

Aireworth Vets **Sustainability Policy**

At Aireworth Vets respect for people and animals is one of our core values, so it is important that as we grow as a business, we do so without damaging the environment.

Almost every aspect of what we do at the practice is relevant in some way, so it is important to have clear outcomes and targets in mind to ensure we stay on track and make effective progress towards being a sustainable practice.

Strategies for Sustainability in Practice

- Notices by all light switches in rooms to remind team members to turn off the light, air-con, computer and all non-essential equipment when they leave.
- Recycling bins in all areas of the practice to collect paper, tin, and plastic recycling.
- Terracycle recycling box for all Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Annual waste audit of all clinical and non-clinical waste to track amount of waste produced and assess effectiveness of recycling measures in place.
- Electronic invoices and receipts are emailed as opposed to being posted. Reminders for preventative healthcare are sent via text message. Clients are actively encouraged to supply and email address.
- Daily ordering is carried out to reduce the number of deliveries to the practice, thus reducing packaging and travel costs.
- Team members attending CPD outside of the practice are encouraged to attend in groups, travel together and use the train as a preferred way of travel.
- All team members have personal email accounts for internal communications.
- Clients are advised to return unused medication to the practice for safe and environmentally safe disposal.

Anaesthetic Strategies for Sustainability

- Local and regional anaesthetics used where appropriate to reduce the overall anaesthetic gases needed for a procedure.
- Flow rates of anaesthetic gases are optimised for each procedure and regularly monitored ensuring the lowest possible flow rate is delivered.
- No Nitrous Oxide is used on site.
- General Anaesthetic protocols are kept under constant review so best practice protocols considering sustainability are always used.

Preventative Healthcare Strategies for Sustainability

- Preventative healthcare plans are offered to all clients, and this is encouraged.
- Flea and worming products are dispensed following set programs for treatment and only enough product for that prescription is dispensed.
- Clinics for preventative healthcare are offered in puppy training, obesity, diabetes, and senior pet care.
- Equine worm egg counts are performed and encouraged to assess whether worming is necessary. Prescriptions are only supplied based on these results.

Practice Mileage

- Practice visits are organised effectively to ensure mileage is kept to a minimum.
- Prescriptions are delivered on visits to avoid clients having to attend the practice to collect.
- A postage service is offered for prescriptions to avoid clients travelling excessive distances to collect prescriptions.
- Vehicles are kept in a good working order; services are completed on time.
- Drivers are encouraged to use ECO mode when travelling.
- Vehicles are selected taking into account their efficiency and environmental impact.
- Treatment options for equine patients are made taking into account mileage, to avoid multiple visits to the same site over a treatment period, hospitalisation is instead offered at the practice.