Leading the service is Ludivine Boiron, MSC DVM DACVECC MRCVS, American Specialist in Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care. Ludivine graduated from University of Lyon (France) in 2008, after which she did a rotating internship at the same university. During this time she developed a great interest in Emergency and Critical Care medicine (ECC) and the day-to-day challenge this specialty represents, Ludivine then joined the team in the Emergency and Intensive Care Unit for 3 years from 2009-2012 as a clinical instructor. Following this, she worked as an Emergency doctor in several general practices in France and Switzerland. Ludivine wanted to see how ECC medicine is practiced overseas and undertook an ECC internship at University of California UC Davis in 2014 followed by a three-year Residency at University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, which she completed in July 2018. Ludivine joined Willows in October 2018 and is very motivated by her new position. Ludivine has a special interest in respiratory diseases, trauma and acid base disturbances. She enjoys working with the wider Willows multi-disciplinary team as well as teaching and keeping up to date with recent studies.

Our emergency and critical care advanced clinical services include:
- Emergency diagnostics, endoscopy and surgical interventions provided by Specialists available at all times
- Specialist anaesthetist working in ICU providing advanced multi-modal analgesia for critical patients
- 24 hours intensive nursing care provided by our team of dedicated experienced ICU nurses including 1:1 care for the most critical of patients
- Placement of central catheters for multi-drug and fluid administration
- Parenteral nutrition and feeding tube placement supervised by board-certified clinical nutritionist
- Post-operative ICU hospitalisation of BOAS patients as standard
- All staff fully trained and annually retrained in CPR
- Advanced imaging including MRI, CT and ultrasonography with Specialist radiologists available 24/7
- In-house coagulation testing and cross matching with a full range of blood and blood products available on-site for transfusion

Ludivine will be speaking at two ECC dedicated CPD sessions at Willows in 2019. In February she will co-host an evening session on the dyspnoeic cat and in May there will be whole day dedicated to ECC. To book a place, please visit willows.uk.net/cpd

To be the first to receive more details about these events sign up to our registration page: willows.uk.net/sign-up
Radioactive iodine (RAI) therapy for Fat Dave

Fat Dave, an 8-year-old neutered male domestic shorthaired cat, was presented to Willows radioactive iodine (RAI) service following a diagnosis of hyperthyroidism. Fat Dave had been acquired by his owner from a rescue centre, whose staff had named him for his portly stature. Due to Fat Dave’s obesity, a weight loss plan was instituted and this was very successful. However when there was progressive weight loss beyond the target, a pathological cause of weight loss was suspected and subsequently confirmed by blood testing for hyperthyroidism. Fat Dave’s thirst, urination and stools were all normal.

Fat Dave was somewhat unusual in his presentation of hyperthyroidism due to his age (95% of cats with hyperthyroidism are over 8 years of age), body condition (71% of hyperthyroid cats are underweight at the time of diagnosis) and the absence of some of the cardinal clinical signs of this disease (e.g. 60% of hyperthyroid cats are polydipsic and polyuric). Fat Dave was referred for RAI therapy because it is well established as the gold standard treatment for hyperthyroidism with very high success rates and few adverse effects.

Prior to a cat undergoing radioactive iodine therapy, medical anti-thyroid therapy is recommended for 2-4 weeks to check for occult chronic kidney disease. This is because the increased glomerular filtration rate associated with hyperthyroidism can mask azotaemia, which can then become apparent once the hyperthyroidism is treated. In some selected circumstances, hyperthyroid cats that become azotaemic after RAI therapy need lifelong thyroxine supplementation.

Fat Dave and his owner were seen in a consultation by Isuru Gajanayake (one of the five Internal Medicine Specialists at Willows who oversee the unit) and Vicky Maund (the medicine nurse co-ordinator who runs the unit). On physical examination, Fat Dave was noted to have a heart murmur. This was suspected to be secondary to hyperthyroidism however the option of echocardiography by one of the Willows’ Specialist cardiologists was discussed to check for other cardiac disease.

Fat Dave was then admitted for diagnostic tests including blood sampling, cystocentesis and blood pressure measurement. A dose of RAI was then calculated, on the basis of a clinical score of Fat Dave’s clinical signs and his total thyroxine concentration. This dose of RAI was ordered from a human hospital and administered to Fat Dave the following day.

Fat Dave was then hospitalised in the spacious RAI unit at the Willows for two weeks. This is a legal requirement for this type of treatment. During this period, Vicky and her team of nurses attended to Fat Dave and the other cats in the unit twice a day. CCTV in the unit enabled constant monitoring of the cats if needed. Vicky also kept Fat Dave’s owner updated regularly about his progress. A few days prior to discharge, blood tests were repeated which showed that Fat Dave’s thyroid hormone level was now normal. He had also gained some weight during the period of hospitalisation.

