

Client Testimonial - Radioiodine Treatment

Merlin is and always has been our beautiful grey, short-haired bundle of trouble whether it be sitting on the laptop whilst you are trying to work or waking us up at the crack of dawn as he thinks it is breakfast time! No matter how much trouble he is in or has caused us, he is our very own bundle of trouble and we love him for who he is.

In January 2019 we noticed that Merlin was not his normal self, he was vomiting had diarrhoea, was drinking copious amounts of water and looking very unwell. We rushed him to the vet who prescribed probiotic for his tummy and diagnosed hyperthyroidism. Medication was also prescribed to control the thyroid levels and Merlin was transformed into his old self in a few days, looking very well, his coat regained its shine and he gained some weight.

One morning he became very unwell and almost overnight turned into what looked like an extremely old, thin and lethargic cat who looked as if he had minutes to live. We rushed him to the vet who immediately put him on intravenous antibiotics, fluids and advised that it is not looking good. His temperature was over 40oC, he had lost 1kg in weight, was severely dehydrated and he had a severe infection. His white blood cell count had plummeted. The vet confirmed that Merlin had suffered a severe reaction to the hyperthyroidism medication and if we had left it any longer, we would be having a very different and difficult conversation. We were very upset and could only hope for the best.



Merlin spent the next three days in the vets and when discharging him, we were advised that we had only one option left which was radioiodine treatment and this was described as the gold standard treatment. Our vet went on to explain that there was only one place he would recommend and that was the Feline Centre at Langford Vets.

Between leaving our own vets and arriving at Langford, Merlin's hyperthyroidism worsened as he was hungry all the time. He had even eaten half a loaf of bread, some crumpets and a few bagels not minding that all were sealed in their plastic wrapping. We travelled from Devon to Langford with only a constant meow breaking the silence and arrived to be greeted with warmth, compassion and kindness, not to mention the much-needed free cups of tea. I was extremely anxious about what was going to happen to Merlin but was completely put at ease and reassured by our lovely vet, Angie Hibbert.

In the consultation room, Angie opened the cat basket and allowed Merlin to come out in his own time and allowed him to roam the surgery as if he owned it. She talked to Merlin, stroked him and made such a fuss of him that I felt as if he was the only patient in the hospital at that time. There was no time pressure, I explained Merlin's history, how he is generally, talking more in depth about his recent diagnosis and even had a few tears with relief that Angie could help him recover. It felt as if I was leaving one of my children but on talking it through with Angie, my reservations and anxiety completely disappeared, and I knew that he was going to be very well looked after during his assessment. Angie explained in detail what would happen, that the team work entirely at the patient's pace and so could not give a definite time frame for the assessment duration. She explained that during his assessment visit, Merlin would have several tests and scans to ensure that he was well enough to undergo radioiodine treatment and that she would call me every day to update us on his progress and the test results which she did. She warned us that Merlin would have to be shaved prior to his scans. Three days passed and we went to collect Merlin whose test results had deemed him well enough to undergo radioiodine treatment. The relief was immense and Merlin and I celebrated all the way home by singing to the Cat's Chorus or that is what it felt like anyway.

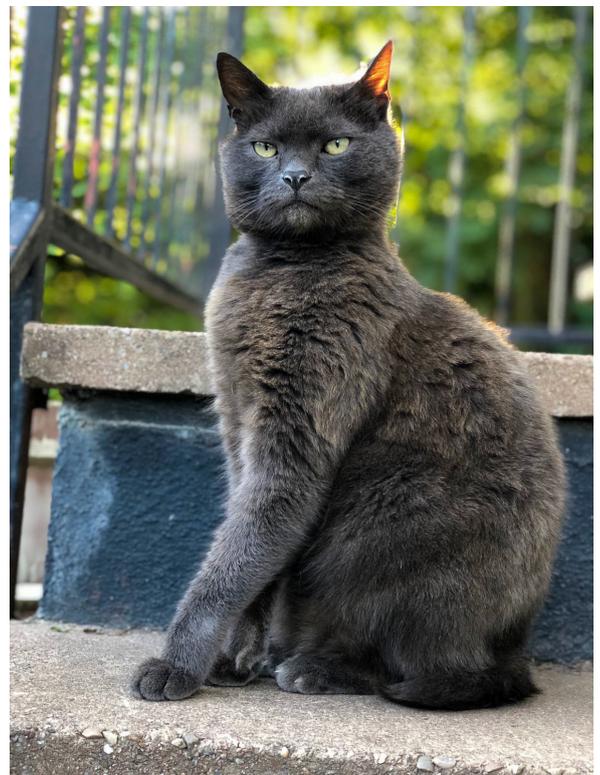
Knowing just how ill Merlin had become in such a short space of time and to prevent the risk of another near fatal reaction or infection, Merlin was booked in for his treatment the following week so we travelled again with a vocal Merlin singing all the way to Langford. In the consultation room, Angie again allowed Merlin to roam the room, even letting him have some Lick-e-lix to help establish that all important trust. Although every veterinary surgeon does their utmost to care and treat sick animals, seeing Angie's undivided love, care and understanding for Merlin and his needs filled me with such reassurance and trust that I have never felt before when visiting a veterinary practice. I had no doubts at all in leaving Merlin in their care, felt totally at ease and trusted Angie and her team with my beloved Merlin implicitly.

The updates arrived daily as promised which could have been read from a cat comedy as it seemed that Merlin was proving to be a bit of a handful even with the Lick-e-Lix bribe! However, every time Angie rang, she was so enthusiastic about Merlin's progress, how well he was doing, how much he had eaten, his antics of the day and just such love and care for her patient.

When it came to decide if Merlin could come home and due to the nature of the now radioactive cat we had, Angie talked us through the special measures we would have to take for a number of weeks. We talked it through as a family and decided that due to pets in the household and the life of luxury that they all lead, it was unfair for Merlin to not be able to live that life being back home, we decided to leave Merlin with Angie for the remaining period of time.

We collected Merlin two weeks later, a total of five weeks after being admitted to the Feline Centre. When we saw him, he was a very different cat to the one we had left five weeks earlier. He was happy, bright-eyed, had a shiny coat which had regained its grey colour and had gained weight. Merlin was happy to see us, but you could see the trust he had in Angie as he rubbed around and climbed on her when she called and talked to him, his constant purring a joy to hear. It was such a special moment that will be with me forever.

Angie explained in great detail the way forward including that Merlin would need regular blood tests and monitoring. A few months on, Merlin is keeping extremely well. He is maintaining weight, has a shiny grey coat and eats his meals at the correct times. Prior to Merlin becoming ill with hyperthyroidism, I had never heard of the Feline Centre at Langford but knowing what I know now, seeing the radioiodine team at work, their love, care and passion for our beloved furry companions, I would recommend them to anyone with a pet who needs any treatment, especially radioiodine treatment.



Merlin has almost definitely used up all of his nine lives to date and not knowing how long we have with him, we will continue to ensure that he remains happy, keeps well and sees out the rest of his days with his family who love him dearly, always remaining eternally grateful to Angie and her team for giving us that priceless opportunity.

Contact Us (24/7)

T: 0117 394 0513

E: sah@langfordvets.co.uk

langfordvets.co.uk

Langford Vets 

 University of
BRISTOL