



# Veterinary Centre

387 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley,  
Staffordshire, WS6 6DP

# NEWS

## Booster reminders



Following the great feedback we've had, you can now expect to receive a phone call from our receptionist Jo to remind you when your pet's next booster is due.

Our phone system replaces, for the most part, the postcard reminders. Clients who have already been contacted by phone have really appreciated Jo's call and particularly liked the fact they could make an appointment there and then without having to remember to book vaccinations at another time.



## Advocate special offer

Even with the onset of colder weather, parasites can still be a problem. Fleas in particular can remain a winter irritant, and flea eggs in carpets can hatch with the warmth of central heating. Treat fleas (and mites and worms) all year round with Advocate's single monthly spot-on treatment, and when you buy an Advocate 3 or 6 pack, we'll give you 10% off your next like-for-like purchase. Beat those bugs for less!



## Pet Blood Bank UK update

Thanks so much to all those doggy blood donors who attended the collection session at 387 Vets in August. 11 dogs were able to make full donations which could help save up to 44 dogs' lives. The collection session here on 21<sup>st</sup> December was amazingly already fully booked by mid-September. Although over 60 of our clients have registered their dogs to be donors, Pet Blood Bank are always looking for new recruits. To find out more, speak to one of our vet nurses or pop in for a leaflet.

## FREE Vet Nurse Clinics – did you know?



Concerned about your pet's diet? Worried about behaviour? Or perhaps you just want to check your new pet is fit and healthy? These are just some of the areas where our fully qualified nursing team can offer invaluable free help and advice. Nicky, Amy and Sharon are a brilliant port of call for queries ranging from nutrition and parasite treatments to weight checks, new puppy and kitten health checks, dental checks and more. All nurse clinics are 15 minute appointment-based so we can take time to really listen and respond to your queries and hopefully put your mind at rest. Call reception to book.



### Free clinics currently available cover:

- Weight
- Diet and nutrition
- Parasite treatments
- Behaviour and anxiety management (including advice for the fireworks season)
- Puppy and kitten health checks
- Rabbit and guinea pig health checks
- Wellbeing and husbandry
- Dental checks
- Insurance advice

## Clinical auditing at 387 Vets: the what and the why



Clinical auditing is the process of assessing whether our clinical decisions are as good as they could be. This is done by gathering together statistical data of how we carry out procedures within the practice and assessing that information against best available published scientific evidence. The aim is to ensure we are offering our patients the most up-to-date and effective procedures and protocols for the clinical work that we undertake.

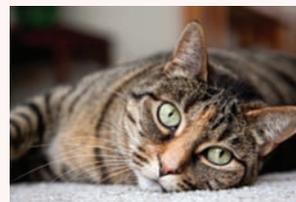
Whilst clinical auditing is standard practice in human medicine, it's rarely carried out properly in veterinary care. However, one of our vets, Carole Parsons, is working with teams at 387 Vets to carry out clinical audits as part of her post graduate Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice. Here's what she's been working on recently to ensure your pets get the best care:

### Post-op pain relief:

Excessive post-operative pain causes suffering that should be avoided by using more effective combinations of painkillers or by reviewing doses.

We are currently using a pain-scoring guide developed by the University of Glasgow to assess each patient's pain level (as well as monitoring their temperature, pulse and respiration) before and after surgery. In this way, we can clearly identify whether our pain-relieving strategies are as good as they could be, and we can immediately identify any patients requiring extra pain relief and respond accordingly.

### Renal failure in cats:



Most cats diagnosed with renal failure already have severe kidney disease and as much of the damage to the kidneys is irreversible there is

often little that can be done to stem deterioration or to improve quality of life. We are assessing the best way to identify this common disease earlier, so we can then take steps to prevent progression to a more serious state. The very first sign of renal failure is that urine becomes more dilute. With this in mind, for every cat over the age of 10 that comes in for a routine appointment, we now offer a free urine concentration check. We hope this will help us to identify more renal failure cases when there's still time to make a positive difference.

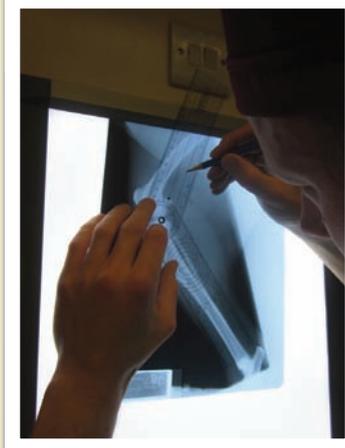
# Cutting-edge cruciate surgery at 387 Vets

Now Available!