Fat Dave was discharged from the Willows RAI unit 17 days after being admitted. Clear instructions were given to his owner about how to handle Fat Dave for the following 8 days. After this period, Fat Dave was able to be treated as normal. Follow-up blood and urine testing at Fat Dave’s local practice one month after discharge showed that he remained euthyroid.

For further information on radioactive iodine therapy or to discuss a specific case, please call 0121 712 7070.
Epilepsy Clinic

A dedicated epilepsy clinic led by our Specialist neurology team

Willows is delighted to announce that we are now able to offer a dedicated epilepsy clinic.

Epilepsy is a common problem in dogs and cats, and can be very distressing for patients and owners. In some animals an underlying cause of the condition can be identified, such as meningoencephalitis (inflammation of the brain) or even brain tumours, but in many patients the condition is termed ‘idiopathic’ when no obvious underlying cause can be identified.

Our new epilepsy clinics offer:

- Comprehensive investigation of patients using state-of-the-art diagnostic systems
  - 1.5T on-site MRI scanner available for routine and out-of-hours imaging
  - CSF analysis
  - Haematology and serum biochemistry
- Neurology team led by board-certified specialists, supported by a comprehensive specialist multi-disciplinary team
- Hospitalised patients benefit from 24 hours veterinary and nursing care
- Superb ICU facilities for critical patients, overseen by ECC Specialist
- Urgent and emergency cases seen as a priority
- Patient-specific treatment plans reviewed and adjusted as required
- Fixed price package for routine cases, for clients’ peace of mind

Our OTHER SPECIALIST CLINICS

In addition to our dedicated Epilepsy Clinic, Willows also offers specific clinics for the diagnosis and treatment of certain small animal diseases, providing referring vets with a further resource. Our Specialists see challenging cases on a regular basis and have a multi-discipline team approach which is essential in achieving the very best results.

Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS) Clinic
A clinic dedicated to the diagnosis and treatment of Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome (BOAS). The clinic is led by Chris Shales, one of our Specialist soft tissue surgeons. Treatment of BOAS can be very challenging, and a team approach involving surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses is essential to achieve the best results.

Feline Medicine Clinic
A feline-specific internal medicine clinic tailored for individual client and patient needs. The clinics are suitable for cats with a diverse range of medical conditions and our staff are trained to be aware of the needs of cats and their owners to make any visit as stress-free as possible.

Total Hip Replacement (THR) Clinic
Total hip replacements are very well established at Willows, and our Specialists have built up a huge wealth of experience and expertise over the years, as well as pioneering new techniques for performing hip replacements in small animals. A fixed price package is available to cover the costs of the surgery.

Atrial Fibrillation (AF) Clinic
Our cardiology team is actively involved in ground breaking clinical research that is taking place to better understand this rhythm and improve the outcomes for dogs with this condition. A fixed price package is available for atrial fibrillation assessment.

If you wish to refer a case or if you require any further information about any of our dedicated Specialist clinics, please call us on 0121 712 7070.
How to refer...

**Case Advice**
We welcome calls if you require pre-referral advice about a patient, even if no referral follows. **Telephone: 0121 712 7070**

### Case Referral
- **Non-Emergency**
  - **Telephone 0121 712 7070**
  - to register the case, then send any necessary information to us

### Emergency, Urgent and Out-of-Hours
- **Telephone: 0121 712 7070**

### Online
- Visit willows.uk.net/refer
  - Complete information and upload relevant history, test results/radiographs and a covering letter

### Email
- Email histories@willows.uk.net

### Fax
- Fax details to 0121 712 7077

### Post
- Send to Willows Referral Service
  - Highlands Road
  - Shirley Solihull
  - B90 4NH

**Please remember we’ll need the following details**
- **Your details**
  - Name
  - Practice
  - Address
  - Telephone number
  - Email address
- **Owner’s details**
  - Owner’s name
  - Owner’s address
  - Owner’s telephone
  - Owner’s email address
- **Patient’s details**
  - Name
  - Species/breed
  - Sex
  - Age
- **Details of the referral**
  - Discipline you are referring
  - Description of the condition and the reason for referring

**Please supply all relevant clinical history**
- Diagnostics (including normal and abnormal results) blood tests, urinalysis, cytology or histopathology results and radiographs

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**WILLS SPECIALIST MULTI-DISCIPLINARY REFERRAL SERVICE**
We have RCVS, European and American recognised Specialists providing services in the fields of:

- Anaesthesia and Analgesia
- Cardiology
- Dermatology
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Emergency and Critical Care
- Internal Medicine
- Neurology and Neurosurgery
- Nutrition
- Oncology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopaedics and Spinal Surgery
- Soft Tissue Surgery

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Willows Referral Service
Highlands Road Shirley Solihull
West Midlands B90 4NH
Telephone: 0121 712 7070

www.willows.uk.net

Committed to excellence

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