



## NEW CLIENT WELCOME PACK NEUROLOGY PATIENTS



**Welcome to Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists. You have been referred by your own vet to see one of our neurologists.**

We are a multidisciplinary referral centre based in Ringwood, Hampshire, offering a wide range of specialist services.

We have specialists in the fields of cardiology, dermatology, internal medicine, neurology, orthopaedics, diagnostic imaging, spinal surgery, soft tissue surgery & physiotherapy.

At SCVS we have the most advanced facilities, which you will not find in ordinary veterinary practices. This enables our specialists to offer the highest standard of veterinary care from admission through to discharge.

All of our cases receive comprehensive 24-hour care from our dedicated and highly skilled nursing staff.

The neurology department benefits from our three state-of-the-art operating theatres, electrodiagnostic equipment, in-house high-field MRI and CT scanners to diagnose and treat neurological conditions affecting the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves and muscles of cats and dogs.



We hope this pack answers any queries you may have.  
Please feel free to contact us if have any questions.

**Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists**  
6 Forest Corner Farm  
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**[www.scvetspecialists.co.uk](http://www.scvetspecialists.co.uk)**

# MEET THE TEAM



**Nadia Shihab** MA, VetMB, DipECVN, MRCVS.  
*European Specialist in Veterinary Neurology*

Nadia graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2005 before completing a one year internship at Dick White Referrals in Newmarket. She then moved to the Royal Veterinary College in London to complete a rotating internship before undertaking her residency in neurology. This culminated in 2010 when she was successful in gaining her ECVN diploma in neurology. Since then, she has lectured in Neurology at the RVC, and joined SCVS in September 2012.



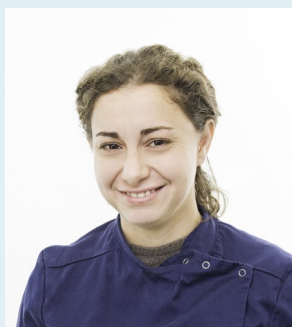
**Raquel Trevail** DVM, DipECVN, MRCVS.  
*RCVS and European Specialist in Veterinary Neurology*

Raquel graduated in 2004 from Universidade de Tras-os-Montes e Alto Douro in Vila Real, Portugal. Raquel subsequently moved to the UK where she completed an internship at the Animal Health Trust followed by a residency at Glasgow University Veterinary School. Raquel was awarded her European Diploma in Veterinary Neurology in 2010. Raquel gained experience at a specialist referral centre in the Midlands before joining SCVS in 2015.



**Harry Scott** BVSc, CertSAD, CBiol, FRSB, DSAS(Orth), DipECVN, FRCVS, CCRP. RCVS  
*Specialist in Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics) and European Specialist in Veterinary Neurology*

Harry graduated from the University of Liverpool. Whilst working at the PDSA he developed interests in both orthopaedics and dermatology culminating in RCVS Certificates in both disciplines. He was a founding partner of the Godiva Veterinary Referral Centre in Coventry. Harry became a fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons by examination in canine spinal surgery in 1992, and in 1999 he obtained the RCVS Diploma in Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics). Harry is an RCVS recognised specialist in orthopaedics. He has authored a number of scientific papers and co-authored an orthopaedic textbook. Harry lectures regularly to veterinary surgeons in the UK.



**Francesca Raimondi** DVM, MRCVS.

After qualifying from the University of Milan in 2004 Francesca worked in a number of small animal practices in Italy where she developed an interest in orthopaedics and neurology. For the last 6 years she has worked as a neurology clinician in a specialist referral clinic in Rome. Francesca's particular interests include epilepsy and minimally invasive intracranial surgery although she enjoys all aspects of neurology and neurosurgery. She has completed her residency in veterinary neurology, and will be sitting her European Diploma in Veterinary Neurology in 2017.

# MEET THE TEAM



**Daniela Alder** *DVM, MRCVS.*

Daniela graduated in veterinary medicine in Switzerland from the University of Bern in 2007. She then completed an internship at Birkenfeld Veterinary Hospital in Germany and subsequently became an assistant doctor. In 2012 Daniela completed a neurology internship at the Neurology Section of the Clinic of Small Animal Surgery, University of Zürich, Switzerland; where she also went on to complete her three year residency, and then worked up until moving here to the UK to work here at SCVS. Daniela has a special interest in inflammatory neurological disorders and neurosurgery.



