

# Environmental Policy

## The Neighbourhood Vet 2024

The Neighbourhood Vet comprise 3 sites which all have RCVS PSS small animal practice accreditation. Our teams provide outstanding client care and are always striving for clinical excellence. Our staff work with our practice values in mind; provision of excellent and personal care for you and your pets, to be kind, compassionate, professional and honest. We have animal welfare at the heart of everything we do and we strive to do this sustainably. It is our professional duty to consider our impacts on public health and the environment under the One Health paradigm. We acknowledge that our operations have a negative environmental impact and as such feel an obligation to do what is in our power to mitigate this impact.

We have identified our key environmental aspects that contribute our environmental and carbon footprint:

- Use of anaesthetic gases
- Waste generation
- Consumption of electricity, gas, water and other fuels
- Transport emissions
- Medicine usage and disposal
- Procured goods and services with their own environmental impact

The Neighbourhood Vet is committed to reducing its environmental impact through a journey of continual improvement. We were one of the first practices to achieve the IVC Evidensia Positive Pawprint partner status in 2022. This year we are using the Vet Sustain veterinary specific Carbon Calculator to calculate our practice carbon footprint and are working towards the Investors in the Environment (IIE) accreditation scheme at Bronze level. We have active infection prevention and control (IPC) and antimicrobial stewardship (ASP) ambassadors. Topaz Koch is also a member of the Vet Sustain champions group which was one of the first groups of vets worldwide to obtain the Carbon Literacy Certification for Veterinary Professionals. Suzanne has also now obtained Carbon Literacy Certification.

Our environmental commitment can be demonstrated in our established objectives and goals below:

- To have a dedicated and active supported Green Group to empower members of the team to continuously drive change within the practice
- To reduce our Scope 1 and 2 carbon footprints by 50% by 2030
- Compliance with all applicable environmental regulations
- To monitor our key resource usage and implement conservation techniques to achieve our environmental targets
- To record and reduce our use of anaesthetic gases
- To improve on our waste/recycling policy to further reduce our waste production
- Ongoing reduction in packaging and single-use items

- To implement a sustainable procurement policy
- Support and promote sustainable transport
- Reduction of ecotoxic chemicals
- Responsible medicines usage and disposal (antibiotics and antiparasitics)
- Improving the biodiversity of our green spaces
- Working with IVC Evidensia to reduce the environmental impact of Scope 3 emissions via feedback about suppliers to encourage them to decrease the environmental impact of their products and transportation.
- Promotion of preventable medicine
- Striving to keep our staff and clients engaged and informed on our sustainability plan via regular agenda slots in practice meetings and updates via the website, social media and newsletters including visibility of our carbon footprint.
- Contributing to the wider drive towards sustainability within the veterinary profession by sharing our knowledge & experiences.

We will continue to improve our environmental management system by working to the IEE and PSS criteria, continually 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.

Topaz Koch is our Sustainability Champion and has designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy. The Neighbourhood Vet make this policy available when requested to interested parties including members of the public and is available on your website.

Signed: Suzanne McNabb and Simon Knowles

Position: Clinical Directors

Date: January 2024