

Wide-eyed and Amazingly cute

A kitten can really pull at the heart strings, and before you know it that ball of fluff is curled up on your lap at home!

Having a new pet is exciting and fun. He or she will look to you for a lifetime of love, food, security and care. With some cats reaching 15-20 years old, be sure this commitment will suit your lifestyle **before** embarking on cat ownership.

Is your home suited to a cat?

Consider if your new addition is to be an indoor or outdoor cat. If outdoor, are you near main or busy roads? Will having a cat indoors 24/7 suit you? A litter tray will be required, so be prepared for regular cleaning out of their poo and wee. Indoor and outdoor felines, can also be quite mischievous at times. It has been known for cats to knock over vases of flowers, climb the curtains and claw the furniture!

Will your lifestyle accommodate a pet?

All pets like company, so consider how much time you can devote to your pet. Are you out all day? Do you have a large family to care for? A kitten is extra and at times quite hard work, and can demand your attention day or night! If you go away, who will care for your cat, and what cost would this entail?

Can your budget suit a pet?

Quality food, vaccinations, flea and worm treatments will all help to keep your pet healthy. So you and your pet have the best possible start, we offer packages to spread the cost of basic healthcare, and provide free nurse clinics to help and advise. Consider insurance for your pet, so in the event of accident or sudden illness the cost of treatment is covered. There are many different policies, so ensure you know exactly what is included in the cover.



Harold Hill

01708 344455 01708 386046

Monday to Friday 9am - 6.30pm

Saturday 9am - 12.30pm

Elm Park

01708 458424 01708 438039

Monday to Friday 9am - 6.30pm

Saturday 4pm - 6.30pm

Sunday 10am - 6.30pm ★

Consultations by Appointment

24 hour 7 day
Emergency Service

www.hillparkvets.co.uk

01708 344455



Spring
2015

So you've decided YES!

Now, where will you get your kitten?

Breeders and rescue or rehoming centres are a good place to start. Most of these places are reputable, but sadly there are also some dishonest people out there, so beware!

- ✓ **The premises should be clean, calm and warm, as should the kittens.**
- ✓ **You should be able to see their Mum too. If not, be very wary, and ask where Mum is!**
- ✓ **At the centres, if possible obtain some background history of the kitten.**

NEVER buy a kitten from the back of a van, in the street, boot fairs or somewhere with numerous litters of kittens.

A pet can give great pleasure and companionship, but when hasty decisions are made under pressure from family or friends, this can sadly result in a pet leading a lonely and unloved life, or needing to be rehomed.



We have plenty of information to help you make the right choice, and we are more than happy to discuss in detail about having a new pet. A good start for you both, is the way forward to successful pet ownership.

After the long dark winter.....comes Spring

Our furry rabbit companions, will probably be ready to do the 'binky' when those first warm rays of sunshine arrive! That is of course if you are providing the full gold standard life for your pet rabbits. Bunnies are very social creatures and require company. One pet rabbit kept in a cramped cold hutch in the corner of the garden, will be a very unhappy pet indeed, as in the wild they always live with other rabbits. So a neutered male and female pair live well together as pets.



Inquisitive, active and intelligent; rabbits need to express their natural behaviour.

Provide an earth pit....rabbits love to dig! Tree stumps, twigs and suitable toys for playtime. Scatter pellets in the hay and fill boxes or cardboard tubes to encourage 'foraging for food'.

Their housing needs detailed attention too.

This should be raised, secure and of adequate size for the number of rabbits. Provide hiding places like cardboard boxes, large tubes. Platforms and separate areas for eating, sleeping and toileting are also required.

Indoor and outdoor areas must allow them to

Easily stand up on their hind legs.

Lie fully outstretched.

Make at least 3 consecutive hops.

Turn around unhindered.

Visit www.rabbitwelfare.co.uk for full information on housing and run size.

We have plenty of advice here too, so do pop in for a chatand for those of you wondering what 'the binky' is?.....it's a jumping and twisting action that rabbits do when happy. If you see your bunnies doing this, you know you've got it right!

