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New Service
NOW available

Gold Standard treatment for hyperthyroidism in cats!

Willows is delighted to announce that we will be launching a new service for 2018! We have been updating you on our exciting new building extension which has been an ongoing project over the past months and part of this extension will include a dedicated centre for the treatment of hyperthyroidism in our feline friends.

The service will be led by our dedicated Feline Specialist, Stephanie Lalor and lead radioactive iodine nurse, Vicky Maund.

Our new specialised unit will enable our Specialist Medicine team to provide non-invasive, radioactive iodine therapy for the treatment of hyperthyroidism.

Radioactive iodine therapy can be considered the gold standard therapy for the treatment of hyperthyroidism in cats with a reported success

rate of 95%. This is a non-invasive treatment that is also ideal for patients who are unsuitable for medical treatment or surgery.

The radioactivity is very local and there is no hair loss or other side effects that are associated with radiotherapy. Radioactive iodine therapy is safe and effective, due to the nature of the treatment a 2 week hospitalisation period is required.

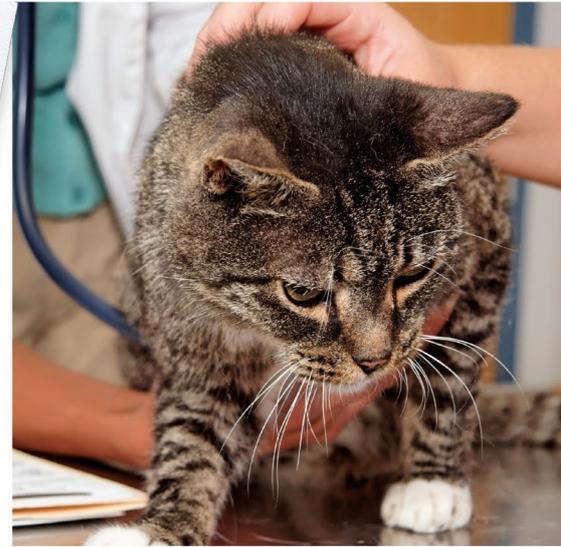
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If you would like to receive this newsletter and other information from Willows by email, please subscribe to our mailing list at: www.willows.uk.net/signup

Dedicated to Coco

Recently one of Willows longest standing patients of 19 years sadly lost his battle. Along with his owners we wanted to share a glimpse of Coco's 19 long years with you all.



Coco and his sister Pops joined the Lloyd family back in 1998, they were from the same litter and were fondly named by the children after their favourite breakfast cereals. Unfortunately, within their first year of life they were both hit by cars. After the accident, Coco was missing for a few days but somehow managed to get himself back home in a very poor state, he was suffering from a collapsed lung and ruptured diaphragm. Geoff Culshaw was the primary vet at the time and performed the surgery on Coco, he made a full recovery and just had a little kink in his tail as a reminder of his accident. Unfortunately Pops had her accident shortly after Coco, her injuries were more severe and sadly she couldn't be saved.

Coco was such an affectionate cat, always wanting to be with the family, he even got to go to Woodlands Infant School when they had 'pet' day and was very good natured with children. The family moved house in 2002 and he settled in well, enjoying the larger garden and busy family life! Coco would often accompany his human brother on his paper round and follow him up and down the drives in his own road. He didn't like his family going on holiday and would always get in the way of packing by sitting in the suitcases!

Over the years, Coco had a few surgical procedures, the surgery following his accident as a young cat, numerous dental extractions, removal of a mast cell tumour on his skin as well as his annual vaccinations and occasional blood tests, but on the whole was fairly well and had a healthy glossy coat until the end.

His owners said "He attended Willows from when he was a kitten (for his first vaccinations) in 1998 until his death in September of this year. We have seen Willows move premises and expand their facilities, but the care has always been caring and personal. I have chatted to people in the waiting room who have travelled from Liverpool or Milton Keynes to see the specialists and I always felt fortunate that it was our 'local'! We have seen so many vets over the time – Geoffrey Culshaw, Karen Walsh, the lovely Sally Hutton and over the last couple of years Amy Knapman. Amy's care in his last few months was professional and very compassionate, and I shall always remember her real kindness to us all when he died. Thank you to all the staff at Willows Veterinary Centre."

What is Feline Hyperthyroidism?

Feline hyperthyroidism is a common endocrine (glandular) disorder which results in excessive release of thyroid hormone. Clinical signs include an increased appetite, weight loss, muscle wasting, excitability, nervousness, behavioural changes, tremors, and heat intolerance.

Initially a diagnosis of the condition is made with a blood test, and potentially further investigated to detect any concurrent underlying conditions such as kidney failure, high blood pressure and/or heart disease because all of these can impact on the cat's wellbeing.

Treatment for the condition can be undertaken with oral medication for the remaining life expectancy of the cat, a specialised diet, surgical intervention to remove the thyroid gland(s), or radioactive iodine therapy. The multi-disciplinary team at Willows can offer a complete service for hyperthyroid patients depending on their individual needs.