Continually improving our professional skills and our standards of care has always been a priority at 387 Vets. Following practical training, Hamish has recently adopted the TTA Rapid technique for cruciate disease – only developed in 2012 – with amazing results.

## Hamish's story: Why the new technique?

*"I've always been interested in cruciate disease, especially as an owner of springer spaniels who are notorious for being boisterous and particularly susceptible to the condition. When a dog damages its cruciate, it essentially loses stability and*



*strength in the afflicted hind leg. Surgery restores that stability and gives the dog back its lease of life.*

*I was lucky enough, in my last practice, to work alongside an orthopaedic surgeon and learnt an incredible amount about bone and ligament repair. When I saw the TTA Rapid course advertised, I felt we could offer better options for*

*cruciate injuries if I learned to master the relevant skills.*

*The course was brilliant. It was run by Dr Yves Samoy, the Belgian vet who devised the new 'Rapid' technique just last year. He has improved on the original TTA (tibial tuberosity advancement) procedure. This was developed in Switzerland and gained popularity around 10 years ago and is now one of the preferred surgical options in veterinary medicine for cruciate ligament injuries, particularly in big dogs. However, the 'Rapid' method is a much more straightforward, faster adaptation, producing a more stable and robust result. It's also perfect for use on big and small dogs alike. The aim of the procedure is to neutralise the shear forces and restore stability of the stifle joint without altering its shape, function or structure.*

*We've been really impressed with the results. There's far less post-op pain and the road to recovery is much shorter."*

## Nancy's story

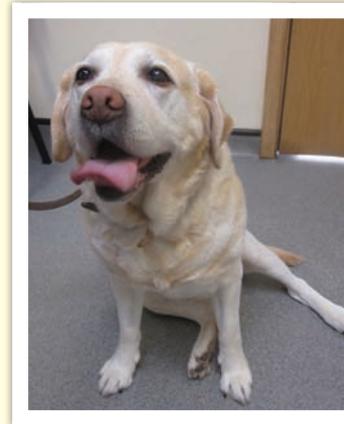
Nancy initially had surgery on her right cruciate in February 2012. This was a titanium cruciate anchor and lateral suture procedure. In July 2013, poor Nancy went lame on her left hind leg. She had a thickened knee, partial instability and her knee was painful when fully flexed. X-rays confirmed joint effusion consistent with cruciate injury. She had the new TTA Rapid procedure at 387 Vets on 6<sup>th</sup> August, and 10 days later was only very mildly lame. It had taken around 6-8 weeks to reach this point with the previous surgery.



Nancy's owner said: *"The recovery was a lot quicker. When she came home from her op she seemed different and happier and was already putting pressure on her leg. She's only 4 and was like a little old dog whereas now she's got her youth back."*

## Millie's story

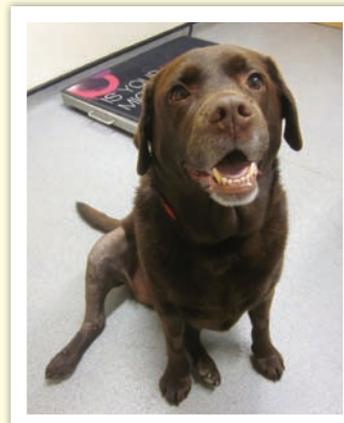
Labrador Millie had a tight-rope cruciate procedure on her right hind leg in 2012 and this July, she underwent the TTA



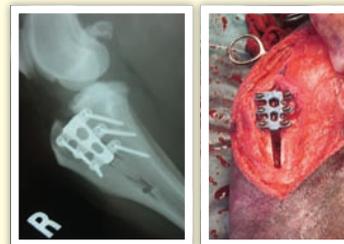
Rapid procedure on her other back leg having suddenly become lame when running. Her owners were amazed that Millie was bearing weight on her injured leg within 24 hours of surgery and showed no obvious signs of pain. In fact, she stopped having painkillers just 10 days after major surgery. After her surgery in 2012,

she had been discharged hopping on three legs, had seemed much more uncomfortable and took some time to weight-bear. She had also been very frustrated at not being able to exercise for 3 months, whereas this time round, with the TTA Rapid, Millie could go for short walks soon after her operation and was a much happier dog.

## Doofus's story



Doofus's cutting-edge TTA Rapid cruciate surgery made her our August Pet of the Month. Similar to Nancy and Millie, Doofus had had cruciate surgery on her other leg before undergoing the new procedure. The pictures below show the TTA Rapid cage in place which is displacing the front of the shin bone to neutralise the pull forces within the stifle joint.



Doofus's owner said: *"Brilliant. She's back to normal and going on walks. No lameness. Nothing at all."*