



19th March 2021

Ver 4.0

Dear All,



Firstly, I am glad to tell you that I have had my first coronavirus vaccination today.

I hope you & your families have all managed to stay safe and keep well over this last year of the COVID-19 pandemic. Please find below my current plan for TheSkinVet Dermatology service:

1. I will remain in touch with all my **established clients by email** & as always be trying to give them advice on a day-to-day basis, although my responses may not be as prompt as usual.
2. As always, **direct client enquiries for referral**, which have been on the increase during these extraordinary circumstances, will be requested to contact their primary vets for a formal referral in the first instance.
3. During this new period of loosening restrictions, following publication of the current RCVS Guidance for England, that I will be able to see most **Dermatology Referral** cases face-to-face. But I will need to assess this decision on a case-by-case, risk : benefit basis & my decision will be subject to ongoing good health of my family, as well as that of the referred client & their immediate 'bubble', plus the current lockdown restrictions. In this instance:
 1. Complete the standard Referral Form ideally online <http://www.theskinvet.net/veterinary-surgeons/registration-form/>
 2. I will contact the client & request that they complete the Pet Health Form <http://www.theskinvet.net/clients/your-referral-consultation/pet-health-submission-form/> some time prior to our consultation. This will reduce client contact time on site at the clinic.

- 🕒 On arrival at the clinic, after an initial discussion, I will then take the pet into the clinic for his/her physical examination, with a VN if necessary, & perform initial sampling tests & photos (15-30mins).
- 🕒 I will then need to discuss my findings, proposed treatment & management regimen, as well as the need for further investigations, with the client. Depending on the weather, I will either talk to them outside, under cover if possible, observing the current social distancing requirements. If necessary, the discussion can be made via later that day by phone at no extra cost (see 5).

4. I will continue to provide:

- 🕒 My **routine E-Consultation** service which has been running well for over 5 years. The Vet Form is now available for completion online: <http://www.theskinvet.net/veterinary-surgeons/e-consultations/>. For this cheaper service I will only have contact with you.
- 🕒 Since Spring 2020, I have expanded my e-consultation service to include an **extended E-Consultation** service, with the additional benefit that I will also be in touch with the client, as well, by phone &/or email. The client will also receive a report from me, as well as advice sheets, client detailers (topical & systemic medications, nutrition etc), BSAVA Client Information Sheets & consent forms. Your client will need to complete the same Client Form (<http://www.theskinvet.net/clients/your-referral-consultation/pet-health-submission-form/>) mentioned in the previous section.

5. I may now also admitting cases for **further investigations**, such as **intra-dermal & serological (aeroallergen) testing & skin biopsies** as well as other **therapeutic interventions** after online discussions with clients of ongoing cases, such as GA ear wash-outs.

Lastly, thank you all for the messages of concern & support for my wife, Maddie, who is an NHS consultant anaesthetist working in ongoing obstetrics & ophthalmology theatres and, until recently, on-call/night shifts for COVID-19 ICUs, & my 12-year-old son, Adam, who has Down's Syndrome (trisomy 21), with a serious cardiac condition (AVSD) & a tendency to develop pneumonia & pleuritis.¹

I hope you all stay safe and keep well,
Regards Charlie Walker

¹Simplistically by having 3 x 21 chromosomes, which encode for many inflammatory cytokines, a cytokine 'storm' becomes more likely.