

National Veterinary Nursing Day at Garston Veterinary Group 2006

At Garston Vets we chose to hold a "Nurse-athon" for National Veterinary Nursing day. The Nurse-athon consisted of the nursing team performing all our clinics free of charge and instead asking for a donation to Children in Need. The Nurse-athon was held in all our three practices (Warminster, Trowbridge and Frome) throughout our normal surgery hours.



The clinics consisted of:
Nail clipping..... Anal glands..... Dental checks



....Conscious grooming and dematting..... Ear Cleaning....

Adolescent Checks....Worming and Flea checks....



and Top-to-Toe checks



Our aim was to raise awareness of our clients showing them exactly what nurses can do. The clients amazed us by being very generous with their donations donating much more than the normal price for clinics and supporting the nurses. They really seemed to enjoy their one on one time and attention with the nurse.

The diary was opened two weeks before the event hoping that we would have enough clients to fill the day. We designed an eye-catching poster and it was displayed in each practice, all the local pet shops, and dog groomers. We also contacted the editor of the local newspaper who gave us a free article to invite clients to come and book appointments to help us raise as much as possible!

On the morning of VN day we all arrived to work bright and eager, yet a little apprehensive as we hadn't run a charity event like this one before, and being such an unknown national day we were also concerned people wouldn't bother to come in.

The day started as normal with inpatient checks, admits and sedations being calculated and given. Then our vet Fran came in, she had been working throughout the night (typing and laminating) and had made us some display boards, showing a day in the life as a veterinary nurse and how to become a VN. We had banners and balloons to help support the day and we spent some time decorating the waiting room. Now all we had to do was sit and wait, whilst carrying on with the day to day operations.

First appointment: nail clip a nice easy one to start us off, lovely friendly, well behaved Labrador. I clipped his nails, gave out treats and a little dietary advice. The client was happy and so was I, then as I showed the client out of the consulting room Dexter (the dog) was so excited he knocked our stack of paint (ready for the extension) over with his tail, which resulted in the black gloss tin bouncing on the floor and popping open. Need I say more it was everywhere, yet in true VN style we all worked together using every incontinence pad in the practice to clean it up.

After the new paint job the appointments commenced running. The whole day was packed full mostly with anal glands! Yet full. Some double and even triple appointments and the donations started pouring in.

Special thanks to the partners for allowing us to donate the proceeds of the clinics and for supporting VN day: That meant a lot to our nurses. Also thanks to the receptionists that helped support us, by booking us all the appointments and manning the donation bin with such vigor.

The whole day was a buzz and it really boosted staff moral and hopefully showed our clients what a valuable part of the team the nurses are and maybe encouraged some more people to apply for nursing jobs. We also raised £261.46 for Children in Need, generously made up to £300 by the Partners. Next year we shall try and beat this years total and hopefully make it a annual event!