

Saying goodbye to old pets

It is always a difficult decision to have a loved pet euthanased. However, many owners may make the choice to end the suffering for their sick pet at the end of an otherwise happy life. Our staff are here to discuss all the issues surrounding euthanasia with you - the best time, whether family members should be present, and the choices of cremation - so that you can let your pet go peacefully, and know you have made all the right decisions for them.

We value house-call euthanasia as a very important part of our service if you chose to say goodbye to your pet in their

familiar surroundings - ring us for one of our vets to come to your home.

We always feel sad saying goodbye to these pets too - some of which we have known all their lives, and may have nursed towards the end of this time. And some of our most treasured cards are from owners who have lost their pets, and write to acknowledge our care of them. It is always special for us to read these cards and be reminded how important pets are in our families.

Diabetics galore



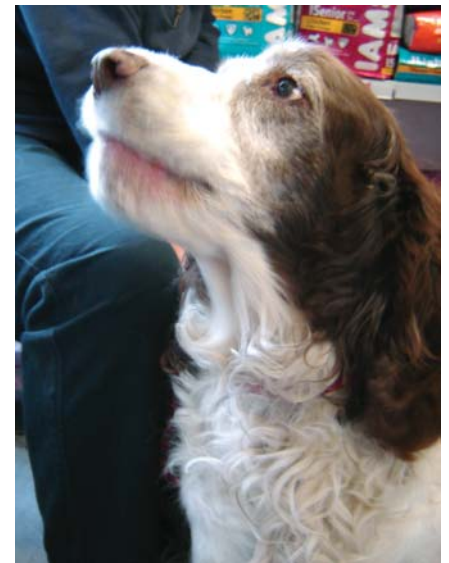
Diabetes mellitus is a disease that we see sometimes in our patients - but we had an unusual weekend a few months ago, when four diabetic animals, two cats and two dogs, were diagnosed on the same day. Diabetes mellitus is a disease where the pancreas gland does not produce enough insulin, so blood glucose is not used by the body properly. Middle aged to older animals are more at risk, as are certain breeds of cats and dogs. Being overweight is also a risk factor for developing the disease. The symptoms most commonly noticed by owners are a pet losing weight, eating ravenously (although eating may reduce as they begin to feel unwell), and drinking and urinating a lot.

Once diagnosed, the pet must then be stabilised - this involves tests to detect and correct any complications of the disease, and to then get the pet on the correct dose of insulin.

Beautiful Sam is well known to our staff, and so it was news to everyone when he was diagnosed with diabetes recently. We are pleased he has made a great response to his treatment.

So four of our clients have been through a very steep learning curve - including giving injections, new food regimes, learning the important monitoring symptoms that mean that their pets are under the best diabetic control, and bringing their pets for regular check-ups (which will drop right down once the pets are stable).

Diabetes can be a difficult disease to get under control initially, but when owners commit to the care of their pets, it can also be one of the most rewarding in seeing an animal return to a very full and happy life.



Lovely Molly is also an old regular at the clinic who is now doing well on her insulin programme.

Donald Duck

We do spend most of our day looking after your pets, but every so often a wild animal is brought in that also needs our care. Donald was found on the motorway by one of our concerned clients. We think he may have been hit by a car, as he had a large gash under one of his wings. The reason for this was probably poor eyesight, as he had a cataract in one of his eyes.

So Donald became a patient at the clinic for the next few days. He was anaesthetized, and his wound cleaned and stitched up. He had a twice-daily bathe in our dog bath, but otherwise spent time in a cat hospital cage, eating duck crumble and wholemeal bread, and hissing at us when we went too close.

Once he was all healed, we found Donald a home on a farmlet where there are lots of ducks, well away from roads and other areas that are not safe for poor-sighted ducks. We wish you well Donald.

Donald enjoying himself in our dog bath

