



Veterinary Centre

SPRING 2020



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NEWS

Practice News

CARLOS JOINS THE 387 TEAM!

Many of you will already know Carlos Boix Boente, as he has been a familiar face here as a locum and he is also married to our vet Emma!

We are delighted to announce that Carlos has now joined the 387 team as a permanent vet. Carlos graduated from Madrid in 2001 with a degree in veterinary science, and since

2003 has been mostly Midlands-based. His extensive small animal experience includes permanent and locum positions in independent, corporate and PDSA practices, with a four year break to set up a vet practice with Emma in Spain. Carlos is also holder of a postgraduate certificate in Small Animal Surgery, which means he can carry out many procedures which would normally need to be referred to a specialist referral centre. In his last post, he was responsible for carrying out orthopaedic and soft tissue surgeries referred from other practices within his veterinary group. Regular procedures included fracture and dislocation repair as well as TTAs for cruciate ligament damage and reconstructive surgery around tumour removal. We are really excited to welcome Carlos, and to be able to expand the services we can offer your pets at 387 Vets.



RVN TEAM GROWS

A big welcome to Renée Hopwood who joined 387 Vets in November, taking our qualified veterinary nursing team to a total of five. Renée qualified as a registered veterinary nurse (RVN) in 2018 whilst working in a busy small animal practice in the West Midlands. Since then, she's been involved in all facets of veterinary nursing, from running nursing

clinics to carrying out theatre-nursing and post-op care and even training as a clinical coach to mentor veterinary nursing students. Renée actually came to 387 Vets on school work experience, so it's especially lovely that she returns to 387 Vets as a team member after fulfilling her dream of training to become an RVN.



BABY CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to our vets Emma and Carlos who became proud parents of a baby girl back in November.

We've seen lots of gorgeous photos of Sofia, and all enjoyed meeting her when she came to visit us in practice in January. We wonder if she will follow in her mum and dad's footsteps!



Work starts on a new dedicated Cat Clinic at 387 Vets!



This new year is exciting at 387 Vets because it sees the start of the development of our new feline-dedicated clinic.

Initially our car park will be extended to provide separate staff parking before the build work begins.

The feline clinic will provide a separate entrance, reception, waiting room and consult rooms for our feline patients. We already hold gold Cat Friendly Clinic accreditation through the International Society of Feline Medicine, but this new centre will allow us to provide truly gold standard feline care with no barking dogs or dog smells in the waiting room or consult rooms to distress our cat patients or their owners. The cat clinic will open in the summer. Initial opening hours will be limited to the start and end of weekdays until the clinic becomes popular enough to remain open all day.

Thank you for your amazing donations!

We were once again stunned by your generosity for our 'Give a Pet a Christmas Dinner' campaign to support dogs, cats and guinea pigs in local rescue centres waiting for their forever homes.

You donated an amazing 915 tins and sachets of wet food – double the amount donated in 2018 – and a whopping 79kg of dry food! That's not to mention over 90 treats, a huge variety of toys, bedding, leads and harnesses, hay, feeding bowls, cat carriers, dog coats and £100 in cash. We even received a lovingly filled Santa gift box with everything one lucky pup could ever want or need for Christmas. This year, donations have been shared between Sunnyside Kennels (part of Birmingham Dogs Home), Rugeley Cats Society and Broadmeadow Guinea Pig Rescue.

Your kindness will make a huge difference to local pets in need.



Seasonal Spring alerts

Spring is almost here! Here are a few tips to keep pets healthy over the coming season:

- **Parasite problems:** Warmer weather means a surge in nasty parasites like fleas, ticks and worms – remember slugs and snails can transmit potentially fatal Lungworm. Make sure your pet is protected to protect you and your home too. Ask us about the best product for your pet's lifestyle and our parasite treatment home delivery service with free p&p!
- **Easter food:** Keep chocolate, hot cross buns and simnel cakes away from inquisitive noses. Theobromine (in cocoa) is poisonous to dogs, and raisins, currants and sultanas can cause kidney damage.
- **Fatal flowers:** Flowers for Mother's Day? Choose wisely! All parts of the lily plant are poisonous to cats and can cause kidney failure. And ingestion of many Spring bulbs such as daffodils can be a real problem for dogs, with symptoms including vomiting, diarrhoea and lethargy.