It's in the Blood

Some people just faint at the tiniest speck of blood, while others are fascinated by it! This amazing and busy river of red liquid, flows through your pets' bodies, distributing oxygen and nutrients, fighting infections and collecting waste. Blood also carries a wealth of information about your pet, so if we suggest a blood test, do not be alarmed as it will help us determine what is wrong or what course of action we should take to help improve their health.

The process is almost the same as for humans, and in general is quick and simple. For our furry pets though, we shave a small area of their hair, then a fine needle is inserted into a vein from where the blood is taken. A nurse will hold and reassure your pet during the process. A small amount can tell us, for example, if your pet is anaemic, has thyroid problems or carries the feline leukaemia virus.

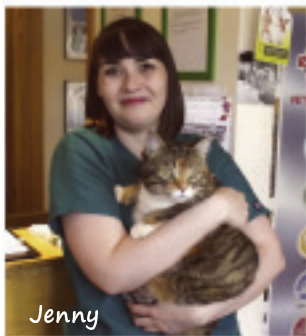


If your pet requires surgery We may suggest a pre-anaesthetic blood test, which is beneficial to all animals about to undergo anaesthesia, in particular older animals. Results will help reveal any problems that could increase the potential risk of the anaesthetic, like a weak liver and kidney function or diabetes. It will also assist in deciding on a suitable anaesthetic for your pet according to their health and age.

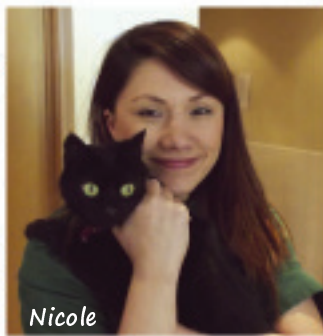
Cats and Dogs of Peru

Our vet Nicole and veterinary nurse Jenny, from our Harold Hill branch, flew across the world to Peru on 10 February to work at an animal charity, neutering and providing basic health care to local cats and dogs.

There until the end of February, their cases were jam packed with veterinary supplies from Hillpark for these animals in need. We wish our two team members lots of luck in their quest to help the less fortunate animals of the world. If you would like to make a donation towards further supplies of sterile packs, gloves, needles, consumables etc., please contact us for the account information.



Jenny



Nicole

1 Lindfield Road **Harold Hill** RM3 9BJ



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Identify - Diagnose - Treat

Some tests we can perform in-house, using our advanced diagnostic equipment to provide rapid results. Samples that require more detailed analysis, are sent to outside laboratories via a daily collection courier. Depending on the type of test, results are usually returned to us within a few days.

Blood Screening Profile Here at our surgery we can do a full profile of your pet's blood, to help detect signs of disease and organ dysfunction. Early identification of a problem can help make it quicker and easier to treat the condition, which improves the chances of a happy outcome. If you are interested in a blood screening profile for your pet, please contact us for further information.



.....and a little closer to home

Kim our Head Veterinary Nurse is about to embark on some major fundraising events for a local re-homing centre "Wanderers Haven".

In the past Kim and other nurses at Hillpark have often raffled baskets at our front desk, raising considerable amounts to help this re-homing centre. They take and care for all the dogs that arrive at our practice needing a new home for various reasons.

The next batch of fundraising for this worthwhile cause begins in **May**, when Kim is holding a **Quiz Night**. Come along for a fun evening to help raise those much needed funds. If you would like to support Kim in donating raffle prizes or purchasing a few raffle tickets, she and the animals of Wanderers Haven would be very grateful! In **June**, Kim will be raising further funds by donning her swimming costume and heading for the waters of Lake Windermere for the **Great North Swim**.



Kim

If you would like to attend the quiz or sponsor her swim, just contact Kim at Elm Park.

We really do appreciate all the support you give us at fundraising times. Without this, many animals would be in a very sorry position indeed. Our Practice Manager Sharon re-homed her little dog Nipper from Wanderers Haven, and would encourage anyone who is considering a new dog to join their family, to adopt a rescue pet.

89 Coronation Drive **Elm Park** RM12 5BT



find us on  



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