themselves but does not want to be separated from the animal

- Sourcing new animal companions and supporting the subsequent relationship.

Services are free of charge and delivered by around 70 local volunteers, supported by a small staff team.

Clinical care is provided by local veterinary practices, and having veterinary nurses working in the community would enhance the support these patients are receiving. District veterinary nurses would have a role in postoperative care, obesity weight and arthritis management, preventative treatment, palliative care and in a wide range of

treatments that owners are unable to either understand or are not capable of delivering.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand how owner vulnerability has a negative effect on treatment compliance and on animal welfare
- Understand that a 'one welfare' approach to supporting animal companionship can enhance human and animal health and well-being
- Be aware how district veterinary nurses will have a wide-ranging positive impact on animal welfare

Advances in veterinary palliative care at home

Suzen Gregerson

With the advent and advancements of modern, medical technology over only the last three to four decades, all veterinary (and human) health care has simultaneously been packaged up and moved away from the traditional home-care setting and into a technology-driven, more sterile clinical setting. This was/is believed to provide the most successful overall healthcare management approach.

In recent times there has been a gradual, increasing cultural shift and public demand for returning palliative care at the end of life for humans to the home setting. With this growing human trend, it is no surprise that similar demands are being made for our companion animals in 2020, as they are recognized as fully-fledged family members. This has highlighted a need for a speciality such as end-of-life palliative care for animals, here officially introduced to the UK for the first time with this lecture as the concept of animal — or veterinary — hospice.

The home setting has proven a more suitable environment to provide healing, both emotionally and physically, to *both* the animal *and* the human family which in animal hospice constitutes the whole unit of care. With focused training and full attention to detail, there is so much more we can do to make it the best possible journey and experience at the end of life for both the much-loved animal and for the family.

This lecture aims to introduce concepts of the animal hospice philosophy of care by sharing the main principles as well as examples from real-life experiences of over 15 years of providing this growing (in-home) and aspiring veterinary speciality.

KEY LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- Understand the increasing demand for palliative care for companion animals

- Be aware of the role of animal hospice
- Be aware of the animal hospice philosophy of care

MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. What is the difference between animal hospice and palliative care?
 - (A) Animal hospice is the same as palliative care but only provided in a clinic or hospital
 - (B) Animal hospice is another word for palliative care
 - (C) Animal hospice is palliative care at the end-of-life stage only
 - (D) Palliative care and animal hospice can both be used together at all life stages
2. What constitutes a minimum animal hospice interdisciplinary team?
 - (A) Must always have a bereavement counsellor as part of the team
 - (B) Consists of minimum a veterinary surgeon, a veterinary nurse and a social worker
 - (C) Has a veterinary surgeon and a veterinary nurse leading the team
 - (D) Must always have the most important family member of the patient on the team
3. Is choosing humane euthanasia an option when choosing animal hospice?
 - (A) No, it is not currently an option because it has to be the same as human hospice in the UK
 - (B) Yes, this is always how animal hospice ends
 - (C) Yes, humane euthanasia is by far the most commonly chosen outcome with animal hospice
 - (D) It depends on the veterinary surgeon and veterinary nurse who is in charge of the case