

Keep calm and call Portland Vets

Portland Vets is a small, family run practice, named after Portland Road in East Grinstead where the first practice was established in 2004. After years of planning, the time finally came in October 2013 for Portland Vets to open their doors in Edenbridge. I went along to the new surgery on Mill Hill to meet Veterinary Surgeon Jenny Kemp and Head Veterinary Nurse Alison Hawker to find out more about the newest vets in town.

The entrance and parking are located at the rear of the practice, easy to reach

from the main road. The reception area is bright, warm and comfortable and Jenny and Alison were there to welcome me. It was my first visit to a vet without an animal in tow but instead a camera



Jenny & Alison

and note pad. Portland Vets is a small animal surgery, so anything from mice, rats, gerbils, and guinea pigs to rabbits, cats and dogs will all receive a high level of expert care from Jenny and Alison.

You can tell from looking around that everything has been designed and built to a very high standard and with the animals in mind. Alison took me on a tour of the shiny new facilities. My first stop was the individual cat and dog wards providing plenty of space for patients. All the rooms are climate controlled and have CCTV so you can rest assured that your pet is in safe hands.

As well as spacious, modern consulting rooms there is a well equipped treatment area with operating theatre, digital X-ray, dental unit and recovery ward.

Chief Vet Jenny Kemp has a Veterinary career spanning close to 20 years and her vision of providing a high standard of affordable veterinary care with a personal approach fits in with the ethos of Portland Vets. It was this ethos that compelled Jenny to leave the increasingly corporate environment of the Surrey veterinary practice where she had spent the last 15 years to return to



a family based surgery. Alison Hawker qualified with a degree in Veterinary Nursing in 2004 after realising her dream of working with animals following a farm visit when she was just 7 years old. After spending 5 years as Head Veterinary Nurse at a practice in South London, she decided she would rather work more locally and avoid the pressures of commuting. Living in Edenbridge she is enjoying working with Jenny to develop this new practice.

Portland Vets is the only small animal surgery in the Edenbridge and Oxted area to provide their own in-house 24/7 emergency service. This is shared between the Portland Vets staff at both Edenbridge and East Grinstead sites. For clients this means that the emergency vet would be able to access your pet's veterinary records and be better prepared for treating your animal in the event of an emergency.

So far Jenny and Alison have been carrying out a lot of routine work at the practice "but don't wait until your pet is sick to register with us" recommends Jenny.

They have also organised Puppy Training Classes for clients which will be taking place on Thursday evenings at the site.

Since opening the practice, Jenny and Alison have been keen to get involved in local activities. As well as joining the Eden Valley Chamber of Commerce they have also become sponsors at Edenbridge Rugby Club. When the new season starts, you'll see Portland Vets signs adorning the rugby posts at the club during match days.



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Opening hours are Mondays-Fridays 9am-6.30pm and Saturdays 9am-12noon. Tel: **01732 868 680** or email edenbridge@portlandvets.co.uk. Address: Sheft's Croft, Mill Hill, Edenbridge, TN8 5BD - www.portlandvets.co.uk