If you suspect your pet has eaten something they shouldn't, speed is of the essence! Please call!



A day in the life of an in-patient...

We appreciate that bringing a pet in for surgery can be quite daunting for owners, be it for a routine procedure or something more complex. With this in mind, we thought we'd take you behind the scenes to show you exactly what happens when your pet is admitted. Next time, you'll be in the know! Huge thanks to Leo, our in-patient for the day!

1 ADMIT APPOINTMENT

Nurse goes through permissions form and special nursing care plans to identify pet's specific likes, dislikes and preferences. Helps us to make your pet as comfortable as possible during their stay. Weight, temperature and heart rate checked.



We use care plans at 387 Vets to adapt to your pet's habits for a happier stay, less stress and faster recovery

2 SETTLING IN KENNELS AND PRE-ANAESTHETIC BLOODS (optional)

Pet settled into kennel, dogs in dog ward and cats and small furries in dedicated quiet cat ward upstairs. Blood tests recommended for older pets to check liver and kidney function and blood glucose, protein and red blood cell levels. Helps identify underlying issues pre surgery. Pain score carried out as a base line we can work from post op.



3 PRE-MED

Pets given strong painkiller and sedation away from kennel (sedation to help with smooth administering of anaesthetic) so no association with their bed on return post op.



PRE-OP PREP

IV catheter inserted in foreleg and additional painkiller and anaesthetic given via catheter to pet. Pet intubated ('tubed') and connected to anaesthetic machine for gas anaesthetic and oxygen during surgery. We use Sevoflurane (rather than the usual Isoflurane used by most vets) because it has less negative effect on heart, lungs and blood pressure, and the recovery is smoother and faster with less 'hangover'. Surgical area shaved and cleaned for sterility. Lubrication applied to eyes to stop them drying out (pet's eyes won't blink under anaesthesia). Socks put on feet to reduce risk of hypothermia as this slows recovery and can be dangerous. Temperature taken. Aim to maintain temperature throughout op.



4



5

MOVED INTO THEATRE

Pet placed on Bair Hugger® (bed of forced warm air). Final skin prep with alcohol rub. IV fluids administered throughout op to keep blood pressure constant as low blood pressure dangerous. Pet attached to multi-parameter monitor – this machine enables the theatre nurse to monitor heart rate, respiration rate, carbon dioxide levels and blood pressure. Readings noted and trends monitored by RVN for fast response to change. Vet scrubs up. Surgery performed.

Anaesthetics are always monitored by a fully trained Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN), under the guidance of the vets, at 387 Vets



6 POST-OP

Temperature taken immediately after surgery. Anaesthetic switched off. Oxygen is still given until the pet shows blink and swallowing reflex. Breathing tube then removed and pet returned to kennel to come round fully. Monitoring and cuddles from kennel nurse. Further temperature check after 30 minutes. If temperature has dropped, pet put on Bair Hugger®.

7 IN RECOVERY

Pain score repeated. Should be same or less than on admit. If five or more points higher, additional pain relief given. Time for toileting, feeding, water and on-going monitoring and nursing care, all taking into account pet preferences on the care plan.



8 OWNER PHONED

Update on your pet and to arrange a collection time.

9 DISCHARGE APPOINTMENT

Where we talk you through post-op care and all things related, and book your post-op check.

10 HOME TIME!



DID YOU KNOW?

387 Veterinary Centre is a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Small Animal Accredited Practice in recognition of our high standards of care. We also have an additional RCVS 'Outstanding' award for our Client Service.