**Filipa Lourinho** *DVM, MRCVS. European Resident in Veterinary Neurology*

Filipa graduated from University of Évora in Portugal in 2012. Shortly before finishing her studies, among other externships she completed a six month neurology externship in a referral centre in Lisbon, where she developed a special interest in that medical area. After spending a year working in a small animal practice in Portugal, Filipa has then moved to Newcastle, to work in a busy small animal hospital as a general practitioner. Filipa She has completed a one year mixed internship, then a one year neurology specific internship at SCVS. She is undertaking a three year residency and studying towards her European Diploma in Veterinary Neurology.



# NEW CLIENT INFORMATION



## Before your appointment:

Feeding	We ask that you <b>do not feed</b> your pet after 10:00pm the evening before the day of your consultation. Food will affect some blood tests, and the use of sedatives and anaesthetics; so feeding may mean another visit is necessary. <b>Please allow water as usual.</b>
Medication	If your pet is on any medication, you should bring it with you. Administer any medication as normal unless we have advised you not to. Please telephone us and ask if you are unsure.
X-rays	If asked to, remember to bring any relevant X-rays or paperwork with you. Usually your vet will have sent these already.
Payment	Please read our guidelines on payment (on the next page). If insured, bring your policy documents and a claim form with you

## What to expect on arrival at SCVS:

On arrival at SCVS you will meet the specialist for a relaxed consultation in one of our air conditioned consultation rooms. A thorough history will be taken and a clinical examination performed. The specialist may be assisted by an intern. They are qualified veterinary surgeons, who work with the specialists to gain experience on the road to specialisation themselves.

Following the consultation, you may need to leave your pet for diagnostic tests to be carried out. While many results will be obtained later the same day, it may take longer to receive the results of certain diagnostic tests. We will discuss with you whether we wish to hospitalise your pet. This will depend on his/her condition, how long the tests take and your convenience.

It may be necessary to repeat some tests that your vet has performed. This will depend on the length of time since they were carried out, and the quality of the results.

Please note that non-urgent procedures may not be carried out the same day as the initial consultation. We may need to order specific equipment for certain procedures and this can take several days. Furthermore, there is a limit to the number of procedures we can perform in one day. However, we do appreciate that many clients travel some distance to see our specialists, and we will do all we can to keep any inconvenience to a minimum.

By the nature of our work, occasionally we see emergency cases which are impossible to plan for. This may mean cancellation/ postponement of less urgent cases or appointments at short notice even after your pet has been admitted. Please rest assured that this will only happen when absolutely necessary.

Please note, your pet is being seen as a referral from your usual veterinary surgeon and as such Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists will only carry out procedures which are related to this referral. We will be unable to treat other conditions, or other pets, unrelated to the referral except in an emergency.

***We aim to make your visit to us as positive an experience as possible.***

***If you have any questions or are concerned in any way please contact us.***

***Our reception team will be able to help with most queries and will liaise with the vets over more technical questions.***

# FEES AND INSURANCE



## Fees

1 <sup>st</sup> Consultation	£240
2 <sup>nd</sup> Consultation (follow up)	£140* (routine appointment)

Overall costs vary depending on the diagnostic investigations required and the complexity of procedures performed. All fees will be discussed with you during your consultation.

We are unable to provide an exact quote before your consultation as it is impossible to determine diagnostic and treatment plans without having first examined your pet.

\*Prices may vary for 2nd consultation

## Payment

We do ask that all fees are settled at the time of treatment, unless prior arrangement has been made. Please call us in advance if you want to discuss payment. We take all major credit and debit cards (not American Express), cheques or cash.

## Insurance

Insurance companies will usually pay for all investigation and treatment (with certain provisos). However, your insurance company will not discuss your policy with us, so it is your responsibility to check that your pet's cover is adequate, and if your insurance company does not pay a claim, for whatever reason, you will need to take responsibility for payment of the whole bill. Therefore, please make sure you are aware of:

- The total level of cover for this condition
- Any conditions excluded from the cover (including physiotherapy & hydrotherapy)
- How much of that cover, if any, has been "used" for treatment at your vets.
- Any expiry date that may apply to the cover
- The amount of any excess that you have to pay

You will also need to ensure that you have a signed claim form with you when you arrive for your initial consultation.