For further information about hyperthyroidism, please see our information sheet at: www.willows.uk.net/hyperthyroidism



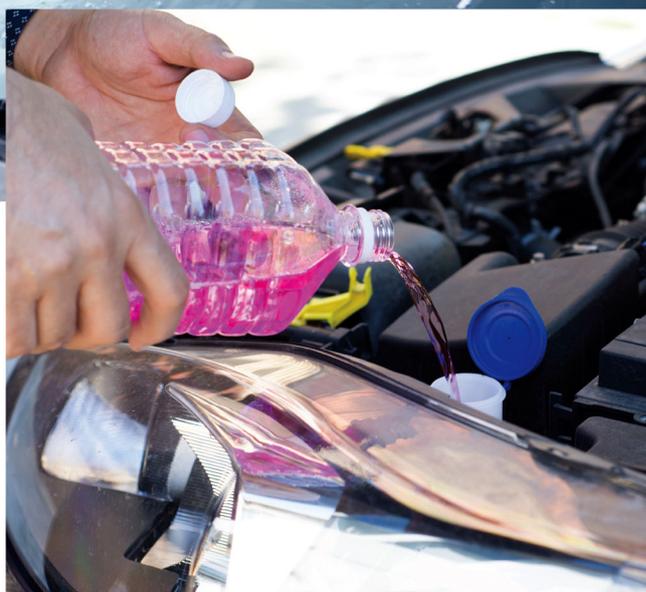
The dangers of antifreeze toxicity

As the mornings (and the rest of the days!) get cooler, it is worth bearing in mind some of the seasonal hazards posed to our dogs and cats. For example, readily available and widely used antifreeze fluids (such as those used in car radiators, screen wash and brake fluid) can rapidly become fatal if ingested.

Antifreeze contains a substance called ethylene glycol. This is a chemical which is not poisonous in itself but is metabolised by the body into toxic components by an enzyme called alcohol dehydrogenase. The antifreeze liquid is attractive to cats and dogs due to its sweet taste; exposure often occurs when they lick up spilled liquid from garage/shed floors, or lick it off contaminated fur and paws.

The clinical signs that are seen following ingestion develop rapidly. Initial onset of signs can be expected anywhere from around 30 minutes to about 12 hours after exposure. The first signs that tend to appear are associated with the central nervous system and may include wobbliness, weakness, vomiting or even tremors/seizures. Later, signs progress to difficulty breathing and a rapid heart rate. Ultimately the toxins can cause kidney failure and death.

Successful treatment of ethylene glycol toxicity is sometimes possible but needs to be initiated as soon as possible after exposure. The prognosis for cats and dogs that have been poisoned is better when cases present early although the outcome is still uncertain. Animals that are in renal failure by the time of presentation sadly very rarely survive. If patients are seen very soon after ingestion we will often make them sick to try and limit their exposure to the chemicals. Then treatment involves providing an infusion of alcohol intravenously. This works as the enzyme alcohol dehydrogenase will preferentially metabolise the alcohol instead of the ethylene glycol in the antifreeze, preventing it from being broken down into its toxic compounds. Supportive care and monitoring of kidney values on blood tests is also essential.



What should you do?

- Keep antifreeze well out of reach, ideally locked away.
- If any is spilt on the floor at home, ensure you shut your pets out of the area and clear it up immediately – they will be attracted to the sweet taste.
- If cats or dogs get antifreeze on their feet or fur, rinse it off thoroughly with lots of clean water.
- If you suspect that your cat or dog may have ingested antifreeze contact your vet immediately.

For information about other poisons and household dangers please see our information sheet at: www.willows.uk.net/poisons

New Saturday afternoon consultations available!

Willows can now offer you Saturday afternoon consultation appointments.

With longer than average consultation appointment times (15 minutes) we can provide complete healthcare for your pet, including vaccination, diet and parasite control.

To keep up to date with our services and exciting news from Willows by email, please subscribe to our mailing list at:

www.willows.uk.net/signup

We are here for you...

- Willows have an onsite out-of-hours emergency service
- Extensive on-site parking facilities
- Cat friendly accredited clinic
- A commitment to excellence in every aspect of our service



SAVE THE DATE Family Open Day

13TH MAY 2018



Following the success of our Family Open Day last year, we will be holding another Family Open Day on Sunday 13th May 2018.

You and your families will be able to enjoy a behind-the-scenes tour of our amazing facilities, including our new extension and you'll have the opportunity to meet some of the team, help us to raise money for a very worthy cause and find out more about our services.

Whether you have your own budding vets at home who are interested in learning about the profession or you're curious to find out more about Willows, please save the date in your diary.

13TH MAY 2018

Canine Classroom!



Daisy is in training to become a Dogs Helping Kids (DHK) school dog.

Daisy regularly goes to work with her loving and dedicated mum who is the deputy head teacher of Hollywood Primary School (Miss Parkes). DHK is a unique registered charity dedicated to using highly trained dogs to help teach children non-violence, empathy, respect, kindness, love, responsibility, friendship and trust.

Willows is absolutely delighted to support Daisy and Hollywood school with their

mission and we will be providing Daisy with free of charge health checks and vaccinations.

DHK do not provide dogs for the schools but rely on volunteers like Cathy to dedicate their own time and funding to support the initiative. We will keep you up to date with Daisy's training journey and her school activities!




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