

# Our Emergency Patient - JESS

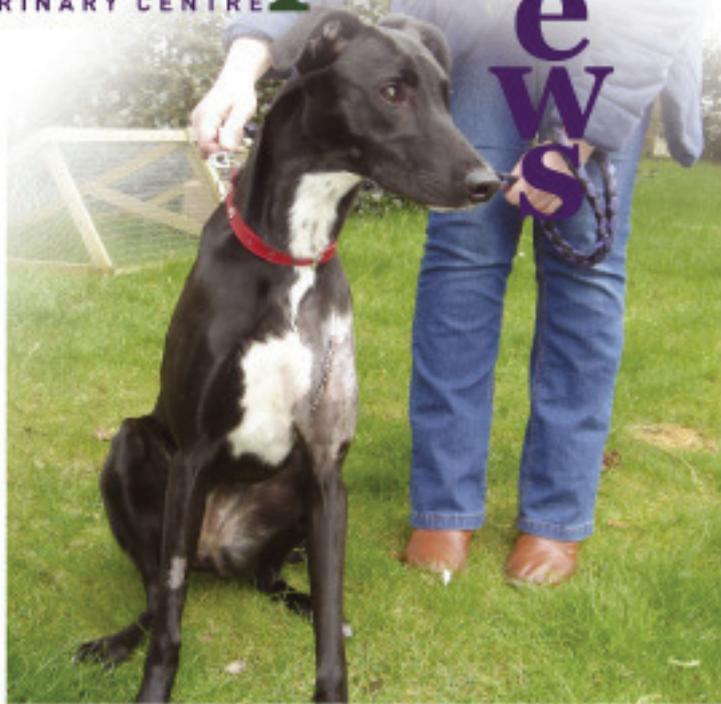


# Hollybank

VETERINARY CENTRE

Jess the Lurcher at a few months old, was rushed down to us one night last April. While playing on the family farm, she had become impaled on large spike sticking out of the ground. She managed to free herself and found her owner. Jess, had an extensive wound on her left shoulder and had lost a lot of blood. She was admitted to the hospital immediately, given strong pain relief and started on a drip to try and correct the amount of fluid she had lost from bleeding.

Once Jess was more stable, under anaesthetic we examined the wounds more closely. The spike had passed right through the muscles in her leg and chest, and exited just behind her left shoulder. We were concerned that she may have damaged her chest or broken bones, so x-rays were taken. Fortunately there was no damage. We then clipped and flushed the wound with sterile saline to clean it. Jess was taken to surgery for repair to the wound, but there was a great deal of damage to the muscles, and suturing them all took a long time. Small arteries were still bleeding, and were tied off. Finally the skin was closed with staples and a light dressing applied. Jess recovered well from the surgery, and was hospitalised on pain relief, antibiotics and strict rest. We expected her to take a long time to use her leg properly again, but within 24 hours, her lameness was improving, and Jess went home to continue with her rest and medication. A few days later, we saw she was healing really well and back to her normal self. Jess was a very lucky girl - had the injury been any closer to her chest, she would have died.



A month later Jess returned, as she had developed a large lump between her shoulder blades. An ultrasound scan showed it was fluid filled, so a sample was taken for analysis. The results indicated it was likely to be the result of inflammation and

infection. Although the wound did not stretch that far, we wondered if it was related to her previous injury. There was a small chance that it could be cancer, so we monitored the lump very closely. Happily it disappeared on its own over the next couple of weeks.



*"So first your memory I'll jog  
and say a cat is NOT a dog"*

TS Eliot

This may seem to state the obvious, but sadly many cats are treated as small dogs when they visit the vets. Here at Hollybank we have been accredited as a **Gold Standard Cat Friendly Clinic**. This means we have equipment and facilities designed to suit cats' individual needs and we aim to make your cats visit as stress free as possible from the outset. To help with this we have a number of cat friendly principles in place:

#### Reception Area and Waiting Room

On entering you will notice we have separate cat and dog waiting areas. Here cats can be kept off the floor and away from sniffing noses, allowing them to feel more secure while waiting to go into the consult rooms. Our primary cat consultation room can be accessed from the waiting area without passing by dogs.

#### Consulting rooms

Each have lockable doors, allowing complete closure for both privacy and safety. Our appointments are a minimum of 15 minutes, to allow sufficient time for your cat to acclimatise to their new

surroundings before they are examined. A variety of feline friendly equipment is available in all our consulting rooms.

