

Scott Veterinary Clinic

News

Spring
2019



Opening hours

(excluding Bank Holidays)

Bedford:

Mon-Fri 08.30-19.00

Sat 09.00-17.00

Sun 09.00-12.00

405 Goldington Road

MK41 0DS

01234 261622

Sharnbrook:

Mon & Weds 09.00-19.00

Tues, Thurs & Fri
09.00-17.00

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

MK45 3HU

01234 742423

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

Springtime

Between April and July each year, the RSPCA collects over 20,000 young birds. Every spring and summer the RSPCA is contacted by thousands of people who find what they think is an abandoned young bird or other orphaned animal. In most cases these youngsters have not been abandoned and 'rescuing' them may do more harm than good. Their mother is usually close by and looking out for them – human interference can lessen a young animal's chances of survival.



If you find a young bird out of its nest, it is probably a fledgling. Fledglings of garden birds usually leave the nest about two weeks after hatching – just before they can fly. They will have grown all or most of their feathers and are very mobile and can walk, run and hop on to low branches. Don't try to return a fledgling to its nest as you may disturb other young birds. Fledglings are fed by their parents who are rarely far away, encouraging the youngsters to stay in cover. Often one parent will look after the fledgling while the other makes a nest for a second or even third brood of young. If you are worried, go right away from the site and return in an hour or so. You will almost certainly find that the natural parents have taken care of the youngster. If you think a bird is genuinely orphaned – for both parents have been killed by a cat or it is clearly sick – put it in a warm, dark, well-ventilated box. Do not offer water, milk or food. Contact your nearest wildlife rehabilitation centre.



The benefits of neutering

Neutering your pet not only prevents unwanted pregnancy but there are many additional health benefits too.

Neutered pets are likely to live longer, healthier lives after being neutered. There is a significant reduction in females developing mammary (breast) cancer and makes prostate problems far less likely in males. Neutering eliminates the chance of uterine infections in females and testicular cancers in males.

Surgical neutering in cats dogs and rabbits:

Females are 'Spayed'. The most routine spay performed in veterinary practice is an Ovariohysterectomy (this is what we do here at Scott's). This involves surgical removal of the uterus and both ovaries under general anaesthetic. Although the approach varies slightly with species, all our routine spays are performed this way. Males are 'Castrated'. This involves surgical removal of the testicles under general anaesthetic. Castration can help reduce many social problems such as marking territory, roaming and some types of aggression.

Depending on species, breed type, weight and sex we can offer this service from as young as 4 months. Please contact the surgery for further information on neutering and the recommended age of surgery for your pet.



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Dental Care: Avoiding Nasty Nashers

The condition of your pets mouth can have a significant impact on their overall health and well being. 80% of cats and dogs over 3 years of age are affected by periodontal disease. Left untreated it can lead to severe dental disease ultimately requiring dental surgery and tooth extraction. In some cases severe periodontal disease can cause organ dysfunction.

What is periodontal Disease?

Caused by the bacteria in plaque it damages the structures that hold a tooth in place, affecting the gums and bone. It can cause pain and discomfort for your pets when they are eating. It's also the most common clinical condition affecting adult pets and is almost entirely preventable!

Home Dental Care

The most effective way to avoid periodontal disease is to brush your pets teeth, for the exact same reasons we brush our own. Controlling the bacteria in their mouth with daily brushing can really make a difference, especially when started from a young age. The good news is our team can help. Our excellent nursing team can offer advice on home dental care practices and techniques. They'll even provide a tooth brushing demonstration! There are a range of different products designed especially with your pets in mind and our nurses will advise on the best products available for your pets requirements.

Dental Treatment

Our vets routinely examine your pets mouth when they come in for vaccination and its often here that they'll note any changes. If dental treatment is recommended, you will be advised of the best course of action. In some cases, to descale and polish the teeth may be enough, followed by regular brushing at home to help avoid further deterioration however, it is not uncommon for the need to extract diseased teeth. A general anaesthetic is required, whether it be a descale and polish or extractions and your pets treatment will be tailored according to their requirements. If you have any questions about dental health for your pet please ask one of our team, who will be happy to advise you. We can also provide leaflets and information sheets about dental care.



Have your say



We welcome your feedback. It is important to us that we hear your views and listen to your suggestions. You can feedback to us in the following ways:

- Email: admin@scottveterinaryclinic.co.uk
- Facebook: @ScottVets
- Online: www.scottveterinaryclinic.co.uk/client-feedback
- Phone: 01234 261622

Or send a letter to our Practice Manager at Scott Veterinary Clinic, 405 Goldington Road, Bedford, MK41 0DS.

Heart Health — Our pets hold a special place in our hearts so lets help take care of theirs.

Diagnosing and treating heart disease is just as important in our pets as it is in people. Early diagnosis and treatment can significantly improve and prolong your pets' life.

You and your pet need good habits to stay healthy. Here are some recommendations that will help you keep your pet healthy and in shape:

Good Diet: A healthy diet is good for your pet's heart just as it is good for our own hearts. Your pets diet needs to be well-balanced and made up of high-quality ingredients. Talk to one of our vets or nurses about the diet you are feeding. We can help you choose the right pet food and recommend how much and how often you should feed your pet.

Exercise: Regular exercise will keep you and your pet in great shape. Your pets exercise requirements will differ according to size, breed, age, and health. Talk to one of our team about your pets exercise requirements.

Check-ups: Take your pet to the vet at least once a year for an annual check-up. (Remember, once yearly for your dog is about once every 5–7 in "people years.") While you're there, take the opportunity to ask plenty of questions and get some advice on how to keep your pets heart healthy.

How is a heart problem diagnosed?

Vet Examination: A physical examination will provide your vet with clues as to whether your pet has any heart-related problems. He/she will evaluate:

- Weight and body condition
- Breathing rates
- Heart rates
- Pulse rates
- Skin or tissue abnormalities
- Abdominal shape



Listening to your pet's heart and lungs: A stethoscope may allow your vet to determine if a heart murmur is present. (Appreciate that not all murmurs are easily heard.) Also, the heart rate and rhythm can be assessed with a stethoscope to determine if there is an irregular heartbeat. He/she can listen to the lungs to detect abnormal sounds.

Your vet will provide recommendations, based on their findings, on how we can further investigate, if it is necessary.

Our Senior Clinical Director, Tally Clift, is an Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Cardiology.

If you have concerns about your pets heart health, please contact us to arrange an appointment with one of our vets

 **01234 261622** 

Committed to providing professional and compassionate care