

## Which conditions can be helped?

- arthritis and other joint pain
- back pain (including disc disease)
- other orthopaedic or neurological disorders
- muscular pain
- chronic internal pain (e.g. pancreatitis or cystitis)

## Joined-up treatment

Effective management of painful conditions requires the co-ordinated efforts of an interdisciplinary rehabilitation team. At Broadleys Veterinary Hospital this includes:

- the unit director
- veterinary pain management and acupuncture practitioners
- veterinary behaviour consultant
- qualified veterinary nurses

Two other important members of the team are, of course, the owner and the referring veterinary surgeon, both of whom are involved in the treatment plan.

*The Veterinary Rehabilitation Centre at Broadleys Veterinary Hospital brings together the best that veterinary science can offer to ease suffering and improve the life quality of pets. And we're always looking for anything new that will make your pet feel better.*

## First appointment

- Patients should not be fasted unless specifically requested
- Dogs should be toileted before arrival but not over exercised
- Dogs that are unwell, and bitches in season, may not be allowed in the Water-Walker—if in doubt, please phone to discuss
- Consultations are by appointment—**please telephone as soon as possible if you are unable to attend and need to reschedule**
- On arrival please report to Reception in the hospital main building
- First appointments at the Pain Clinic are for 90 minutes, and thereafter usually 30 minutes
- At the Water-Walker, initial assessments take 45 minutes, and weekly treatments are within 30-minute appointments
- **Payment in full** will be requested after each appointment
- If you have pet insurance, please bring a claim form with you—in some cases a direct claim may be possible

**BROADLEYS VETERINARY HOSPITAL**

**CRAIG LEITH ROAD**

**BROADLEYS BUSINESS PARK**

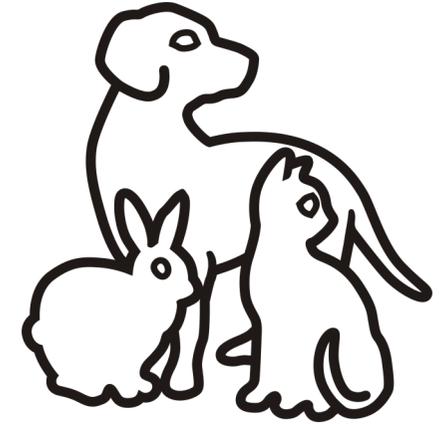
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# BROADLEYS VETERINARY HOSPITAL



## *Rehabilitation Centre*

*Pain Management*

*Acupuncture*

*Water-Walker Hydrotherapy*

*Behaviour Therapy*

FIRST APPOINTMENT

## Is there anything else we can do?

This is a question frequently asked by owners of pets with chronic conditions. Concerned about suffering, they want to be sure they are doing all they can for their pets.

Rehabilitation, new to veterinary medicine, provides that reassurance. With extended appointments and increased owner involvement, everything can be considered. This ensures that pets receive the best possible care and owners are fully supported.

## Who will benefit?

- **patients with poorly controlled pain**
- **owners who feel their pets may be suffering**
- **pets with pain for which no cause has been found**
- **pets with painful conditions awaiting or recovering from surgery**
- **pets with liver or kidney disease who cannot take their usual pain medicine**
- **owners who need more time and support to help their pets**
- **pets with pain-related behaviour problems**
- **pets in need of palliative care**

## The Pain Clinic

This branch of veterinary medicine uses a combination of conventional, complementary and advanced therapies in the management of chronic pain.

Information from a pet's clinical history, examination on the day, and behavioural changes during parts of that exam, are used by the consultant to make an accurate assessment of the degree of pain suffered.

From this assessment a treatment plan is formulated and discussed. This may include any or all of the following:

- **conventional treatment—review of current medication**
- **'advanced' medication**
- **western veterinary acupuncture and electro acupuncture**
- **hydrotherapy—referral to the Water-Walker Clinic**
- **relaxation therapies**
- **referral to the behaviour consultant**

The clinic also places special emphasis on teaching owners to understand their pets' pain, and equipping them with safe techniques to continue treatment at home.

Support is provided through follow-up appointments and a written plan, which is also sent to the referring veterinary surgeon.

## The Water-Walker Clinic

Therapeutic exercise combined with pain management is at the core of rehabilitation.

The Water-Walker is an advanced hydrotherapy system which retrains dogs to walk rather than forcing them to swim.



The treadmill encourages use of all the muscles needed for walking, and provides a focus on moving forward. The feel of the water gives feedback that helps to imprint correct locomotion.

This exercise is the best way to restore normal function following surgery or injury, and is also beneficial in the long-term management of arthritis.

At the initial assessment and throughout the course of treatment, owners are fully involved and appreciate being able to aid their pets' progress. Appointments allow plenty of time for drying dogs afterwards, and towels are provided.