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### Blue Cross comes to the rescue

Rafferty was rescued & re-homed to one of our clients through the Blue Cross rescue service. On clinical examination, he was found to have a badly fractured jaw with a well-established infection involving the right lower canine tooth. Cats commonly suffer mandibular fractures as a result of road traffic accidents. Normally, a simple surgical procedure is performed: a length of circlage wire is placed across the fracture site to stabilise the damaged bone.



In this case, it was first necessary to surgically remove the affected tooth & eliminate the infection from the traumatised jawbone. It was not possible to stabilise the bone fragments with circlage wire & so an alternative technique was used.

A channel was drilled across the fracture line & a self-tapping lag screw then applied to pull the two bones together.



Within days of the surgery, Rafferty was noticeably happier in demeanour with no palpable instability remaining in the lower jaw. Healing should now take place without complication over the next 8 – 10 weeks. As the stainless steel screw is inert, it will be left in place to avoid any further trauma & anaesthetic risk to the patient.

The Pets Choice Newsletter

### mystique or madness



Over the past 15 years, I have got to know very closely a large number of my pet patients in Cheltenham. Sadly, over recent years, I have said goodbye to many old friends as their lives have drawn to a close. As I have been introduced to the next generation & with the development of new bonds & friendships, I have noticed

a strange phenomenon. Small, but significant quirks & traits of personality seem to be passed on to the newcomer. A Scientist would argue that this is because the new pet is affected by the same home environment & influences. Alternatively, could it be that in some way the spirit of the old is passed on to the new. At times, I distinctly feel that the old spirit is there, but in a different body. After 20 years in clinical practice, however, it could just be that I am stark-raving-bonkers.

*bjm.*



## Macdonald Veterinary Clinics moving forward .....

Plans are in hand to restructure our main Surgery unit in Bethesda Street, Leckhampton. The project is currently at the planning stage & building work is anticipated to commence later this year.



The building work is necessary to allow us to cope with the increasing workload at the two surgeries.

Following completion the main Surgery will become our new [Veterinary Hospital](#) premises, offering:

- ❑ 2 Consultation Rooms
- ❑ 2 dedicated & specialised Operating Theatres
- ❑ a purpose designed & constructed Diagnostic Suite
- ❑ extensive kennelling to accommodate hospitalised patients
- ❑ a self-contained pharmacy
- ❑ extensive laboratory facilities

Currently, we anticipate moving to a premises close-by for the duration of the building project, which is predicted to take in the order of 4 months from start to finish. We will of course keep everybody informed well in advance in order to minimise disruption caused to our clientele.