



Veterinary Centre

387 Walsall Road, Great Wyrley,
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NEWS



Top three in country



Congratulations to Head Nurse Nicky who was shortlisted as one of three finalists for Petplan's Insurance Advisor of the Year 2012. Nicky was recognised for her continued dedication to promoting Petplan Insurance: as sole advisor back when the practice opened in 2007 to managing and supporting two further Veterinary Nurses and a Trainee Nurse in 2012 with impressive results. Nicky was given two free tickets to British Veterinary Nursing Congress 2012 with overnight accommodation and passes to the conference dinner. And at the awards ceremony, an impressive sash to wear too!

Birthday celebration success!

Thanks so much to everyone who came to celebrate our 5th birthday with us. 120 homemade cupcakes were devoured within 24 hours (and not just by us!). We hope you enjoyed!

Nicky skydives for charity



In October, Nicky completed a tandem skydive to raise money for World Horse Welfare, a charity close to her heart as it's where she found her own horse Donald. In Britain, the charity supports the rescue, rehabilitation and rehoming of neglected and abused horses. They also provide veterinary aid abroad and help to educate owners about the importance of good nutrition and care. In one word, Nicky described her jump as "exhilarating!" and her bravery raised over £400 to help save horses like Donald. Many thanks to everyone who sponsored her.

Facebook focus

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE is a great place to find out what happens at 387 Vets on a day-to-day basis. We now have over 450 Facebook followers. Posts about client pets range from the cute and fluffy, the heartwarming, the unusual and the interesting to helpful advice – and of course there's staff and practice news too. Our post about Buster Anderson and how his Thundershirt helped him relax during the fire-works season spurred a mini buying spree! Visit us at www.facebook.com/387vets and see behind the scenes!



- 1** **68 LIKES:** Still very very cute! Popular dachshund puppy Barkly returns for vaccination.
- 2** **66 LIKES:** Welcome to the UK! Kallie at 387 Vets after being rescued from abroad by a family on holiday.
- 3** **58 LIKES:** It's our Birthday! Cupcakes on offer as 387 Vets turns five.

Unsure about canine blood donation?

387 Vets has now hosted its second Pet Blood Bank UK canine donation session with great success. We were fully booked, and 8 dogs donated a full unit of blood each, which could collectively help save up to 32 dogs' lives. If you would like your dog to be a doggy donor but are worried whether he/ she might be too nervous to donate, do come and talk to us. Pet Blood Bank UK have given our Head Nurse Nicky special training to help familiarise dogs with the donation procedure. Come along and see if your dog could be a donor star!

Donation in progress and Head Nurse Nicky with canine donor Vincent

Pictures courtesy of the Express & Star



Equipment explained

For many pets, a visit to 387 Vets means a full health check and a vaccination course. However, for pets who are unwell, we may need to use specialist kit to get a firm diagnosis or to treat any underlying conditions. Below is a handy crib sheet with details of some of the more specialist equipment we have to help sick pets get better fast!

Bronchoscope: Hamish removing a piece of bone lodged in a dog's oesophagus



Our bronchoscope

Bronchoscope

What is it? Only 4mm wide but 68cm long, the bronchoscope is a flexible camera with a tip that can be angled and has the capacity to rotate 180 degrees.

What is it used for? It allows us to see up into animals' nasal passages and right down into their airways. We can take tissue samples, and if used with the rigid foreign body retrieval device as in the photograph, we can spot and remove or dislodge any foreign bodies from the back of the throat or the oesophagus (the food pipe down to the stomach).



Retrieved! The top of the rigid foreign body device is visible on the right hand side of the picture



Scanning a lump

Ultrasound

What is it? Our ultrasound is a portable unit with a screen and probe for examining internal organs and tissue.

What is it used for? The unit is essential for investigating many diseases including the assessment of growths and lumps, scanning organs in the abdomen and measuring heart abnormalities. We also use ultrasound – as in human medicine – for pregnancy scanning.



Pregnancy scanning



ECG reading

ECG (electrocardiograph)

What is it? Similar in appearance to the ultrasound machine, the ECG enables us to record and print out a reading of the electrical activity of the heart.

What is it used for? This equipment is used to measure the rate and regularity of heartbeats as well as the size and position of the heart's chambers, whether there is any damage to the heart or to check for heart abnormalities.



Taking an ECG reading

NEW!

Binocular Loupes

What are they? This is our latest piece of high spec equipment and is so new that at time of going to press, the loupes were still in transit! The binocular loupes are a set of magnifying, scratch resistant lenses which are fully adjustable to suit any user's eye strength. The lenses are suspended from a cushioned, adjustable headband for comfort and ease of use. We can't wait to try them out!

What are they used for? As they have magnifying power, the loupes are designed for enlarging the view of the operation site during fine surgery and also for ophthalmic examination. They work best when used at a distance of between 13 and 18 inches.



Our new Heine® binocular loupes