

# 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.

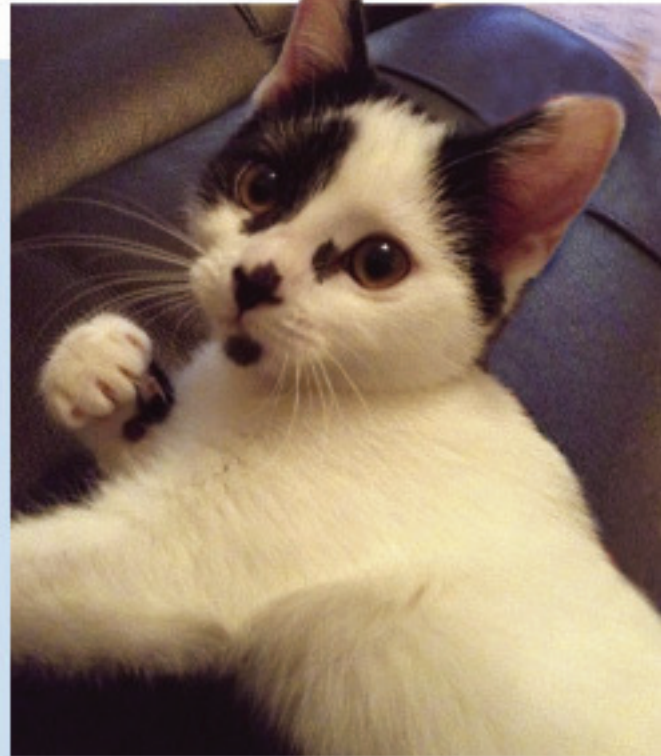
## So you've decided YES! Now, where will you get your kitten?

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 companionship and pleasure, 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](http://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 chat ....and 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!

## SURGERY hours

### ARTHUR LODGE

Horsham 01403 252964

Monday to Friday 8am - 7pm

Saturday & Sunday  
9am - 4.30pm

### WARNHAM MILL

Horsham 01403 588066

Monday to Friday 8am - 6pm

### WHITE HORSE

Roffey 01403 249902

Monday to Friday 11am - 1pm

### DOWNSLINK

Southwater 01403 732219

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm

### ASH BARN

Ockley 01306 713177

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm

Consultations by appointment

**24 hour 7 day Emergency**

Service by our vets

**01403 252964**



# 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. Just a small amount can tell us, for example, if your pet is anaemic, has thyroid problems or carries the feline leukaemia virus.



## Dealing with a Hard Choice

As a pet owner there comes a time when a choice needs to be made on how your beloved animal and family member leaves this world.



This is not a subject most people wish to consider before it becomes a necessity to ease suffering, but nevertheless it is a decision, which often needs to be made. When the time comes, the majority of people would choose to have their pet put to sleep in the comfort of their own home. This could be with Fluffy on her favourite bed, with her favourite blanket or a nice sunny spot in the garden where Fido loved to play, dig or just sunbathe. This can be the least stressful option for your pet rather than having to take an ill, ailing or elderly pet on an uncomfortable car journey, then having to wait in a busy reception, along with all the different animals and strange smells that come with being in the practice.

**With this in mind the preferred choice for many pet owners is a home visit, and there has been an increase in number of owners calling in the home euthanasia vets. This is all well and good, it's simple. Someone comes straight to your home, eliminating the need to travel.**

## 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 the vet in deciding on a suitable anaesthetic for your pet according to their health and age.

## 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.



However, this means an unknown person being introduced to your pet at an important time in the relationship between pet and owner. Again this could increase the stress levels for your pet.

**If we would like our pets to be in familiar surroundings, why would we want to bring in a stranger? Wouldn't you like to have vet who has met and knows your pet and you?**

You can call us and request your regular veterinary surgeon to come to your house and help you through this difficult time. Here at Arthur Lodge, we offer a home euthanasia service for our clients' pets and have done so for many years. **If you feel that you would like to take advantage of this when the time comes, then please contact the surgery.**

**ARTHUR LODGE 01403 252964**  
17 Brighton Road Horsham RH13 5BE

**WARNHAM MILL 01403 588066**  
Warnham Road Horsham RH12 2QU

**DOWNSLINK 01403 732219**  
16 Lintol Square, Fairbank Road  
Southwater RH13 9LA

**ASH BARN 01306 713177**  
Unit 5, Ockley Court Farm, Coles Lane  
Ockley RH5 5LS

**WHITE HORSE 01403 249902**  
226 Crawley Road Roffey RH12 4HE

