



# BECOMING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY PET OWNER IN 2019



Silver Award  
2018/2019  
Setting the standard for  
the environment

In celebration of World Environmental Day on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2019, here is some specialist advice on being a sustainable pet owner and what we are working towards at Davies. Our aim is to reduce our carbon emissions and resource consumption. This year we achieved our Silver level accreditation with the Investors in the Environment scheme

We are promoting sustainability within the veterinary profession, including education events held at Davies and publishing articles in veterinary journals. We are making our resources available to other veterinary practices and we also thought our pet owners would be interested in how to become more sustainable. Some of our initiatives are overleaf.



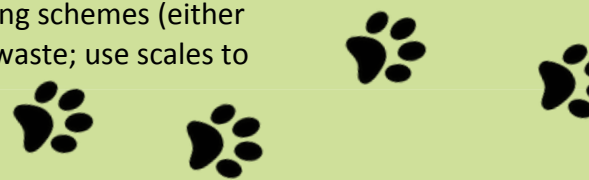
## Our suggestions for sustainable pet ownership



What is sustainability?  
*'it is about looking after things now so that they can be enjoyed by us, and by future generations'*

### Look for sustainably sourced pet foods:

1) For animals eating meat-based diets, consider lower-impact meats like chicken and rabbit (or even insect-based diets!) and avoid beef and fish (and if buying fish, make sure it is MSC-certified). 2) Look for pet foods with recyclable packaging, or for recycling schemes (either through your local council or Terracycle drop-off points) 3) Avoid food waste; use scales to measure out food and your pet's weight

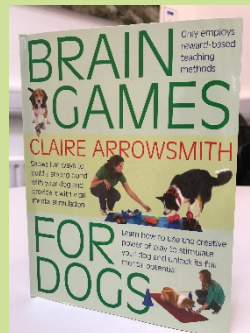


### Toys and equipment

Look for recycled or more sustainable materials e.g. bamboo toothbrushes, food bowls and dog jackets; stainless steel bowls; dog toys made from rubber, bamboo or hemp

Look for low-carbon impact ways to play and have fun with your pets. For some fun ideas for ways to play with your dog, see "Brain Games For Dogs: Fun ways to build a strong bond with your dog and provide it with vital mental stimulation by Claire Arrowsmith"

Look for shampoos, conditioners and grooming products which contain less harmful chemicals, ideally containing biodegradable and organic ingredients



### When you are out and about

Try walking a few more short journeys with your pet rather than driving (Be aware of wildlife when walking your dog; for example, avoid areas where dogs may disturb ground-nesting birds)

### Clearing up after your pet

- Choose biodegradable poo bags
- Choose cat litter based on materials such as sawdust, shredded paper, or even leaves. Avoid clay-based litter, as it is strip-mined.
- It is possible to compost dog faeces, but it should not be put on ground where you may grow food for human consumption due to some parasites and bacteria which may not be killed by composting

### Healthcare

Take advice from your veterinary healthcare team on preventative healthcare, for example, weight loss will reduce the impact of many conditions including osteoarthritis



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## What is happening in the veterinary world?

The British Veterinary Association is supporting the “#LessAndBetter” concept, to encourage consumers to buy less and better quality animal-derived products

The British Veterinary Association has recently released a position statement on sustainable agriculture. This outlines the role of veterinary surgeons in supporting sustainable agriculture

<https://www.bva.co.uk/news-campaigns-and-policy/policy/farm-animals/sustainable-animal-agriculture/>

There are a number of UK farm Assurance Schemes, such as the Red Tractor and Lion egg schemes which the British Veterinary Association is campaigning to support (#ChooseAssured), for example. the ‘Red Tractor’ logo is for the Assured Food Standards which indicates responsibly produced British food. The standards cover animal welfare, food safety, traceability and environmental protection.

There is a #GreenTeamVet twitter feed

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and British Veterinary Association have included a sustainability stream into their VetFutures programme, which is a major new initiative that aims to help the veterinary profession prepare for and shape its own future

Davies Veterinary Specialists’ medicine clinician Ian Battersby led the veterinary sector in responsible antibiotic prescribing to reduce the development of antimicrobial resistance, which has culminated in the Protect Me guidelines (<https://www.bsava.com/Resources/Veterinary-resources/PROTECT-ME>).



## What is happening at Davies Veterinary Specialists?

- ✓ We installed air source heat pumps to reduce energy consumption
- ✓ We reduced our use of single use plastics such as bubble wrap, surgical hats and warming blankets
- ✓ We are auditing our waste management systems to reduce environmental impacts and improving our staff training on waste segregation
- ✓ We installed reusable sharps bins systems to prevent purchase and incineration of plastics
- ✓ We send all food waste for anaerobic digestion
- ✓ We give all of our staff reusable water bottles
- ✓ We engage in Terracycling of pet food packaging, crisp packets and contact lens packet
- ✓ We only purchase FSc or PEFC-accredited paper
- ✓ We use oxygen-based washing machines which are bacteriocidal at 40°C
- ✓ We auto-turn off all computers at night
- ✓ We operate a cycle-to-work scheme for all employees

See what else is happening on World Environment Day June 5<sup>th</sup> near you:

<https://www.worldenvironmentday.global/>

Our Sustainability Lead at Davies is Ellie West

Our Environmental Policy can be viewed at: <https://vetspecialists.co.uk/sustainability/>

