



Linnet Way
Brickhill
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Bedfordshire
MK41 7HN
Tel: +(0)1234 261 839
E: info@acornhousevets.co.uk

Behaviour Information

The vets at Acorn House are able to advise on behaviour issues in cats and dogs. Commonly reported behaviour problems include:

- House soiling and urine marking (cats and dogs)
- Aggression or reactivity towards other animals (inside and outside of the home)
- Aggression towards familiar people within the home
- Aggression or reactivity towards strangers inside and outside of the home
- Barking
- Compulsive behaviours such as tail-chasing, self-mutilation, overgrooming, pacing
- Separation related problems
- Noise phobias and other anxiety problems
- Difficulties with sleeping patterns

At Acorn House pets with behavioural concerns are currently assessed in a routine consultation to discuss the behavioural concerns with the client and perform a thorough medical examination to check for any medical issues that might be causing or aggravating the behavioural issue (common offenders



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include musculoskeletal pain, hormonal imbalances, anal sac inflammation, skin conditions, thyroid disorders). Depending on the type of problem being investigated, and any suspicious findings on the examination, blood tests, urine tests, Xrays or ultrasound scans may be offered where appropriate.

After this initial assessment our vets will give initial behavioural advice on immediate home management of the problem behaviour and how to prevent the problem from worsening.

For some types of behaviour problem, this assessment will include all of the advice that you need to resolve the problems that you are having with your pet. However, for many of the more complex behaviours, it will then be necessary for a more detailed home visit to be performed - so that your pet's behaviour can be observed in your home (or out on a walk, if this is where the problem occurs). In most cases, the practice will work with an accredited non-veterinary behaviourist to perform this visit. The behaviourist will build on the initial behaviour assessment to develop a more detailed understanding of why the behaviour is occurring and how it can be improved. They can try out different management and training techniques and teach you how to use them with your pet. We recommend that an APBC-accredited behaviourist makes this visit.

Our closest APBC member is Laura Travis (based in St Neots) and she is happy to provide house visits in Bedford and the surrounding areas.



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Laura Travis: <https://www.stneotsdogtraining.com/> 07790024766;
pet.behaviour@ymail.com

Other Nearby APBC registered behaviourists include:

Emma Austin <https://www.harmony.dog> based in Sandy (Dogs)

Hannah Donovan MRCVS <https://donovanvetbehaviour.com> (Cats, Dogs and Rabbits)

Julie Ashton <https://lifeonfourlegs.co.uk> (Cats and Dogs)

Lucy Hoile <https://www.lucyhoile.co.uk> (Cats)

Linda Ryan RVN <https://www.inspiringpets.com> (Cats and Dogs) (online)

Woodgreen adoption and rehoming centre provide an online behavioural helpline

<https://woodgreen.org.uk/book-an-appointment>

Please be aware that behaviourists are not permitted to undertake this work until the pet has been medically evaluated by a veterinary surgeon.

The behaviourist will provide you with a separate report reminding you of the detailed techniques that they have demonstrated and recommended that you use with your pet. They will be able to provide follow-up visits or advice by telephone or email after the initial visit. Our vets will liaise with the behaviourist if further veterinary input is required (for example, if the behaviourist feels that the management and training techniques are not sufficient on



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their own, and would like the vet to advise on and prescribe behaviour-altering medications).

Many insurance policies cover behavioural consultations, investigation and treatment (including both behavioural and medical aspects).

Please contact the surgery if you would like to book an appointment.

Updated January 2025