Monday 26th Boxing Day – Closed for consultations with 24hr emergency cover

Tuesday 27th – Open 8.30am -8pm

Saturday 31st New Years Eve – 8.30am – 5pm

Sunday 1 New Year's day – Open 8.30am -8pm

Monday 2nd – Open 8.30am – 8pm

If your pet falls ill whilst the surgery is closed please call us on 01793 528341 as we have 24 emergency cover

P.T.O. for Eastcott's Christmas offers...

Winter – a seasonal survival guide!



Surviving the winter months can be a challenge for many pets, so here are a few seasonal tips to keep your pet fit and well at this time of year:

Obesity alert! With the nights drawing in, it can be more difficult to find the time to walk your dog and your

cat may prefer to settle down in front of the fire rather than getting out and about! Where possible constant exercise levels will help to keep you and your pet fit and healthy. Keep an eye on your pet's weight and please get in touch if your pet is gaining a few extra pounds, since carrying excess weight can have a multitude of adverse effects, including heart disease and diabetes.

Arthritis alert! As well as checking your pet's weight, keep an eye out for signs of joint stiffness. Limping and difficulty rising after a rest are both signs of joint stiffness and pain, which can be made worse by cold weather and also by carrying extra weight (see above). A prompt check of any such signs is advisable as it gives us the best chance of being able to help affected pets.

Festive Hazards! The festive season brings with it a huge range of hazards for our pets! Items



such as **ribbon and tinsel** are very attractive to mischievous pets and, if swallowed, may lead to

intestinal blockage. Whilst on the subject of edible items, don't forget that **chocolate** can be very toxic to dogs – in general the higher the cocoa content the more toxic the chocolate. Additionally, there are now several reports confirming that dogs eating even small



amounts of **grapes, raisins or sultanas** can develop renal failure. Many pets also love

chewing **house plants** however many of these are toxic to pets. Remember to make sure you keep **mistletoe** away from pets as both the leaves and berries, if eaten, are extremely toxic to pets. If you would like any further information

on caring for your pet at this sometimes challenging time, please don't hesitate to ask!

Winter Flea Alert!



With summer sadly now just a distant memory, it can be very tempting to lower your guard against these tiny wingless pests! However with modern central heating, fleas are no longer just the seasonal summer problem they used to be.

For optimum flea control, treatment should be all year round. **Spot-on treatments** are ideal for treating your *pet*, whilst **larvicidal house sprays** can be used to prevent fleas developing in your *home*.

Rabbits in winter



Don't forget the rabbits and guinea pigs in hutches outside. Check them everyday to make sure their water isn't frozen and handle them frequently to check any other problems that may appear. If your rabbit is an indoor rabbit don't forget they can chew bark, needles, fairy lights and wrapping paper.



Discounted Neutering for Dogs **20% off!!**

Here at Eastcott Vets we are delighted to offer **20% discount** on neutering dogs during December 2011 & January 2012. Neutering your dog provides a number of benefits. In addition to an aid to reduce behavioural problems it can help protect your friend against disease & illness.

To qualify for this discount please call our friendly Client Care Team on 01793 528341 & make an appointment.

Offer ends 31st January 2012 & cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer or discount.

When & Why to Spay your Dog

The best time to have your dog spayed is **2-4 months after her first season.**

Spaying before her first season has a higher risk of subsequent incontinence and vaginal/vulval infections. One of the best reasons to spay a dog is that by doing so, the risk of developing mammary (breast) cancer is greatly reduced. In order to benefit from this protection, dogs need to be spayed before their third season, after this there is no protective effect although she will still be protected from womb infections (pyometra), phantom pregnancies (pseudopregnancy), and ovarian/womb cancer, and you won't have the inconvenience of her coming into season again.

Due to the huge health benefits, the only time you shouldn't have your bitch spayed is if you are planning to breed from her. Breeding should not be undertaken lightly – there is no guarantee of a smooth pregnancy or birth, and a pregnant bitch requires extra time-consuming care and so will the puppies (just like human pregnancies!). There is no health benefit to your bitch having a litter.

Spaying your dog & the options available

Laparoscopy Spay – We advise owners of large breed or bouncy dogs to have their dog's spayed laparoscopically i.e. using keyhole surgery. Instead of one large incision (this can be 20cm in

giant breed dogs), the ovaries with or without the uterus are removed via 2-3, 0.5cm wounds. The dogs recover much faster; they are more comfortable and have lower risks of wound infections etc. There is also less need to restrict their exercise post-operatively. This also means that key-hole spays are recommended for working or agility dogs.



The traditional Spay – involves making a midline incision into the abdomen and removing both the ovaries together with the uterus if this appears abnormal in any way (the uterus is otherwise normally left). Dogs recover well from this procedure but have to be restricted to short lead walks for 7-10 days to allow the wounds to heal.

When & Why to castrate you dog

Dogs are usually castrated when **10 months-old or older.** However, castration can be performed much earlier (e.g. 5 months-old) in the event of excessive sexual behaviour – in these cases it is best to castrate early as such behaviour can be habit-forming. Castration can help with some other behaviour problems, but it is best to first seek a vet or behaviourist's advice in these cases. Having your dog castrated will protect him from testicular cancer and reduces the occurrence of prostate infections (unfortunately, it has no effect on the risk of prostate cancer). It also removes the risk of unwanted fatherhood!

NB: A dog is still fertile for potentially up to about a month after castration, due to sperm in the remains of the spermatic cords.

Pet Health Club

A **BRILLIANT** way to spread the cost of routine treatments for your pet by direct debit with an overall 10% saving and lots of excellent and competitive additional benefits such as:

- **Pet food at manufacturers cost price** (A large range of brands available not just veterinary recommended brands)
- **½ price** Nurses nail clipping – **£7.50**
- **10% off** Neutering your pet
- **½ price** Microchipping – **£10.00**
- **Free 6 monthly nurse check** (which includes dental, weight, puppy and elderly checks)
- When your pet reaches 8 years age you will be entitled to a **free urine analysis and blood pressure check** at every 6 monthly nurse check, as well as discounted rate on blood tests.

Insurance –

Take the pain out of paying bills upfront with our Free Direct Claim Service

At Eastcott Veterinary Hospital we are delighted to be able to offer a free service whereby we will make claims to selected insurance companies for direct settlement to us. We hope that by doing this we can take away some of the stress from you when a claim has to be made.