

## Cat Friendly Clinic Status: What it means for you and your cat

### ISFM Gold Standard

The RVC Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital is recognised as an ISFM (International Society of Feline Medicine) **Gold** Standard Cat Friendly Clinic. It is one of only a handful of gold standard clinics in London. We strive to make our hospital as cat friendly as possible so vet visits are a positive experience for both cats and their owners.

### What is the Cat Friendly Clinic programme?

This global programme has been developed by the ISFM to help make veterinary clinics more welcoming to cats and cat clients; to reduce the stress of veterinary visits for cats; and to make treating and handling cats easier for veterinary staff. There are three levels of accreditation.

We achieved the highest award possible - gold. This means that we adhere to ISFM's cat friendly principles at all times when handling our feline patients and that the hospital is designed to minimise stress in our patients; and our staff maintain high levels of relevant continued professional development.

Each accredited clinic also has at least one 'Cat Advocate' - someone who ensures the cat friendly standards are adhered to.

### Why do some cats find a vet visit stressful?

Taking cats to a veterinary practice can be stressful for both patients and owners.

- Cats often do not travel well
- Cats can feel unsafe away from their home
- They are highly sensitive to new sights, sounds and smells
- Most cats prefer quiet and solitude
- Many cats are highly susceptible to stress - particularly if there are dogs close by
- Cats need to be handled gently



**Gold**  
**Cat**  
**Friendly**  
**Clinic**  
**2018**

[catfriendlyclinic.org](http://catfriendlyclinic.org)





## What can cat owners expect from a ISFM Cat Friendly Clinic?

An accredited Cat Friendly Clinic has reached a higher standard of cat care. This means our staff

- Understand the needs of cats and have made visits to the vet clinic more cat friendly
- Understand how to approach and handle cats gently and with care
- Have good knowledge and equipment to manage the care of cats

## Important for your peace of mind

- our staff will explain your cat's treatment and recovery clearly and sensitively so that you have a full understanding of what is going on
- we provide a separate waiting area for cats
- we provide cat-dedicated consultation rooms
- we have feline-only ward areas completely separate from other species. We use Feliway and provide classical music, both shown to reduce feline anxiety, as well as specially designed kennels to promote feline well-being

To register your cat:  
RVC Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital  
call 0207 387 8134

## What can owners do to help make visits to the vet as easy as possible?

Preparation starts at home!

Please see our factfile on 'How to prepare your cat for veterinary visits'

This outlines how simple changes can dramatically improve the experience for both owners and pets.

