

Job Description

JOB TITLE: VETERINARY SURGEON (SURGERY RESIDENT)

REPORTING TO: CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Overview

Our aim within the practice is to treat our patients as though they were our own animals and to treat our clients in the way we would wish to be dealt with ourselves.

This philosophy should be carried through at all levels, in terms of our demeanour, appearance, professionalism and communication (between vets, clients and staff). All staff have an essential part to play in ensuring the smooth running of the various aspects of the practice.

All clinicians are expected to provide a consistently high quality, professional veterinary service for referring veterinary surgeons, referred clients and their animals. You will be fully supported in continually developing your clinical skills in order to achieve the practice ethos of being 'Committed to excellence'. Effective communication with clients and referring veterinary practices is essential to encourage an enhanced uptake of the quality veterinary care that Willows offer.

Scope of role

This is a three year post with a fixed-term contract of employment.

You will be expected to work closely with the clinical and hospital directors, your residency supervisor, the surgery residency program director, clinical colleagues, the practice manager, nurse and reception managers as well as all other support staff within the practice in order to provide the highest standards of professional care and service for our referred clients and their animals.

Key responsibilities

- Provision of clinical and professional services for referred clients in accordance with our 'veterinary surgeon's guidance notes' and the instructions of the directors
- Participation in rotas, including 'out of hours' service in accordance with practice requirements
- Engage in clinical research projects leading to presentations at national and international conferences and publications in peer reviewed journals

Key skills

At least three years qualified including a period of time in first opinion practice; have undertaken a relevant rotating internship; have previous hands-on experience of a variety of small animal surgical procedures. Ideally have passed or be enrolled for a relevant postgraduate certificate.

A professional approach and appearance is expected at all times. Excellent interpersonal skills and a positive, friendly attitude are essential for effective teamwork within the practice, together with the ability to make decisions and communicate clearly and effectively with colleagues at all levels. It is also essential to be able to work confidently and independently on occasions.

A commitment to practising the highest standard of veterinary medicine, upholding the RCVS code of ethics is expected at all times.

Key clinical and administrative tasks

- Be available during working hours to see referred clients, care for in-patients, investigate clinical cases and provide the appropriate diagnostic medical and surgical services for animals under his/her care.
- Read, understand and implement the practice's current clinical, operational and commercial policies, as detailed in Willows referral veterinary surgeon guidance notes.
- Maintain the highest standards of professional behaviour in accordance with the RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct.
- Do nothing which might prejudice the good name of the practice in the eyes of the public or the veterinary profession.
- Develop a rapport with clients and determine their needs and wishes; perform physical examinations and diagnostic/medical/surgical procedures in a way that will deliver the highest quality care whilst minimizing patient stress and discomfort; recommend referral to other Willows specialists if appropriate.
- Explain physical examination findings and communicate to the client a diagnosis of the pet's problems; generate and present a treatment plan for the pet to the client; educate the client on the best course of action including follow up consultations.
- Maintain client/patient/surgical/medical records and make certain all necessary information is kept up to date through established protocols; assist colleagues in follow up and future management of the patient.
- Establish a good rapport with referring veterinary surgeons including: timely professional and respectful communication; assistance in their professional growth and education through recommendations and interaction on referred and shared cases; ongoing development of a positive and professional working relationship.
- Take primary case responsibility (consultations, investigations and management), following an initial personalised training period.
- Participate in regular soft tissue and orthopaedic surgery rounds. Examples of topics may include journal articles, chapters from textbooks on the ECVS reading list, conference synopses, mock examination questions and case discussions.
- Participate in other in-house training opportunities such as imaging rounds, film reading sessions and grand rounds
- Attend CPD courses and meetings both in this country and overseas, for example, BVOA, AVSTS, VOS, ESVOT, ACVS, ECVS and AO. Generous allowances for CPD time and funding are provided.
- Spend time at other institutions in the UK and overseas when necessary, to fulfil the requirement of the ECVS training program.
- Undertake clinical research projects resulting in presentations at international conferences and publication of papers in peer-reviewed journals to satisfy the criteria for ECVS Diploma examination.
- Prepare and deliver clinical presentations at in-house or external CPD meetings.

Hours

The start time each day is 8 am, but clinicians may need to arrive earlier if there are in-patients to check. The finish time each day is not defined, however clinicians are expected to work efficiently and in cooperation with their colleagues (handing over cases as required) in order to optimise their departure time. Written reports to clients at the time of discharge should be concise, but should contain clear details of future management. Telephone calls to and from clients to give progress reports about non-hospitalised patients should be minimised, and appropriate re-examination at Willows should be encouraged instead.

Out-of-hours

There is a shared surgery residents' 'out of hours' duty rota in accordance with practice policy. Surgery residents are backed up by a senior on-call surgeon at all times. The details of the residents' on-call rota will be shared prior to the start of the position.

Uniform

The uniform provided by the practice (consulting tops, theatre scrubs, surgical clogs) should be worn during consultations and surgery. Sensible shoes must be worn (not trainers) and hair of shoulder length or longer must be tied back. A smart professional appearance is expected at all times; shorts, jeans and tee-shirts are not acceptable.