

# Puppy Love

*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 FREE 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.

## Are you Cuddling your New Arrival?

It's very difficult to get jobs done in the house when a new little one is on the scene! That very important cuddling just has to be done. They're so adorable and very important to you, so why not treat your puppy or kitten to our **VIP Package?** It's a perfect start to their life of preventative healthcare and at a great price too!

### £95 VIP Kitten Package

includes -  
Microchip  
Full Primary Vaccination Course  
1st months flea and worm treatment  
Neutering (Spay or Castrate)

### £62 VIP Puppy Package

includes - Microchip  
Full Primary Vaccination Course  
1st months flea and worm treatment  
*Please contact us for full information on our VIP membership.*



## 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](http://www.hillparkvets.co.uk)

01708 344455



Spring  
2017



## We Will Come to You!

Here at Hillpark, we understand what an anxious time it can be for you when your pets are poorly, and we try our best to assist in every way possible, to help ease the stress. There are also those days when it can be difficult for you to attend the surgery with your poorly pet. Maybe you are ill yourself, have no transport, or are elderly. It might even have reached that very difficult time when your much-loved pet's life is coming to an end, and you cannot face coming to the surgery. So we decided to help you even more, and have introduced a brand new service at Hillpark to further ease upset and anxiety.

**Homecare for Pets is where a vet and nurse will visit you to treat your pet in the privacy of your own home.** Purchasing two black cabs and having a new part time vet join our team, has enabled us to provide this very special Homecare for Pets. **The cost is £48** plus any medication your pet may require. If at anytime you feel this home visit service would benefit your circumstances, please call our friendly reception team for further information.



# Staff in the Spotlight

We welcome two new vets to our team at Hillpark, **Paolo Pensa** who joined us in July 2016, and **Josh Aldred** who started in December 2016.

**Hi Josh, we've heard you have worked with many different species of animals, but do you have any unusual pets of your own?**

Yes, I have a Bearded Dragon called Nola, a number of snakes and the not so unusual but still lovely cats Leo and Nugget. As for the animals I have worked with, they range from field mice to shire horses, plus turtles, snakes, crocodiles, monitor lizards, fish and our feathered friends the birds!

**Have you worked abroad?**

I went to Cyprus to help with the neutering programs over there based at a cat and dog shelter.

**Where did you qualify from, and what interests you most in veterinary care?**

Well I always wanted to be a vet since I was a boy, and in 2014 I became fully qualified from the Royal Veterinary College, London. My particular interests lay in the fields of surgery, ophthalmology and dermatology.

**Outside of work...hobbies, relaxation?**

Sport, sport and more sport! Football, rugby & golf to be precise.

**One more question about being a vet.....what's the best part for you?**

Simply just.....saving lives.

**Hello Paolo, tell us what's your favourite part of being a vet?**

That has to be seeing my patients get better after receiving treatment.

**Do you have a particular interest in animal care?**

Yes, I am very interested in cardio respiratory medicine, and would like to improve my skills in this area.

**What inspired you to become a vet?**

I have always been interested in medicine and biology, so studied at Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy from where I qualified in March 2008. After this I was very lucky to travel to the USA and spent a month at a VCA centre in Albuquerque. Just a few months later I moved to the UK, where I worked for the RSPCA in Gloucester.

**When you are not being a vet, do you have any hobbies or interests?**

I like travelling and seeing new places, and also enjoy the great outdoor sports of cycling, trekking and running. For relaxation you can't beat settling down with a good book!

**And finally, any future goals in your veterinary career?**

Yes, I would like to study and attain a certificate in vet cardiology.



## A Wee Bit of Trouble

The mop and bucket are always to 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!



Josh Aldred  
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