We usually require our fees to be settled in full when you collect your pet unless we have agreed to a direct payment claim. To do this, we will need to confirm your policy details with your insurance company & we will require you to contact your insurance company to give them permission to discuss your policy with us. We must emphasise that we cannot be held responsible if, for any reason, your insurance company does not pay a claim.

Most policies have an excess which you must pay. This may be a fixed sum or a percentage of the claim and varies from policy to policy. We will ask for your excess to be paid to us before treatment is commenced. If it is a percentage, our vets will give you an estimate of costs when they have examined your pet, and we will use that estimate to calculate the deposit required. At the end of treatment, you will need to settle any balance owing or we will reimburse you any overpayment.

Please bring a completed and signed claim form with you on the day of your appointment, and we will undertake to complete and forward the form within 5 working days of treatment finishing. We may need further signed claim forms from you where treatment exceeds one week or follow-up appointments are required.

# TERMS AND CONDITIONS



Thank you for entrusting the care of your pet to our Practice. This letter details our Practice Terms & Conditions. There are separate Terms and Conditions for use of our website which can be found on the bottom of each page of the website. Some aspects of the Terms may not be relevant to you. If anything is unclear, please ask for further explanation or clarification.

## OUR PRACTICE

We, Independent Vetcare Limited (trading as Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists), aim to provide the highest standards of veterinary care. Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists is dedicated to providing a cutting edge service for your pets. We encourage all members of the Practice to fulfil this through extensive further education, and constant consideration of their client and their pets; our facilities and equipment are updated and maintained to the highest standards. Independent Vetcare Limited are a group of leading veterinary practices across the UK who have come together to pool resources, skills and knowledge.

## OUR STAFF

We undertake to provide veterinary care of the highest standards for your pet. Our veterinary surgeons are all members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the British Veterinary Association and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, amongst others. They also have additional qualifications and specialise in different areas of veterinary medicine and surgery. They are all covered by Professional Liability Insurance and the practice is covered for Public Liability.

We are fortunate that the vast majority of clients we deal with are a pleasure to help. However, we will not tolerate any physical or verbal assaults on our staff, and will involve the Police if necessary. We reserve the right to refuse treatment on these grounds, although will always pass on any patient medical records we have to another veterinary surgeon.

## OPENING HOURS & EMERGENCIES

Our normal opening hours for consultations are 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 8am to 1pm on Saturday (dermatology only). All animals are seen by appointment only, and all are seen by referral from your usual veterinary surgeon only. We run an emergency veterinary service out of normal hours, which is available 24 hours a day for 365 days of the year, but animals are only seen after referral from your usual veterinary surgeon. Therefore, in emergency, your own veterinary surgeon should be called first, and they should contact us if necessary. Please leave routine enquiries for normal office hours. Our fees out of hours will be higher than normal to reflect the appreciable extra costs incurred in providing this service.

## REFERRAL

We only see animals by referral from their usual veterinary surgeon. We will expect to see all relevant clinical history and results of diagnostic tests, and will freely share our clinical notes and test results with your veterinary surgeon. We will be responsible for passing the relevant information back to them. Our aim is to work closely with them to achieve a favourable outcome for you and your pet. We will not become your new vet, but we will assist your usual vet. Follow-up checks will usually be necessary with us, although we will try to ensure that, for your convenience, your vet carries out as much of the treatment as possible. Please note there is always a charge for follow-up consultations.

## **HOSPITALISATION**

All animals which need to be kept on our premises are cared for by a qualified Veterinary Surgeon and Veterinary Nurse at all times of the day and night. These members of staff are up and working all night, and are available to give medication, check intravenous drips, and monitor all in-patients at all times. Several specialist veterinary surgeons are available at short notice 24 hours a day. For security reasons, the nurses are not allowed to open the doors out of hours, unless a vet is also present. The hospital is protected by alarm.

## **VISITING**

Sometimes pets stay in our hospital for several days and understandably you may wish to visit your pet if this happens. We have written some guidelines on our website explaining our procedures and limitations around visiting times and duration.

We ask that visits are limited to 20 minutes. This is to prevent patients from being away from the ward for too long and therefore being off intravenous fluids or missing medication times and to allow staff to concentrate on patient care.

## **FEES**

A sample of our fees is available in our client packs, on our website or on request. Please ask if you would like to know the cost of anything else. We would encourage you to discuss costs of procedures in advance with our vets. They are used to doing this, and are happy to provide estimates of costs at any time. Please bear in mind that estimates can only be approximate. Pet's illnesses will often not follow a conventional course. However we do undertake to attempt to discuss any changes in costs before continuing, unless treatment is essential for your pet's welfare.

