



Environmental Sustainability Policy

Haygate Veterinary Centre provides services that have the potential to impact in some way on the environment. These include, but are not limited to, the examination and treatment of animals, the generation and disposal of clinical waste and the use of chemicals which could all pose an environmental risk.

'Haygate' is committed to minimising the impact upon the planet of the services it provides in a way that supports and develops its services and clinical expertise.

Our environmental champion is Lucy Smart, her role is to ensure the following protocols are to be used and that staff members are educated in ways to make the practice more sustainable.

Our aims

- Decrease carbon emissions
- Reduce, reuse and recycle
- Use sustainable products where possible
- Reduce and impact of veterinary medicines on environment
- Education of staff and clients

Waste management

- Easily accessible recycling bins to ensure maximum usage
- Education of staff and clients in what can be recycled
- Correct management of hazardous waste
- Annual audits of waste management
- Reduction in use of single use items

Energy Consumption

- Turning off lights, computers, air conditioning and active scavenging when not in use
- Only using heating when necessary
- Ensuring washing is done in full loads – use of washing line outside and airers for drying bedding.
- Use of vet bed only in kennels to reduce drying time.

Responsible resource use

- Use paper free management systems where possible, email receipts, estimates and consent forms
- Use water distiller for purifying water cutting down on plastic bottles
- Use of reusable cloth hats in theatre
- Introducing the use of tins for autoclaving kits
- Use of recyclable sterilisation pouches
- Change all staff uniforms over to Barco/Sketchers uniform which is made from recyclable materials
- Use of a staff water dispenser to cut down on plastic bottle usage

Antimicrobial Usage

- Only use antimicrobials where appropriate
- Ear cytology prior to dispensing antimicrobials
- Practice project to reduce use of antimicrobials in diarrhoea cases and cat bite abscesses.
- Ensuring correct dosage used
- Use of PROTECTME guidelines
- Increase social media posts regarding the appropriate use and correct disposal of antimicrobials
- Using culture and sensitivity where possible

Going forward plans to be put into place

- Work with sites to enhance on-site green spaces and promote biodiversity in surroundings by joining the Bee friendly practice scheme and adding insect, bird and bee houses to our gardens. Planting bee friendly plants in the garden and introducing pots and hanging baskets.
- Add in a compost bin to the garden to deal with our staff room food waste
- Create a 'green' team from all branches to champion sustainability in practice with a teams chat and quarterly meetings
- Create a suggestion box for sustainable ideas
- Environmental Champion to stay up to date with new guidance

This policy will be reviewed annually, and changes communicated accordingly.

Written by

Lisa Knussen, Head Veterinary Nurse

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Date for review

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