



CARING FOR FUR BUDDIES

Senior Veterinarian Dr Salisha Correia, CGS Hospital, tells us about the Laparoscopy services on offer at CGS, key initiatives taken by the hospital, and useful tips on pet care

BY PALLAVI SINGH

How long have you been working at CGS? Share with us your journey.

After completing my Master's in Surgery and Radiology from Ludhiana, Punjab, in 2015, I joined CGS Hospital. I have grown with CGS both personally and professionally in these past six years.

Being a veterinary doctor was my childhood ambition, and CGS

Hospital has given me the opportunity to utilise advanced diagnostic and treatment options for both pets and strays equally. This motivates me and gives me a sense of purpose every day!

Tell us something about the healthcare services you have been providing in terms of your area of expertise, which is Laparoscopy.

Laparoscopic surgery a.k.a. Key-hole surgery is a minimally invasive

procedure routinely used for sterilisation of dogs and cats. I was trained in Laparoscopy from The European School for Advanced Veterinary Studies (ESAVS), Germany. This is an up-and-coming field; we can offer quick recovery, minimal pain, no scarring, faster recovery to pets, and "the heroes of the street", as I like to call the stray dogs and cats can be released back to their designated areas faster.

We can also use Laparoscopy for biopsies and major abdominal procedures. Many pets do not express pain the way we assume they would, hence, it is often under-rated in pet care. However, at CGS, it is very encouraging when most people choose pain-free minimally invasive surgical options for their furry companions, as they would for themselves.

What makes CGS a place to reckon with in terms of pet care?

We focus on accurate diagnosis and holistic treatment options for every individual animal. We believe that no two dogs are alike, and cats are definitely not small dogs! Our team of vets works very hard to improve the quality of life of the animal and, thereby, of the human. We have state-of-the-art equipment and infrastructure and at the core, a team of hardworking and specialised veterinarians. Our vets constantly keep themselves updated with new treatments through various international training.

The Pasha Wing has been a wonderful initiative. Tell us about some significant initiatives undertaken by CGS and the upcoming projects.

The Pasha Wing is dedicated to the treatment of destitute dogs and cats. Free vaccinations against Rabies and other lethal canine and feline viruses are provided for stray dogs and cats through vaccination camps/ drives and onsite.

Rabies is a common fatal viral infection of dogs and cats. Canine distemper and Parvo viral infections are equally lethal for stray puppies, and annually, many succumb or become carriers for the next brood. This vaccination initiative can reduce the spread of these viruses among many street dogs.

We also offer free laparoscopic sterilisation for street dogs and cats, and many advanced diagnostic techniques and skilled orthopaedic procedures are offered at highly concessional rates. It is very satisfying when suddenly one day on the street at DLF 5, you come across a Rani or Lucy whom you have bonded with at CGS during her sterilisation



procedure and vaccination, or an accident victim, Kalu, wagging away to glory at his designated street abode just a month after a major orthopaedic procedure!

Through the Pasha Wing, the hospital feeds approximately 300 dogs on the streets twice daily with fresh nutritious food. We also have a free dedicated ambulance to transport accident cases or injured strays to the Pasha Wing OPD for emergency care and treatment.

What do you like the most about working at CGS?

The bonding between vets of different specialities, the caring nursing staff, lab technicians, administrative staff and pet parents under one roof, striving as a TEAM to get each furry baby healthy again! I also like the fact that we are constantly evolving as a hospital to bring the latest international diagnostic and facilities like CT, Ocular Coherence Tomography, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and very soon, hydrotherapy for pets in India.

As a meritorious and awarded Senior Veterinarian, what would your advice be for pet owners? How should they take care of their furry companions?

As a vet, I would definitely recommend preventive health checks. As a pet owner, there are many times I know that I, too, may be biased or not be able to effectively read the subtle signs of pain, discomfort, or disease. Hence, I'm urging pet parents to get regular, at least annual routine pet health checks, which entail a basic blood test to check organ functioning, a heart check, and abdominal ultrasound. It is always easier to tackle an issue when it is minuscule. Cats more than other animals mask discomfort brilliantly. Spend more time with your pet so that you can spot the anomaly in time. It may sometimes be a missed catch during a game of fetch, later diagnosed as a cataract; an occasional limp in a hyper Lab, leading to hip dysplasia; or a senior cat refusing to eat dry food due to tooth decay. Don't forget, you, dear pet parents, are a vital part of the veterinary diagnosis and treatment! **✎**