All fees are due for settlement at the end of the consultation, the discharge of your pet after hospitalisation and upon collection of drugs and diets. You may settle your account using cash, cheque, or most Credit and Debit cards. We do not accept American Express.

## **CONSENT FORMS**

You will be asked to sign a consent form if your pet is left with us for diagnostic tests or treatment. The form covers treatment and tests we plan to carry out, as well as an estimate (not a quotation) of fees we feel likely to be incurred. Our vet will go through this with you, and answer any questions you may have. This is an important legal document, so please be sure that you read it carefully before signing. Signature may be by the owner of the pet or their Agent. The person signing the consent form must be 18 years old or above. Agents should note that they, personally, are legally liable for any document they sign.

## **PET HEALTH INSURANCE**

We strongly support the principle of insuring your pet against unexpected illness or accidents, and understand how important this can be for clients who may otherwise be unable to pay our fees. We are happy to complete Pet Insurance claim forms, and will claim directly with your insurance company for bills over £100, as long as you have provided us with the necessary policy details before treatment commences.

Most policies have an excess which you have to pay and we will ask for this as a deposit at the beginning of treatment. If a signed claim form is not passed to us, or the excess we require is not paid at the time of treatment, we will be unable to claim directly and the full fees will become due immediately. In this case the settlement terms will apply (see Settlement Terms below). We undertake to complete all claim forms within 7 working days to ensure that your payment is not delayed.

Please remember that the insurance policy contract is between you, the client, and the insurance company. We cannot be held responsible for any matters which result in a claim being refused, and in these cases you will be responsible for settling our account in full – see Settlement Terms below.



## **SETTLEMENT TERMS**

### **Uninsured or standard insurance claims**

Should an account not be settled and become a "bad debt", we will after due notice to the client refer the outstanding debt to a Debt Collection Agency. In addition, a 15% charge of the total bill will be charged immediately and any costs incurred by us in collection of the debt will be passed on to you. These will include the commission charged by the Debt Collection Agency, as well as any fees charged by the Court, and costs to us of correspondence, attendance at Court, phone calls, and home visits.

Fees will be subject to variation, and these figures are given as guidelines only. Any cheque that is returned by our Bank as unpaid, any Credit card payment not honoured and any cash tendered that is found to be counterfeit will result in the original account being restored to the original sum with further charges added in respect of bank charges and administrative costs.

### **DIRECT INSURANCE CLAIMS**

We offer the option of submitting a "direct claim" for bills over £100, so that your insurers can pay us directly for the treatment. In order for us to offer this option, we need to speak to your insurance company to perform a basic scan of your policy. If the signed claim form is not provided to us or excess due to us is not settled at the time of treatment, the fees will be due immediately and the settlement terms above will apply.

In the case of an insurance claim being refused by the Insurance Company, we will help if we can. However, all fees will become payable by the client immediately. These will be subject to the settlement terms laid out in the paragraphs above.

If fees covered by a direct insurance claim are not settled by the insurance company and/or the client, then our settlement terms and fees will apply.

In all of the above, if a direct claim is not settled because of an error made in completing the insurance claim form by SCVS staff, then settlement fees will be due after the corrected claim form was sent to the insurance company to their satisfaction.

### **INABILITY TO PAY**

If for any reason, you are unable to settle your account as specified above, we ask you to discuss the matter as soon as possible with a member of staff. Please note that instalments or part payments is at the Company discretion. We do also work with a third party interest-free loan Company subject to credit checks. This payment option must be approved prior to any treatment taking place. Failure to adhere to any agreed payment plans will result in the outstanding debt being sent to our debt collection agency, in line with our settlement terms for "bad debt".

### **USE OF YOUR DETAILS & CONFIDENTIALITY**

Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists is registered under the Data Protection Act. Your details will not be passed on to any third party. However, we may from time to time contact you for follow up on your pet's progress. We follow the guidelines of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, which require us to keep patient files confidential; unless to do so would, in our opinion, compromise your pet's welfare.



### **TELEPHONE CALLS**

Please note that calls may be monitored or recorded.

