

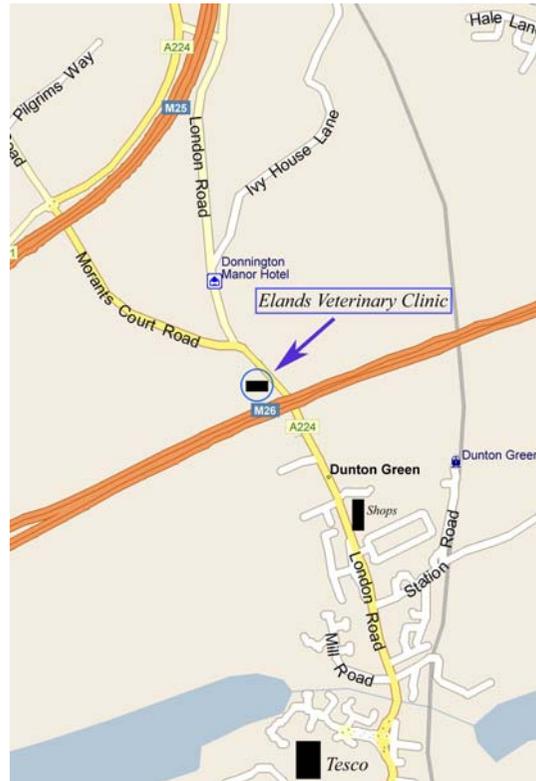
Philip Lhermette
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Principal of Elands Vet Clinic, Philip has been in practice since 1982 and founded Elands Veterinary Clinic in 1986. He is a special lecturer in Endoscopy and Endosurgery at the University of Nottingham Veterinary School.

“My ambition has always been to provide a level of service and range of skills well above the average, but without losing the caring, personal touch that people value so highly. At Elands we have a dedicated, hard working team of vets, nurses and customer care staff who provide a superlative quality of care for our patients and a positive friendly attitude to our clients. I am proud to be able to work with them.”

“Much of the hi-tech work goes on away from the public gaze – in the operating theatres, laboratory and imaging room, but we are always happy to show clients around and answer any questions. It is you, our clients, who are our most important resource, and we are always keen to find out what you want from us so that we can continually improve our services along the lines that you would want. Please let us know how we can improve!”



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Just off junction 5 of the M25



- because we care

Laparoscopic



Bitch spay

Because minimally invasive surgery is right for your pet.

Elands Veterinary Clinic.

St John's Church, London Road, Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. TN13 2TE (01732) 452333

Your Pet's comfort and safety is our priority

At *Elands Veterinary Clinic* we understand that you want only the best for your pet. That is why we use minimally invasive techniques such as ultrasound and “keyhole surgery” wherever possible. It is a major advance in reducing pain and speeding postoperative recovery.

Research has shown that pets are likely to live a longer happier life if they are neutered. For bitches that means an ovario-hysterectomy or “spay” operation. Whilst this is recognised as “routine surgery”, it is, in fact, a major abdominal operation (just ask anyone you know who has had a similar procedure themselves!)

At Elands Veterinary Clinic *we firmly believe in quality of life*, and every pet deserves the very best we can offer. We have pioneered minimally invasive techniques in the UK, using **keyhole surgery** techniques and **laser surgery** only found in the human field up to now. It is a major advance in reducing pain and speeding post operative recovery. Indeed we are still one of only very few centres able to offer this service countrywide.

Less trauma – less pain – quicker recovery

Laparoscopic bitch spay

What is it...?

Laparoscopy is commonly referred to as Keyhole surgery. Instead of making a large cut into the abdomen, operations are carried out through tiny 5mm holes with the aid of an endoscope – essentially a camera that allows us to look inside the body. Instruments can also be inserted through these tiny holes and operations are

performed with the surgeon viewing the procedure on a television screen.

How is it different to a normal bitch spay?

Traditionally a bitch spay requires a 3-4 inch incision, which itself is a source of post-operative discomfort. The uterus is grasped and pulled up through the wound, and the ovarian ligaments are pulled away from their attachments on the body wall. This inevitably causes some trauma and bruising - another source of post operative discomfort. The vessels are tied off and the body of the uterus is then exposed and tied off allowing the whole uterus and both ovaries to be removed. Laparoscopy enables us to remove the ovarian attachments with no tearing and much less trauma and bruising. The operation requires only very tiny incisions so wounds are much less painful, and better visualisation reduces the chances of complications.

What are the benefits?

You may have had keyhole surgery yourself, - if so you will know that recovery times are much shorter after this type of surgery and there is much less post operative discomfort. There is also less scarring and since the wounds are much smaller – less likelihood of post operative infection.

in summary:

- ◆ small incision size - less discomfort and scarring
- ◆ tissue is removed without tearing or traction
- ◆ better visualisation of surgical procedure -
- minimizes complications
- ◆ your pet is back to normal much more quickly

Will my pet still have stitches?

Usually not. Since the wounds are very small they are usually closed with a special skin adhesive so no

stitches are necessary. We still like to check our patients a few days after the operation just to make sure everything is OK and your pet is comfortable and healing well.

Do you remove the ovaries and the uterus?

Research in Europe and the USA over the past 25 years has shown that removing the uterus (womb) is usually unnecessary and increases post operative discomfort. We therefore just remove the ovaries, unless we have any concerns over the condition of the uterus. This has the same effect as a traditional spay in stopping seasons, preventing pregnancy and reducing breast cancer

Do other vets offer keyhole surgery alternatives?

Generally not at the moment. Elands Veterinary Clinic has pioneered these procedures in the UK and we have been using them for many years now. Although becoming more common in the human field, Vets have been slow to take up these techniques. We were the first Clinic in the UK offering laparoscopic spays. Our practice principal, Philip Lhermette, lectures extensively all around the UK and in Europe – teaching these techniques to other vets, so hopefully it should become more generally available in the future.

Does it cost more?

Yes - but not as much as you might think! Equipment for laparoscopy is expensive and we use the same equipment as a human surgeon (and pay the same price for it as the NHS!) We do therefore charge a small additional fee for this type of surgery, but this is easily outweighed by the benefits of a happy pain free, recovery. Please ask at reception for an estimate.

