

## **Southfields Policy for handling Contracts, Consent, Consultations and Medication dispensing to Children and Young Persons (YP).**

At Southfields it is our policy that to register as a client with us a person must be aged 18 or over. If a person under the age of 18 would like to bring a pet to us, someone over the age of 18 must register with us. That person will remain responsible for consenting to treatment and for any costs.

### **Contracts**

Clients must be aged 18 or over to register a pet with us or sign up for our Pet Health Plan (PHP), as mentioned in the PHP T&C's.

### **Consent forms**

Anyone under the age of 18 cannot sign a Consent form.

However, if someone under the age of 18 brings a pet in for emergency life-saving treatment, we should triage the patient and provide emergency first aid. The registered client must be contacted and verbal consent obtained at the earliest opportunity.

### **Consultations**

Clients are expected to attend appointments with their pets (as outlined on our website and Facebook page). If a child or YP does come instead, then the consult must be performed with the client on speaker phone to the vet and another team member present in the room as chaperone (or the door must be left open to Reception if possible).

**Unless it's an emergency, if the client cannot be contacted, we can request that the consult is rebooked so the client can attend.**

### **Medication dispensing**

**All** medications (excluding parasiticides) cannot be handed to anyone under 18. Proof of age (photographic ID) must be requested if unsure.

Parasiticides can be handed to 16–17-year-olds if they have already been paid for and the YP provides photographic ID.