

# WOODCROFT REFERRALS

## NEWSLETTER



## PHYSIOTHERAPY AT WOODCROFT REFERRALS

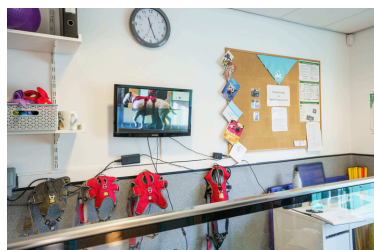
We're pleased to share an update from our Physiotherapy Service. To make sure we can continue providing timely, high-quality rehabilitation for your patients, we've recently expanded our team.

We're delighted to welcome a new physiotherapist and a new hydrotherapist to the department. Their addition has increased our appointment availability and is already helping us reduce waiting times, meaning referred patients can be seen sooner and start their rehabilitation without unnecessary delays.

Our team has a wide range of experience, allowing us to support orthopaedic, neurological, medical, and chronic pain cases with practical, evidence-based rehabilitation plans. We focus on tailoring treatment to each patient, while working closely with referring veterinary surgeons to support the best possible outcomes.

On the next page, you'll find brief introductions to our new team members, who are very much looking forward to working alongside you and supporting your patients through their recovery.

If you have a case you feel would benefit from physiotherapy or hydrotherapy input, or if you'd like to discuss a potential referral, please feel free to get in touch or send a referral through. We're always happy to discuss cases and support your clinical decision-making.



# Meet the Physiotherapy Team

[Samuel Washington BSc \(Hons\), MIRVAP](#)  
[Veterinary Physiotherapist](#)



Sam graduated from Harper Adams University in 2024, with a BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Physiotherapy. He enjoys treating animals of all shapes and sizes, with no animal being too much of a challenge.

Joining the physiotherapy team in January 2026, Sam has brought fresh energy and expertise to the physiotherapy department, collaborating seamlessly with veterinary surgeons and nurses.

Sam particularly finds joy in helping ageing animals find a new lease of life again, making sure they are as comfortable as possible and able to live life to the fullest.

When not therapsing animals at Woodcroft, Sam enjoys going out on adventures with his own dog across the Peak District and the plains of Cheshire.

[Amber Seaton RVN MCHA](#)  
[Veterinary Hydrotherapist](#)



Amber is one of our Registered Veterinary Nurses. She graduated from Harper Adams University in 2023 and has been working with Woodcroft since. In 2025 she qualified as a canine hydrotherapist and now works with Sam on the hydrotherapy team.

Alongside her interest in animal rehabilitation, she also has a keen interest in animal behaviour. This compliments her rehabilitation work by helping her understand each of her patients and tailor their care to keep them comfortable and confident.

Amber particularly enjoys working with senior patients and helping them with mobility and arthritis management. She finds both her nursing and hydrotherapy work very rewarding, especially seeing the difference she makes for her patients.



# Case Study - Freddie

## ASYMPTOMATIC HEART MURMUR

Case Surgeon - Zuzanna Uljanowska  
CertAVP(VC), PgCertVPS, MRCVS

Freddie is an 11 year 2-month-old neutered male crossbreed dog. He was presented to the cardiology referral team after his primary vets detected a new heart murmur during a routine check-up. Freddie was also preparing for dental surgery, and his vets wanted a cardiology assessment to help stratify the general anaesthetic risk.

On clinical examination, the main finding was a grade 2-3/6 focal left systolic murmur, loudest over the mitral valve. Major findings on an echocardiography revealed:

1. An LA:AO ratio of 1.25 in the right-sided short-axis view in early diastole
2. A left ventricular internal diameter in diastole, normalised for body weight, of 1.617

Based on these results, Freddie's heart disease was classified as stage B1 according to ACVIM guidelines (Keene et al., 2019). No medication or dietary changes were required at this stage, and ongoing monitoring was recommended. A cardiology review with repeat echocardiography was advised in 6-9 months, as Freddie is a cross of breeds predisposed to mitral valve disease. His anaesthetic risk was considered slightly higher than that of dogs with no cardiac changes, but still mild overall.

Freddie was the first patient we assessed using our asymptomatic heart murmur package price. We hope this price will enable swift diagnosis of otherwise asymptomatic heart murmurs in both dogs and cats.

*References: Keene, B.W., Atkins, C.E., Bonagura, J.D., Fox, P.R., Häggström, J., Fuentes, V.L., Oyama, M.A., Rush, J.E., Stepien, R. and Uechi, M., 2019. ACVIM consensus guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of myxomatous mitral valve disease in dogs. Journal of veterinary internal medicine, 33(3), pp.1127-1140.*



### ASYMPTOMATIC HEART MURMUR PACKAGE

£950

#### What is included?

- Consultation with cardiologist
- Detailed Colour flow Doppler echocardiogram
- Blood pressure measurement.

