

RVC Exotics Service



Talk to the RVC about our diagnostic services

Veterinary surgeons seeking to refer
or discuss a case can contact the
Exotics Service via our dedicated
referrals line on 020 75543528 or
email
exoticscamden@rvc.ac.uk

www.rvc.ac.uk

Exotic animal services at the RVC

Based at the Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital in Camden, the RVC Exotics Service provides treatment for a large variety of animals including small mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians and ornamental fish.

Many exotic pets are prey species so we offer dedicated hospitalisation facilities away from cats and dogs where our patients can recover undisturbed.

All our team of nurses and vets have specific expertise with anaesthesia and care of the critical exotic patient. For complex cases, we collaborate with specialists in other disciplines at RVC Small Animal Referrals, where advanced diagnostic facilities and treatment modalities such as the radioactive iodine unit are available for our patients.

Small mammal challenges

Rabbits, rodents and ferrets all make up a large part of our daily caseload and can be challenging patients due to their tendency to hide signs of disease until problems are advanced. Weight loss is a common presentation and may indicate a number of underlying diseases, including dental, respiratory or urinary problems, in addition to less common endocrine disorders. Many species of the smaller rodents also have fairly short lifespans. Consequently problems that are classically associated with the older animal such as neoplasia, arthritis, renal disease and obesity may often be encountered within only 1-2 years of the animal being obtained. Diagnosis and treatment can be challenging, especially when multiple disease processes are present and patients

are already debilitated. We work closely with the RVC Imaging and Clinical Pathology services to find the best diagnostic techniques for our small patients and maximise their chances of a positive outcome.

Reptile challenges

Signs of ill health can be particularly difficult to detect in reptilian species, especially those who can retreat into their shell. Reluctance to eat however remains one of the most common reasons for a tortoise to be presented to the veterinary practice. Husbandry and diet deficits, especially inappropriate set ups and procedures for hibernation are common causes, but medical issues such as respiratory infections and reproductive problems are also commonly seen. CT is an invaluable technique for the chelonian patient, allowing quick and easy assessment of the skeletal system, lungs and coleomic organs and can be performed conscious.

Coelioscopy is another helpful technique which allows us to assess internal structures and avoid more invasive exploratory surgery. Based on these diagnostics, we can plan either endoscopic assisted surgeries or full plastronotomies



Avian Challenges

Time is a critical factor with avian species, as they can deteriorate very rapidly. These cases benefit from RVC's collaboration between multiple departments. Quick processing of advanced diagnostics means specific and appropriate treatment can be initiated as soon as possible.

Fluoroscopy can be provided at RVC Small Animal Referrals hospital.

This is a specialised type of imaging allowing a real time 'continuous x-ray' to demonstrate the anatomy and function of the gastrointestinal tract.

In addition to a comprehensive diagnostic evaluation tailored to each individual patient, services we offer include:

Small mammal dentistry including surgical treatment of dental abscesses

Diagnostic endoscopy and laparoscopic procedures for mammals, birds and reptiles

Advanced imaging including CT, MRI and fluoroscopy

Collection health advice

Email: exoticscamden@rvc.ac.uk