

## Referral to Wear – What to Expect

### Who will be treating and looking after my pet?

Our clinical team is made up of veterinary surgeons and nurses covering a wide range of disciplines including surgery (soft tissue, orthopaedic and neurology), internal medicine, medical neurology, cardiology, anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging, and oncology (cancer treatment). We take referrals from vets in primary care practice across the north-east and beyond.

### *Veterinary surgeons:*

- All of our referral clinicians have extensive experience working in their chosen field. Most have chosen to work in a specific discipline to refine their skills further.
- Many of our clinicians are RCVS or European Specialists in their field. This is the highest level of postgraduate clinical qualification and only vets who have undergone rigorous, accredited, one-on-one training and then passed extensive examinations can call themselves recognised Specialists. Specialists are also involved in further education within the profession, for example by lecturing. Loosely speaking, the human medicine equivalent is a consultant.
- Some of our clinicians are 'residency trained', which means they have successfully completed a three- or four-year specialist training programme and are preparing to sit the specialist examinations.
- Clinicians who are in a specialist training programme are called residents. We currently have an internal medicine residency programme at Wear Referrals. The human medicine equivalent of a resident would be a registrar.
- Some of our clinicians are certificate-holders. This means that they have chosen to do further study and passed examinations to show skills in a particular area, usually while working in clinical practice. These clinicians may be registered as 'RCVS Advanced Practitioners' in their particular field.
- Our final category of veterinary surgeons is our interns. Interns are qualified vets who are undertaking further study in referral practice. They work with and learn from our senior clinicians on a daily basis. Many interns will later progress into residency programmes.
- At Wear Referrals our veterinary team is made up of 8 specialists, 6 residency-trained clinicians, 1 resident and 2 certificate-holders.



**WEAR REFERRALS**  
Small Animal Hospital

***Veterinary nurses:***

- We are lucky at Wear Referrals to have a large team of experienced veterinary nurses. Our nurses are involved in all aspects of your pet's treatment with us, from assisting with examinations, monitoring anaesthetics, running laboratory tests, bandaging, inpatient care and communicating updates to owners.
- Like their veterinary colleagues, nurses have to pass examinations in order to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). Wear Referrals is an accredited nurse training practice and have a number of student nurses currently going through their training with us.
- We are also lucky to be one of the pilot centres for a new referral nursing training programme called the Post Registration Programme (PRP). This is aimed at providing newly qualified RVNs with the skills they need to then work in referral practice.

Our nurses generally work within a specific team so that they can develop skills and expertise in a particular field, enhancing the quality of care that we provide for our