#### Requirements:

- Newly diagnosed heart murmur in adult dogs and cats with no other signs of heart disease.

# Phacoemulsification Package Pricing

£4,500 - UNILATERAL  
£5,500 - BILATERAL

We are pleased to introduce our cataract surgery package pricing, designed to provide clear, predictable costs for owners and referring vets.

Cataract surgery can feel complex to explain, especially when pricing varies depending on diagnostics, hospitalisation, or postoperative needs. By offering an all-inclusive package, we aim to make quoting simpler, faster, and more consistent for everyone involved.

Our comprehensive package covers every step of the patient journey, including:

- A consultation with an ophthalmologist
- Routine diagnostics (bloods, ocular ultrasound and gonioscopy)
- General anaesthesia
- The surgical procedure including all surgical consumables
- Discharge medications
- Overnight care and hospitalisation for up to 3 days

With fewer cost variables, consent discussions become smoother, and owners hopefully feel more confident when deciding on surgery for their pet.

## Benefits of Cataract Surgery for Patients

Phacoemulsification remains the preferred technique for cataract removal in dogs and other species. When performed in suitable cases, it offers:

- Restored functional vision, improving mobility, safety, and quality of life.
- A minimally invasive approach, allowing for small incisions, reduced discomfort, and quicker visual recovery.
- Long-term welfare benefits and helping animals regain confidence.

To refer a case for ophthalmic surgery please visit [www.woodcroftreferrals.com/refer-a-case](http://www.woodcroftreferrals.com/refer-a-case) or call 0161 486 2333 .

# Introducing...

Ashleigh Bates BVetMed (Hons) PGCertSAM  
MRCVS

Referral Vet - Internal Medicine



Ashleigh graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2014 and joined Woodcroft in 2015, initially working across several of the practice's first-opinion branches.

In 2019, she was appointed Head Veterinary Surgeon at the busy Cheadle branch, where she led the clinical team while further developing her professional interests. During this time, she undertook a postgraduate certificate in Small Animal Internal Medicine, reflecting her growing passion for complex medical cases.

Following completion of her post-graduate studies, Ashleigh chose to step back from her leadership role in order to focus more fully on her clinical interests in internal medicine. Over the past year, she has worked closely alongside the medicine team, gaining valuable experience and insight into referral-level practice and the management of more challenging medical cases.

In January 2026, she joined the referral team on a full-time basis, where she now dedicates her time to investigating and managing complex internal medicine cases.



SCAN FOR  
REFERRAL PRICES

# Reintroducing...

Karen Stanier - Referral Coordinator



Karen started her career at Woodcroft in 1987 at the age of 16 years old. She began training as a veterinary nurse and qualified in 1994 through Myerscough College. During her time with us then she worked in all areas, including multiple referral disciplines such as cardiology, orthopaedics and A&E to name a few.

In 2014 Karen made a move to Liverpool University to work in their referrals department and run their pharmacy. During this time, she furthered her experience in multiple disciplines.

In 2021 Karen came back to Woodcroft as a locum nurse and then in 2022 stepped into the full-time role of referral coordinator.

Karen is based at Woodcroft Veterinary Hospital and works closely with our reception team to support you with case referrals and provide advice whenever you need it.

If you have any queries regarding the referral process Karen can be contacted on [referrals@woodcroftvets.com](mailto:referrals@woodcroftvets.com).



# For easy referrals:

Spring brings a sense of renewal, and for our referrals team it marks a refreshed commitment to supporting you and your clients.

This year, we're focusing on faster referral decisions, clearer and more streamlined communication, and making sure you receive timely reassurance about whether we can accept a case.

## Please ensure that you have provided us with:

- Clear clinical history - concise but complete notes about presenting signs, progression, and key findings.
- Recent diagnostics - bloodwork, imaging, or any relevant tests uploaded at the time of referral rather than later.
- Owner availability - if the client is ready to come in quickly, or needs specific timing, it's helpful to know early.

This means we can pass your referral to the most suitable member of our team, ensuring you receive the right advice and/or that your client is booked in with a referral vet as soon as possible, giving them the reassurance they need.

## Looking Ahead

We are always listening to feedback from our referring vet team and have been making ongoing improvements behind the scenes to better support you and your clients' pets. Please feel free to email [referrals@woodcroftvets.com](mailto:referrals@woodcroftvets.com) with any additional thoughts.

We'd love to hear from you.

## Referrals we offer :

- Soft Tissue Surgery**
- Orthopaedic Surgery**
- Ophthalmology**
- Internal Medicine**
- Cardiology**
- Dermatology** (currently on hold)
- Diagnostic Imaging - CT & Ultrasound**
- Dentistry**
- Veterinary Behavioural Medicine** (currently on hold)
- Physiotherapy/Hydrotherapy**
- Laparoscopic Spays & Castrates**