

Your pet may require hospitalisation for many reasons. Some of the advantages of hospitalisation include:

- Continuous medication and fluid therapy – this means your pet will be on a drip.
- Regular veterinary attention.
- Nursing care as necessary.
- To allow an ongoing investigation of disease.
- Cage rest.
- To assist feeding.

At Endell Veterinary Group we have a kennel area for cats and dogs, a separate room for large dogs with walk-in kennels and areas for rabbits and other small pets. There is an incubator available for intensive nursing of cats and other small patients. We also have an isolation facility, which is completely separate from the main building and has its own kennel facilities.

Recently the practice has installed CCTV cameras in all kennel areas so that staff can monitor critical care patients more frequently via a TV monitor near the vets' office.

Visiting

We are always happy for owners to visit their pets during hospitalisation. Operations during the day usually prevent owners from visiting during the morning or early afternoon and typically late afternoon is the best time to visit. All visits must be arranged with a member of staff prior to arrival. A vet may not be available to speak to you about the case – if you wish to speak to a vet, this must also be arranged by phone prior to your visit. Some animals may get very excited to see their owners and be anxious when their owners leave – please bear this in mind when you visit your pet. Please bring a favourite blanket or toy to help reassure your pet while he/she is staying with us.

Fluid Therapy

A common reason for hospitalisation is for an animal to receive fluids, often referred to as having “a drip”. A drip is used to provide fluid, and sometimes to give medication, usually into a vein, to correct dehydration, shock, anaemia and a range of other problems. When an animal is on a drip, hospitalisation is required because it allows staff to:

- Confine the animal so it doesn't move around too much.
- Regularly check the catheter to look for irritation, infection and to make sure the catheter is correctly positioned.
- Regularly check the flow rate is correct and make sure the catheter does not block.
- Reduce the risk of the animal chewing the drip line and catheter.
- Provide other necessary treatment and nursing.

During working hours the veterinary nurses regularly check the animals in the kennels, with one nurse specifically assigned to the kennel areas. Any problems are immediately brought to the attention of a vet. A vet will check your pet as regularly as is judged necessary with his/her condition. Between 9pm and 8.20am on weekdays (and slightly longer at weekends and bank holidays), nurses and vets are not normally in the building unless attending an emergency call. Animals on drips in a stable condition usually have their drip stopped overnight and restarted the next morning. If an animal is critically ill then the duty vet or nurse can remain in the practice to monitor the animal (see below for charges). Animals may be left on a drip overnight without supervision, however there are some potential risks.

Possible complications include:

- Pulling the catheter out – this tends to be caused by excessive movement and results in the animal not receiving the fluid intended. In very rare cases blood may not clot and significant bleeding could occur.
- Chewing parts of the drip – this occurs when animals are relatively bright and have a tendency to chew things. Swallowed parts may cause intestinal complications and potentially obstruction.
- Twisting of the drip line around a leg or neck – due to movements, especially circling, and in rare cases may cause strangulation of blood flow to the trapped area.
- Rapid infusion of fluid – this may occur if the flow is dependant on limb position and, if it occurs, can cause swollen limbs, oedema and over-hydration.

These complications are extremely rare and fluid therapy is generally a very safe and simple procedure. Hospitalisation allows us to take steps to minimise these risks.

Blood Transfusions

We are not able to store blood, so availability is limited to finding a suitable donor animal. An animal having a blood transfusion requires more regular monitoring due to the risk of a reaction to the blood being infused. Oxyglobin is a fluid which behaves like blood but is synthetic – we keep it in stock, but be aware that it is an expensive product and is not suitable for every case.

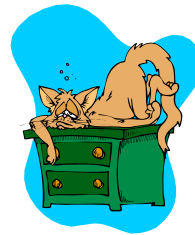
A quiet, settled animal is unlikely to require constant monitoring overnight.

Bright, relatively healthy animals are often best being left off a drip overnight as it is not going to affect their overall recovery.

Owners and vet should be aware of the risks and benefits of fluid therapy and decide on the appropriate level of supervision.

Charges Including VAT:

- **Day hospitalisation** (not overnight) . . . £9.34
- **Hospitalisation – 24hr period** (unsupervised overnight) £13.88
Giant dogs cost slightly more £14.62
- **Hospitalisation – isolation** £23.56
- **Hospitalisation – rabbit** £11.49
- **Fluid therapy fee** £41.22
- **500ml saline** (fluid prices vary according to type)
. £3.49
- **Overnight supervision fee (weekday)**
. starting from £220
(Weekends and Bank Holidays cost more)



March 2008



Quick Reference Guide



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