### **OWNERSHIP OF RECORDS**

Case records are the property of, and will be retained by Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists. Copies will be passed, on request, to your usual veterinary surgeon, or to the client following written request. Ownership of radiographs, ultrasound, CT and MRI scans and similar data will remain with the Practice. Any fee which has been paid will be for the preparation of these images and their interpretation only and does not imply your ownership. However, we can provide clients with copies of these images. A small charge may be made to cover our costs.

### **COMPLAINTS AND STANDARDS**

We hope that you never have recourse to complain about the standard of service received. However, if there is something which you are not happy about, we would encourage you to let us know, so that appropriate action can be taken. Please contact the Practice manager in the first instance. We will reply to all instances promptly.

### **REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS**

We are a referral veterinary practice, where possible repeat medications should always be sourced from your usual vet. Occasionally your vet may ask us to do so if, for example, they do not normally stock a particular medicine. Should you need to arrange medication from us, we will need 3 working days' notice. Medication can be posted out at a charge £8 to cover postage & packaging.

If you are claiming from your insurance, we are unable to process direct claims for under £100. Therefore, any repeat medications below £100 will need to be paid for before it is dispensed.

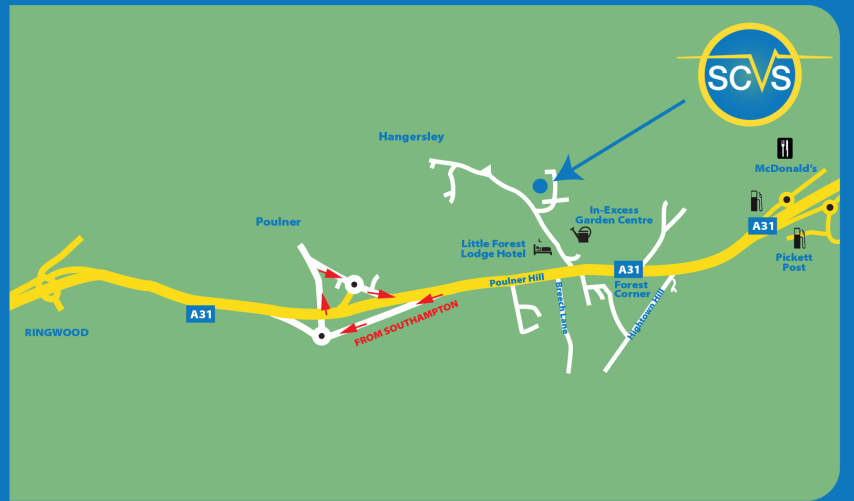
We can supply a prescription if required at £30.00 incl. VAT for you to source the medication yourself. Please note, we cannot take responsibility for medications purchased elsewhere that has been stored incorrectly or have incorrect labels. Please also note that it is a criminal offence to use medications that do not have a UK Licence (e.g. from some foreign internet sites).

### **RETURN OF MEDICINES**

We are unable to re-sell medications for legal reasons, and therefore are unable to give a refund for any returned to us. However, we are happy to dispose of any medications for you free of charge.

December 2017

# HOW TO FIND US



## From the East:

Approach via M27 Southampton and onto the A31.

Go past the Pickett Post underpass with the Shell garages either side of the motorway. Continue down the hill and take the next slip road left signposted to Poulner. See red arrows on map. →

At the mini roundabout turn right and go over the motorway bridge. →

Take the next exit right and at the roundabout go straight over and re-join the A31. →

Continue up the hill and take the next slip road left signposted to Hangersley.

In-Excess garden centre will be ahead of you as you turn left.

Continue down the road as it bears left.

Forest Corner Farm is the next right hand turn signposted SCVS on the fence.

Go over 2 speed bumps and our car park is directly in front of you, with the entrance to reception on the left.

## From the North:

Approach via the A338 from Salisbury.

At the Ringwood roundabout take the 1<sup>st</sup> exit left onto the A31, signposted to Southampton.

Continue up the hill

Take second slip road on your left signposted to Hangersley.

In-Excess garden centre will be ahead of you as you turn left.

See approach from the east for directions from here.

## From the West:

Approach via the A31 from Dorset.

Stay in the outside 2 lanes and go past the Ringwood town centre turnoff.

Continue up the hill

Take second slip road on your left signposted to Hangersley.

In-Excess garden centre will be ahead of you as you turn left.

See approach from the east for directions from here.

NB Directions were correct at time of printing and should only be used as guidance.

**Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists**  
6 Forest Corner Farm  
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