

# Puppy Love news



Hale Veterinary Group

*Puddles on the floor, a pile of squeaky toys, a chewed slipper.....you have a new puppy!*

*Despite all the mess, your heart has truly been stolen by this little one who is depending on you for a lifetime of love, security, food and healthcare. At first everything is a little scary for the new family addition, especially those first few days away from Mum and the rest of the litter, but it's usually not too long before they settle in with you. It is such an exciting and very busy time, with plenty to organise in your new puppy's life.*

**Primary Vaccinations** followed by regular boosters will help to protect your pet against infectious diseases such as **Distemper, Leptospirosis and Parvovirus.**

**Microchipping** to identify a dog and its owner **became law in April 2016.** This tiny chip holds a unique code, which displays on the special scanners used by vets, rescue centres and dog wardens. Microchipping your dog is simple and can be done in a normal consultation appointment.

**Regular Parasite Control for fleas and worms** is essential. There are many products now available, and our team can advise on those suitable for your puppy.

**Early Socialisation** is advisable, as under three months of age a dog is most responsive to accepting new encounters. Familiarising your puppy with a wide range of experiences will help their development and behaviour, so they mature into happy socialised dogs. **Ask about our Puppy Parties,** a chance for puppies to play, and owners to get advice.



**Feeding** your pet a well-balanced, good quality and nutritious diet, will help bone and muscle development as your little one grows. By 'balanced' we mean a correct mix of nutrients in the food, suited to the age and breed. On the subject of food, puppies are notoriously known for eating everything in sight, especially if it's from the dustbin or garden, which could result in some messy diarrhoea!

**Although common in pups, never ignore diarrhoea,** as little ones can become dehydrated very quickly, particularly if they also start vomiting. There could be many reasons for bouts of diarrhoea; an infection, a change of food, worms or even stress created by moving to a new home.

With some treatment, your puppy should soon be on the road to recovery. However, any signs of blood or mucus in the diarrhoea, contact us immediately.

*If you would like more information about caring for a new puppy, our experienced team will be more than happy to help.*

## HVG Surgery hours

**Chippenham**  
01249 653561

**Mon to Fri** 8.30am - 8pm  
**Saturday** 8.30am - 12noon  
and 2.30pm - 4pm  
**Sunday** 10am - 1pm  
**24hour 7day Emergency**

**Melksham**  
01225 709701

**Mon Wed** 9am - 6.30pm  
**Tuesday** 9am - 7.30pm  
**Thurs Fri** 9am - 6pm  
**Saturday** 2.30pm - 4pm

**Corsham**  
01249 715097

**Mon to Fri** 9am - 6pm  
**Saturday** 10am - 12.30pm

**Calne**  
01249 815563

**Mon to Fri** 9am - 6pm  
**Saturday** 9am - 10am

## Advanced Surgery now available at Hale



**Chrissy Roberts**  
BA VetMB CertSAS  
MRCVS  
RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery

We are very pleased to report that we can now provide a great service for our patients requiring more advanced surgical procedures at the Hale Veterinary Group! Chrissy Roberts, an Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Surgery, joined us in 2016 to head our surgical team. She has particular interest in orthopaedic surgery, including complex fractures, management of cranial cruciate ligament disease and investigation and treatment of difficult lameness. She also has wide experience in soft tissue surgery, especially in ENT surgery, wounds, oncologic and reconstructive surgery. Chrissy qualified from Cambridge in 2004, and has focused on small animal surgery ever since, obtaining her RCVS Certificate in Small Animal Surgery in 2010. She began her career in South Wales where she met her husband who is also a vet, and was then a lead surgeon at a large hospital in Gloucester for nine years.



Fracture Repairs

Cruciate Ligament Surgery

# New Emergency Service at Hale Vets Chippenham

From Monday 27th March 2017 our practice will be teaming up with the dedicated emergency service provider Vets Now.

We are proud to say this service will be at the Hale Veterinary Group's new hospital facilities in Chippenham. The Vets Now team, made up of highly skilled emergency vets and nurses, will provide out of hours Emergency and Critical Care not only for our patients, but for those of several other local practices in the surrounding area. The team will be ready and waiting should you have a pet emergency in the middle of the night or over the weekend, and will even be available for FREE advice!

The Vets Now team will have full access to our own patient's records, and full care plans will be discussed as our day team hand over to the Vets Now team at night.

Providing the best care for our patients is paramount. With our new hospital facilities, new advanced surgeon, Feline Friendly Award and separate dedicated teams of vets and nurses both day and night, we really are going from strength to strength!



## A Wee Bit of Trouble

The mop and bucket are always at hand when a new puppy or kitten is in the household. However, if the puddles continue longer than expected or reappear later in life, this can cause a little desperation on your part. Initially, you may scold your pet for soiling in the house, but think before you do, as constant wetting could be a sign of incontinence. This basically means that your pet is unable to control when they urinate.

Urine is stored in the bladder until the body tells the animal it needs to wee, but if there is some failure within the waterworks system, then leakage occurs. There are a number of reasons, and it can happen at any age in males and females.

### Possible Causes of Incontinence

For the senior citizen pets, sphincter muscles, which hold urine in the bladder, weaken and leakage occurs, especially while they are resting or sleeping.

Some animals can be born with a defective bladder and urinary tract.

Urinary infections, stones, kidney disease or diabetes.

### Symptoms

Dribbling of urine. Stained fur and skin irritation. Damp patches or soaking of bedding. Constant licking around the genital area. Excessive water drinking.

Should your pet be showing any of these signs, please book an appointment to see the vet. Examination and possible tests will help us determine the cause, and the appropriate treatment can begin. Then the mop and bucket can return to its cupboard!

## Flea Power!



Well these nippy little parasites caused some major irritation for some pets and households last year and still continue. Do not be fooled by the fact that in the cooler months there are no fleas! They are a year round problem, so please maintain treatments, which are now available in the form of tasty chews, tablets, injectables or spot-on liquids. Call our friendly reception team or pop your pet in to our clinic for a weight check to assess the correct dosage for your pet .....and don't forget about treating for worms too!



**Hale Vet Group**

**Chippenham**  
19 Langley Rd SN15 1BS  
**24hour 7day Emergency**  
**01249 653561**

**Melksham**  
33 Union St SN12 7PR  
**01225 709701**

**Calne**  
Bank Row Church St  
SN11 0SG  
**01249 815563**

**Corsham**  
37 High St SN13 0EZ  
**01249 715097**



[www.haleveterinaryhospital.co.uk](http://www.haleveterinaryhospital.co.uk)