#### The Cat Ward

Should your cat need to have an operation or be admitted to the hospital for treatment, they will be staying in our **cat only ward**. This is located upstairs, well away from noisy dogs and the hustle, bustle of the practice. Our secure cat kennels **do not face each other**, preventing face to face viewing, as this can be very distressing. However, we are happy for cats from the same family to be housed together! The ward has all we need to care for your cat, including comfy secluded beds, and toys. We keep a variety of food in, but if your cat has a preference, please let us know.

**All our staff are aware of the need for cats to be handled very differently to dogs**, and we feel that a little patience goes a long way in securing their trust. Every Cat Friendly Clinic must appoint a **cat advocate** who will answer your cat related queries.

**Our advocate is Cat Burdett RVN.**



## Surgery Hours

*Our friendly support staff are available all day for pet healthcare and advice*

Monday, Wednesday & Friday

**8.30am - 6.30pm**

Tuesday & Thursday

**9.30am - 7.30pm**

Saturday **9am - 12 noon**

*Consultations with the vets & nurses are by appointment only*

**24hr Emergency Service** here at the surgery and with your usual vets

**Call day or night**

**01606 880 890**

# Acupuncture for Pets



**What is Acupuncture?** Very fine needles are inserted into the skin. These stimulate nerves and muscles and the aim is to 'fool' the body into thinking that a bigger insult has occurred than really has. The body then responds in many different ways including releasing natural pain relieving chemicals that are sent to the area that is sore. Electro-acupuncture is when a small current is passed through the acupuncture needles. This provides additional stimulation and therefore greater response from the body. Not all patients require electro-acupuncture, many respond very well to the needles on their own.

## Would it be suitable for my pet?

We predominantly use acupuncture to manage painful conditions in dogs and cats (and occasionally rabbits!) - most commonly osteoarthritis. Most dogs and cats tolerate it very well. Not all animals respond though, so we recommend an initial course of four treatments, a week apart. This allows us to assess whether it is a procedure your pet will be happy having done and also if it will be effective in helping manage their pain.

## Does acupuncture mean I no longer need to give my pet their prescribed pain relief?

Acupuncture is most commonly used to manage arthritic pain alongside more conventional therapies such as pain relief. As arthritis is a progressive disease, and only management, not cure, is possible, a holistic approach is normally most appropriate. Acupuncture can form part of that, alongside pain relief medication, joint supplements, physiotherapy, weight

reduction and lifestyle changes, such as modifying exercise patterns. In those animals that respond very well to acupuncture, it can be possible to reduce the level of pain relieving drugs they receive, but a consistent and appropriate response to acupuncture, needs to be seen before that decision can be made.

## Who performs acupuncture?

Acupuncture is an act of Veterinary Surgery and therefore should only be performed by a Vet, or a Registered Veterinary Nurse under a Vet's supervision. At Hollybank Vets both Richard and Helen perform acupuncture. If you think your pet might benefit, contact the surgery and make an appointment to see them for an assessment. Each patient is different and we can tailor make an appropriate treatment plan for your pet.

## Is Your Cat Stressed Out?

Despite appearing relaxed and laid back for the majority of the day (hence the expression cat-naps), cats just like us can experience an overload in stress.

### Signs to watch out for include

**Loss of appetite - Over grooming**

**Reduced interaction with family members and/or hiding**

**A change in the relationship with companion cats**

**Elimination outside of the litter box**

**Uncharacteristic aggression**

It can be difficult to identify these as signs of stress, as each cat may show different symptoms, many of which can easily be attributed to other conditions. Unfortunately, this means many cats are going 'under the radar' with mild to moderate stress related problems. Those experiencing high levels of stress, often come to our attention only when socially unacceptable behavioural problems such as spraying in the house, or physiological symptoms of disease exacerbated by stress become apparent.

The truth is that whilst a very popular pet, cats are not adapted to our modern lifestyle. Attempts to maintain their environment, can be severely disrupted by our life choices such as moving house, having a child or introducing a new pet. By talking to us in advance, we can help reduce the impact that such changes have on your cat by utilising pheromone therapy (feliway) or nutraceutical supplements (e.g. Kalmaid) alongside behavioural advice.

However, if you feel your cat is already showing signs of stress, we can discuss with you what may be causing the problem and how to improve things. Sometimes all that is needed are a few minor changes, such as placement of feeding bowls or litter trays, to make your cat feel secure in an ever-changing environment.

*Our ultimate aim is to help stabilise your cats emotionally, through understanding of the species and knowledge of techniques to ensure your home is the purrrfect place for your cat.*



**Hollybank**  
VETERINARY CENTRE

584 Chester Rd **Sandiway**  
Cheshire CW8 2DX

**01606 880 890**

follow us on  
**twitter facebook**

[www.hollybankvets.co.uk](http://www.hollybankvets.co.uk)