

Kingston Veterinary Group Acquires Canine Hydrotherapy Centre

With more and more veterinary practices recommending exercise in water for injured dogs, the Kingston Veterinary Group has acquired a Hull canine hydrotherapy centre and is expanding its resources.

The Bluewaters Canine Hydrotherapy Centre will continue to be managed by Julie Fenton, who set up the business three years ago, and will have two additional staff seconded from the Kingston Group and specially trained in canine hydrotherapy.

The additional staff, together with extended opening hours, means that Bluewaters will be able to increase the number of dogs treated each week to about 60 – an increase of 50 per cent.

Dogs will be able to build up muscle strength following injury or operations, and counter orthopaedic conditions, by either swimming in the centre's hydrotherapy pool or using its hydrotherapy treadmill – the dog walks on a moving treadmill which is immersed in a tank of water.

Kingston Veterinary Group Director Paul Atkinson said: "We are increasing the resources at Bluewaters so that its services can be available to more dog owners and more veterinary practices. The acquisition is enabling the business to develop at a faster rate than Julie could have managed on her own."

"Most pet insurance companies include hydrotherapy as part of a treatment process, and because Bluewaters is now a veterinary-operated centre it will be easier for people to claim this service on their insurance," he added.

Bluewaters' services include a pre-operative programme to prepare a dog for surgery, post-operative rehabilitation following orthopaedic surgery, therapy for skeletal or muscular conditions, and recovery from neurological conditions following spinal surgery or disease. The treatment sessions also help obese dogs and those with arthritis.

It is estimated that one minute of hydrotherapy for a dog is equivalent to going for a one mile walk. Hydrotherapy uses almost every muscle in the body. It encourages full extension of the limbs, increases flexibility in the joints, strengthens muscles, increases cardiovascular fitness and is also mentally stimulating.



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