

# Best Uk Vet Close to home

Hello and welcome to the first in a series of articles from Blacks Vets, the award winning veterinary group. My name is Girish Thakral and I'm one of the partners here at Blacks, where I specialise in animal Cardiology. My colleagues and I offer a broad range of routine services together with additional expertise, including Surgery and Dermatology, regularly accepting referrals from other veterinary practices. We are extremely proud that we have been voted the Best UK Vet both in 2016 and 2015, an accolade that is awarded purely on client reviews. We also have some award winning staff on our team with our Dudley Practice Manager, Val Marsh, being voted as Practice Manager of the Year.



Girish Thakral MRCVS BVSc AH Cert VC

Over the coming months, we'll be introducing you to other members of our dedicated team, providing some really useful pet health information and sharing lots of tips, help and advice to make sure that your pets stay happy and healthy.

But first, let's start by helping you take a fresh look at veterinary care with a few helpful pointers to consider when searching for the right vet to take the best care of your pet and watch your pocket too:

### Vet Health Check List

1. Check that they are RCVS registered - A vet must be registered with The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in order to practice in the UK.
2. 24/7 care 356 days a year - check this thoroughly

- Is there a vet available in the night from your own practice?
- Is this on a premises you are familiar with and with the same veterinary team backed by an Accredited Veterinary Hospital in case you need it?
- Are your pet's veterinary records fully accessible?
- Will my pet be forced to travel between vets when critically ill if continual care is not offered when changing from night to day?
- Is there intensive care and a night nurse present to assist in the care of your pet when they may need it most?
- Is the overnight service provided by an Accredited Veterinary Hospital? This is NOT the same as an animal hospital and has to adhere to a strict set of standards for the benefit of patients in their care.

Sadly, many pet owners do not ask these questions until they face a worrying time in the night with accident or illness, so it is better to be prepared and do your homework. And remember, you can choose your out-of-hours service and still stay with the same daytime vet if you need to, just check that your pet does not have to be moved if seriously ill.

3. **Diagnostic equipment** - at the most critical time this can mean the difference between life and death where fast diagnosis is needed. It can mean better care for your pet in finding the problem quickly or sometimes lower cost if it reduces the need for a process of elimination during diagnosis. We recently invested around £500k in extending our veterinary hospital to provide state of the art equipment that has already benefitted thousands of pets.
4. **Operative expertise** - all vets will offer basic surgery but what if additional expertise is needed with operating theatres designed

for bone surgery for example? Or if surgery can be avoided altogether by using a wide range of endoscopes with different sizes for different pets, meaning no incision is needed, which is better for your pet?

5. **Independent Ratings** - check out independent client ratings such as Vet Help Direct to see what clients think of vets in their area.
6. **Can they provide direct claims insurance support?** - the last thing you will want to do when worrying about your poorly pet is to do battle with the paperwork of insurance claims. Ask if your vet can do this for you. Sometimes it is not possible, many times it is.
7. **Preventative care** - does your vet offer good cost effective packages for preventative care such as flea and worm treatments, vaccinations and health checks? Make sure as a dog owner that you are covered for Lungworm – it's in the Midlands, it can be fatal and it can be prevented. This hopefully

means you will need to see us less in the long term.

8. **Additional expertise when you need it most** – if your pet develops a condition that requires treatment outside of your usual vet such as an MRI scan, or if a second opinion is needed, is this available? Vets can refer their clients to Blacks as we offer expertise in cardiology (heart), dermatology (skin) and surgery carried out onsite at our state-of-the-art accredited Veterinary Hospital in Dudley. Our Certificate Holders who have additional training and qualifications are available whether or not you are a client of Blacks Vets.

We hope that your pets live healthy, happy long lives and only ever need to see the vet for a health check. There are some great vets out there so please, do your research. Remember that you have the right to choose and it is very easy to change vets and transfer records at any point in your pet's life if you feel that you are not getting the best care or you need a second opinion.

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Rated 5\* by our clients on Vet Help Direct

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