



Newsletter

Laparoscopic Neutering (Spaying) of Female Dogs

We were the first practice in Swindon to offer this as an alternative to the 'traditional' spay. Vets operate using 3 small 'keyhole' incisions a special camera and surgical instruments to enable the procedure to be performed with the minimal of surgical intervention. Following a 'Lap' Spay the patient is left with 3 small wounds of less than 1cm instead of a larger abdominal wound.

The advantages of Keyhole Surgery spays (or 'Lap Spays') in female dogs:

1. Keyhole surgery is generally a safer and less invasive method of surgery.
2. It reduces the trauma caused to tissues.
3. Pain post operatively is lower.
4. Recovery times are quicker.
5. The problems associated with wound licking and the chewing of stitches is significantly reduced.

Our vets are especially trained in this procedure by **Tim Charlesworth** MA VetMB DSAS(ST) MRCVS RCVS Recognised Specialist in Small Animal Surgery (Soft Tissue). You will read more about Tim in our Specialist article later. Visit our website to watch the short film on Laparoscopic Neutering (Spaying) and to see the prices of this and conventional spaying.



What happens if the vets are closed?

We have always seen our own 'Out of Hours' patients. We were the first vet in Swindon to open early in the mornings (7am), late in the evenings (8pm) and to be open all weekend at no extra charge. Outside these lengthy opening hours we are always available if you need us 24 hours a day for our patients and there is a vet and nurse in attendance at our Edison Park Hospital. In addition our inpatients are cared for around the clock with our Night Nurses. We don't see our patients as an inconvenience. Fewer and fewer vets see their patients after they are closed, not

only at night but at weekends too. It is perhaps understandable that they don't wish to have the disturbances of night time and weekend callouts so many pay 'Out of Hours' centres to take these cases for them. One drawback of this is the break in continuity of care. Records are often not accessible and these centres can be some distance away or difficult to find in an emergency. If there is no vet in attendance at night or at the weekend, in-patients must be transported to the emergency centre to be cared for which is not ideal for very sick patients.

Our Early Neutering Package for Kittens

Between 8 and 10 weeks: 1st Vaccination, health check, free dose of flea treatment, worming treatment and 4 weeks free insurance.

At 12 weeks: 2nd Vaccination, Neuter (Spay or Castrate) & Microchip.

Free post-op check up 3-5 days post surgery.

Cats can safely go out 10 days after neutering.

Females £110 Males £85



Hot Weather Advice

Dogs are usually the focus during hot weather but don't forget other pets.

- Check rabbits and poultry every day. Fly strike (maggot infestation) happens quickly and catching it early can make all the difference. Check beneath the tail or vent especially. Flies will leave small white/cream clumps which quickly develop into maggots in the heat. Provide plenty of shade and fresh drinking water.
- If you have a broody hen, encourage her off the nest to drink. You can offer sloppy mash to encourage more fluid uptake.
- Apply appropriate sun block to the tips of ears, noses and any hairless areas of white cats, dogs rabbits and bald areas on hens to prevent sunburn.
- For small pets, ensure that they are not housed near windows. It might be shaded at certain points of the day but could be in full sun at others.

Tips on caring for dogs during hot weather can be found in the Resource Centre on our website.

Meet our Specialists

A vet cannot call themselves a Specialist unless they are awarded the title. Specialists must:

- Hold a high level qualification, such as the RCVS Diploma, or other high level postgraduate qualification
- Keep up to date and contribute to the advancement of their specialism
- Be available for referrals from other veterinary surgeons

Vets with this Specialist status are uncommon which is why it's a rare luxury for us to have 3 under one roof.

Peter Southerden BVSc MBA DipEVDC MRCVS RCVS Recognised and European Specialist in Veterinary Dentistry (Director)

Peter is one of a very small number of veterinary dental specialists. He regularly sees a range of often very complicated dental and oral surgery cases. Examples are crown, root canal fillings, broken teeth, jaw fractures, cleft palate surgery and oral tumour surgery. Peter was even called upon to do a root canal filling on a lion.

Tim Charlesworth MA VetMB DSAS(ST) MRCVS RCVS Recognised Specialist in Small Animal Surgery (Soft Tissue)

Tim sees a wide range of different cases including skin grafting, lung lobe resection, tracheal stenting which is a procedure for dogs collapsed tracheas (Tracheal collapse often affects toy and small-breed dogs especially Yorkshire Terriers, Miniature Poodles, Pomeranians, Chihuahuas and Pugs.), urogenital surgery, keyhole surgery, emergency abdominal surgery and most surgeries that do not involve bone or teeth!

Paul Higgs MA VetMB CertSAM DipECVIM-CA MRCVS, European Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine

Paul sees cases including acute or chronic gastrointestinal diseases, respiratory diseases, excessive drinking, lethargy, weight loss or gain, fever, bleeding problems, complex endocrine diseases and acute or chronic kidney problems. Paul will also see cancer patients.

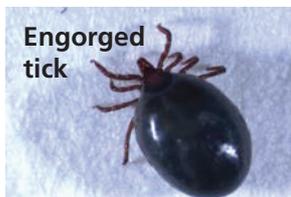


Our specialists often join together to give a multi discipline approach to patient care. They also see cases referred to them by other vets and frequently offer training courses and lecture vets from all over the world.

So, Eastcott patients are spoiled by having 3 specialists, a team of Certificate holders (experienced vets in their field with additional qualifications), vets receiving regular training from these specialists and excellent facilities and equipment including a CT scanner. If your pet has a condition that requires specialist attention we can simply refer you straight to them with no delay or travelling.

If you would like to read more about our Specialist vets and their team, visit our sister site: www.eastcottreferrals.co.uk (graphic images)

Big Tick Project



You may have seen TV presenter and naturalist Chris Packham talking about the University of Bristol's Big Tick Project this summer on BBC News. They are investigating rising tick numbers and the risk to our dogs and

ourselves from tick-borne diseases such as Lyme Disease. If you find a tick on your pet, we would love it! We will be collecting any ticks found on dogs coming in to the Eastcott Vets Swindon surgeries and sending any ticks found to the University of Bristol for analysis. Anyone whose dog takes part in this ground-breaking research will receive a Big Tick Project certificate and help progress veterinary and human medicine.

If you find a tick on your dog you can bring it into the Bath Road Veterinary Clinic, our Cricklade Road Clinic or our Edison Park Veterinary Clinic & Hospital off Dorcan

Way and we take some details and send your tick off to Bristol (you will receive a certificate).

Want to know how to protect your dog from ticks this summer?

The options available include spot-ons (typically applied every four weeks), sprays, collars and a NEW, convenient chewable tablets gives 3 months protection. Ask our staff for more information on which product is best for you and your pet.

O'Tom Tick Remover Offer: £3.99 during July & August



Lydiard Bark Microchip Offer: £5 Microchip for dogs and cats during July & August 2015

Edison Park Clinic & Hospital

Edison Park, Dorcan Way, Swindon SN3 3FR
For Sat Nav use SN3 3RB
Mon to Fri 7am - 8pm Sat & Sun 8.30am - 8pm

Bath Road Clinic

59 Bath Road, Old Town, Swindon SN1 4AU
Mon - Fri 8.30am - 7pm Sat 9am - 12pm

Cricklade Road Clinic

6 Clive Parade, Cricklade Road, Swindon SN2 1AJ
Weekdays 8.30am - 10am and 4pm - 7pm