

Opening hours

(excluding Bank Holidays)

Bedford:

Mon-Fri 08.00-19.00
Sat 09.00-17.00
Sun 09.00-12.00
405 Goldington Road
MK41 0DS
01234 261622

Sharnbrook:

Mon 09.00-19.00
Tues, Thurs & Fri 09.00-17.00
Weds 09.00-19.00
Sat/Sun Closed
44 High Street
MK44 1PF
01234 782204

Wixams:

Mon, Weds & Fri 09.00-17.00
Tues & Thurs 09.00-19.00
Sat/Sun Closed
(next to Garden Centre)
Bedford Road
MK34 3HU
01234 742423

Please specify your vet and branch preference when booking your appointment.

Emergency Service

We provide our own 24hr emergency cover on site.

In the case of an emergency call

**01234 261622 or
07767 641753**



Autumn watch



With the onset of Autumn weather, you may be tempted to start dropping your guard against ticks, but did you know that the late summer and early autumn is the peak time for pesky parasites such as ticks.

Ticks generally live in wooded or forested areas, grass, bushes, undergrowth, meadows and clearings, but can also be found anywhere there is grass (along wildlife paths, lawns, parks...). Ticks are unable to jump so rely on animals and people to brush past so they can attach and feed. Once the ticks attach to an animal or human they remain in place feeding for up to 3 days, they only fall off once they are engorged.

Ticks can be problematic, they can cause a marked tissue reaction at the attachment site which can then be become infected. Ticks can also cause Lyme disease is one of the most common tick-transmitted diseases in the world. It is caused by a spirochete (bacteria) species of the *Borrelia burgdorferi* group. Dominant clinical feature in dogs is recurrent lameness due to inflammation of the joints. There may also be a lack of appetite and depression. More serious complications may include damage to the kidney and with rare cases, heart or nervous system disease. In order to minimise the risk of tick borne diseases, regular applications of spot on treatments will both kill ticks and also help repel them. Additionally it is a good idea to routinely check your pets coat and skin for ticks.

Please see a member of staff for advice on the best tick control treatment for your pets!

Toxic Hazards

Antifreeze It is common for car owners to top up their radiators with antifreeze ready for the colder months. The active ingredient in antifreeze is ethylene glycol, which is extremely toxic to all pets, ingesting even a small amount can cause kidney failure and even death. Ensure all spillages are cleaned up straight away **[you could consider changing onto propylene glycol based antifreeze which is considerably less toxic]**.

Stationary With the return of children back to school and new supplies of glue sticks, pencils and magic markers being purchased, means there are extra hazards around for our pets. These items are considered low toxicity so are unlikely to cause serious problems, however since gastro-intestinal upset and blockages are possible be sure the children keep these items out of the reach of your pets.

Mushrooms Whilst mushrooms can grow all year round, some species particularly like damp wet conditions which is found at this time of the year. Almost 99% of mushrooms have little or no toxicity, the remaining 1% are highly toxic and can cause life threatening problems in pets. Poisonous mushrooms are difficult to distinguish from the non toxic ones, so its best keep pets away from areas where they are growing.

If you suspect your pet has ingested a toxic substance, please contact us immediately.



How to remove a tick

It is a good idea to remove the tick as soon as possible, minimising the disease risks. It is important to make sure the mouth part of the tick is removed along with the body. You should never try to pull, squeeze or burn the tick to remove it.

Specially designed for the purpose, tick removers are really effective.

You slide the v shaped hook under the tick and then twist the hook until the tick is released.

Alternatively you can arrange an appointment to see one of our skilled nurses who will remove the tick for you.





Eliminating the fear of fireworks

Does my pet have a fear of fireworks?

If you are wondering whether your dog is having trouble coping with loud noises, check this list of symptoms below:

Trembling and shaking
Trying to run away
Refusing to eat

Clinging to owners
Soiling the house
Cowering and hiding behind furniture

Barking excessive
Pacing and panting



Overnight Care at Scott Veterinary Clinic



Patients that require overnight care at the Scott Veterinary clinic are hospitalised and treated at the main Bedford surgery. Our own duty nurse and Veterinary surgeon will continue to assess each patients' needs and provide appropriate levels of care according to their care plan and individual requirements. We have a dedicated night vet who remains on the premises overnight to monitor and care for your pet.

Please ensure we have the appropriate contact details for you and inform us if your pet has any special dietary requirements or is on regular prescription medicine. You may be asked to provide your pets special food or medicine for the duration of their stay.

You will be advised of the best time to contact the surgery for progress updates.

Our own team provide out of hours and emergency care from 7pm-8am. If you are at all concerned about your pet, please contact the surgery on the numbers below where the night team will be able to triage your call.

In the case of an out of hours emergency please telephone:

**01234 261622 or
07767641753**



Top 10 firework tips



How to keep your pets happy during the firework season:

1. In the weeks leading up to the firework season, desensitise your pet with firework sounds. Play the sounds on low volume to start and steadily increase the volume over a period of weeks.
2. Provide a den or hiding place for your pet whilst fireworks are going off.
3. Use a pheromone diffuser as close to the den or hiding place as possible or where your pet spends most of its time. Pheromone collars are also available.
4. Ignore fearful behaviour, dog may pick up on their owners' anxiety making the problem worse.
5. Walk your dog early in the evening before fireworks start.
6. Ensure windows, doors and cat flaps remain closed during the firework season to both prevent pets escaping and reduce the noise levels.
7. Ensure your cats have access to enough litter trays during firework season especially if you're keeping them inside.
8. Provide distractions, in the form of new toys and chews. Draw curtains and put the TV or radio on to help mask any noise.
9. Do not punish your pet! This will only make your pet more distressed.
10. Try not to leave your pets alone when fireworks are going off.
11. Continue using pheromone diffusers after the firework season has finished.

If you feel your pet suffers with the firework season please contact us to discuss the best possible treatment options available for them. There are also a number of non-prescription treatments available.



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