

Why Do We Recommend Referral?

Family Matters

One of the questions we sometimes hear is:

"If you're my vet, why do I need to see another one?"

It's a very reasonable question.

At Amity, our goal has never been to do everything ourselves. Our goal is to ensure your pet receives the **best possible care**.

Sometimes that means treating your pet here.

Sometimes it means asking a colleague with additional expertise to become part of your pet's healthcare team.

Our purpose is to **Empower You Through Education**, helping you understand why referral is sometimes the best decision we can make.

What Is a Referral?

A referral is similar to being referred by your GP to a hospital consultant.

Your pet remains under our care, but another veterinary surgeon with advanced training, specialist qualifications or specialised equipment becomes involved to help with a particular problem.

Once treatment is complete, many pets return to us for their ongoing care.

Why Would We Recommend Referral?

There are several reasons.

Some conditions require advanced imaging such as MRI or CT scans.

Others require specialist surgery, complex anaesthesia, radiotherapy or highly specialised medical treatment.

Referral practices also have equipment and facilities that most first-opinion practices do not, allowing them to investigate and treat particularly challenging cases.

The recommendation isn't because we've "run out of ideas."

It's because we want your pet to benefit from every available resource.

Does This Mean My Vet Doesn't Know?

Quite the opposite.

One of the strengths of a good clinician is recognising when another colleague can offer additional expertise.

Medicine is simply too vast for one person to be an expert in every field.

Just as your GP isn't expected to perform brain surgery, your family vet isn't expected to provide every specialist procedure.

Knowing when to refer is part of providing excellent care.

We'll Help You Understand Your Options

Referral is usually just that—a recommendation.

We'll explain:

- Why we're recommending it.
- What additional information or treatment it may provide.
- The expected benefits.
- The likely costs.
- Any alternatives that may be available.

Ultimately, the decision is always yours.

Our role is to give you the information you need to make the best choice for your pet and your family.

We Continue Working Together

Referral doesn't mean we're stepping away.

We'll communicate with the referral team, receive their reports, discuss the findings with you and continue supporting your pet before, during and after their specialist care.

Your pet doesn't suddenly have two separate vets.

They have one larger team working together.

Every Recommendation Has One Goal

At Amity, we never recommend referral because it's easier for us.

We recommend it because we believe it offers your pet the greatest opportunity for the best possible outcome.

Sometimes the right answer is treating your pet ourselves.

Sometimes the right answer is involving a specialist.

Both decisions come from exactly the same place:

Wanting the very best for your pet.

Because that's what we'd want for our own.

At Amity, **whether your pet is cared for entirely by us or alongside a referral specialist, we'll continue to support you throughout every stage of their journey.**

Because great veterinary care isn't about who has all the answers.

It's about making sure your pet receives the right care, from the right person, at the right time.

Because they're not just your pet.

They're family.

Family Matters.

If you need more information, book an appointment with an Amity vet. We're here to Empower You Through Education and help you become your pet's greatest advocate.