

## AVONVALE VETERINARY CENTRES WASTE MANAGEMENT POLICY

Avonvale Veterinary Centres are committed to reducing our environmental impact through a journey of continual improvement by working through the Investors in the Environment accreditation scheme. As part of this, one of our focuses is reducing our waste and following the Waste Hierarchy. No waste produced by and disposed of by Avonvale Veterinary Centres goes into landfill. All waste is weighed on collection for auditing purposes.



### **Prevention: Waste reduction initiatives**

At Avonvale we are committed to exploring and reducing our waste, through sustainable procurement and use reusable equipment where possible and safe to do so. Current initiatives include repurposing old intravenous fluid bags as waterproof shoes for dogs to keep bandages dry, reusable scrub hats for clinical staff, reusable tube ties (some specifically designed as some repurposed capnograph lines), and reusable surgical clogs to eliminate single use shoe covers.

### **Preparation for reuse**

Reusable equipment is thoroughly cleaned and prepared for reuse, including surgical kits being cleaned and sterilised.

### **Alternative recycling schemes**

- Pet food packaging recycling: We have MVH sponsored recycling collection points for pet food packaging at all sites, available for staff, inpatients, day patients, and members of the public to drop off soft plastic animal food packaging for recycling
- Printer cartridges: Collected at Warwick from all sites and recycled via Veolia
- Batteries: Collected at Warwick from all sites and recycled via Veolia

**Other recovery:**

Certain consumables, including the isoflurane at the Heathcote branch, are collected in specialised storage equipment and are collected for extraction and reuse.

**Disposal:**

All waste produced is subject to a veterinary risk assessment and disposed of accordingly into one of the following categories based on required route for disposal:

Medical waste – via PHS

- Cytotoxic and cytostatic pharmaceuticals (including glass bottles and vials, contaminated syringes or needles, ppe, animal bedding, etc)
- Infectious waste (including sharps)
- Pharmaceuticals (including denatured controlled drugs, prescription-only medicines, out-of-date drugs, contaminated bottles, syringe bodies and contaminated packaging)
- EFW non-infectious and offensive waste
- Anatomical (Any body part or body tissue) – or via CPC

Business/Domestic Waste – via Veolia

- EFW recovered general waste
- Recycling (including alternative areas for recycling e.g. batteries)
- Waste for anaerobic digestion (e.g. food waste)

| Medical Waste                                  | Routes of disposal  |
|--|---|
| Cytotoxic / Cytostatic                         | Segregated into purple and yellow containers<br>Sent for high temperature incineration  |
| Infectious / Sharps (non-cytotoxic/cytostatic) | Collected in yellow sharps container located in each clinical room in all sites<br>Sent for high temperature incineration   |
| Pharmaceutical                                 | All controlled drugs are denatured and made not-readily recoverable before disposal in the presence of an authorised person<br>Segregated into blue leak-proof containers |
| Anatomical                                     | Stored in anatomical waste containment bags in the freezer and collected for high temperature incineration  |
| EFW (e.g. Non-infectious, Offensive)           | Collected in yellow clinical waste bins located in each clinical room in all sites<br>Sent for recovered general waste incineration to create energy (EFW)                |
| Cadavers                                       | If not taken home by the owner, individually prepared and contained for cold storage for collection by CPC or another cremation company of the client's choosing.         |
| Non-Medical Waste                              | Routes of disposal  |
| EFW (e.g. recovered general waste)             | Collected in black bins<br>Sent for recovered general waste incineration to create energy (EFW)   |
| Recycling (e.g. DMR, confidential waste)       | Separated by staff into designated recycling bins at all sites  |

|                                       |   |
|---------------------------------------|---|
|                                       | Recycled by Viola   |
| Anaerobic Digestion (e.g. food waste) | Segregated into food waste bins in staff areas<br>Collected by Viola for anaerobic digestion  |
| Pet Food Packaging                    | Collected by staff, clients, and inpatients,<br>cleaned and collected at all sites in waiting<br>rooms and most feed rooms<br>Mars Veterinary Health collection and recycled<br>into products |
| Batteries and Printer Cartridges      | Collected at Warwick from all sites and<br>recycled via Veolia  |

We will continue to improve our environmental and waste management system by working to the Investors in the Environment (IiE) criteria, considering any changes in legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will convey this policy to all our employees ensuring that they are provided with training to increase awareness of environmental matters.

Kate Webb is our Sustainability Lead and has designated responsibility for the day- to-day implementation of this policy.

Avonvale Veterinary Centres will make this policy available when requested to interested parties including members of the public, including making a copy available on the group website.

Name: \_\_Kate Webb\_\_

Position: Investors in the Environment Lead for Avonvale Veterinary Centres

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Name: \_\_William Brookes\_\_

Position: Sustainability Champion, Veterinary Surgeon

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

Name: \_\_Kieran O'Halloran\_\_

Position: Clinical Director for Avonvale Veterinary Centres

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025