

VETERINARY NURSE - IRELAND

Grade C2

Overall Purpose

To provide a high standard of care to animals in the hospital and on the farms in Ireland. Assisting vets with all medical and surgical procedures. Providing 24-hour standby nursing cover. Engage with members of the public and visitors to the Charity to support their visitor experience.

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Support Senior Veterinary Nurse as required; communicate effectively on all matters relating to the veterinary department to facilitate the smooth running of the department
- Prepare and administer treatments to animals as directed
- Monitor animals under treatment and liaise with farm staff concerning current health and treatment of donkeys in their care
- Undertake routine and emergency clinical care of all animals resident at The Donkey Sanctuary farms within the guidelines to professional conduct as issued by the Veterinary Council of Ireland, ensuring that the recommended CPD of 60 credits over previous four years, with an average of 12 hours per year is achieved
- Assist vets with all medical and surgical procedures, including preparing patients and equipment, calculating drug doses, monitoring anaesthesia and recovery
- Carry out medical procedures such as blood and dung sampling, i/v fluid therapy, vaccinating and teeth rasping; change foot pads
- Support the Senior Veterinary Nurse in maintaining a safe working environment by using risk assessments, following health and safety regulations and maintaining department security; communicate this positively to other members of the team to minimise risk of accident and injury
- Maintain specialist equipment, e.g. x-ray machine and protective clothing, anaesthetic machine, blood pressure/ECG monitor, endoscope, ultrasound machine, autoclave and diode laser to comply with health and safety regulations
- Take diagnostic radiographs according to Ionising Radiation Regulations – and ensure safety of both hospital staff and nearby public and yard staff
- Ensure correct handling, storage and disposal of dangerous drugs, chemicals and clinical waste according to COSHH regulations
- Provide cover in the laboratories when the qualified technician is absent and assist during busy periods
- Act as an ambassador for the Charity by acquiring a good knowledge of the organisation and the work of the Charity worldwide to positively engage with visitors and members of the public by providing appropriate and accurate information to enhance the visitor experience whilst at The Donkey Sanctuary
- Support foreign veterinary surgeons and visitors, veterinary students, volunteers and work experience students, treating them in a friendly, respectful manner and take every opportunity to provide excellent customer service to all departments and visitors to the Charity
- Represent the Charity at veterinary and allied conferences
- Provide 24-hour standby nursing cover rota as required
- Deputise for the Senior Veterinary Nurse, Veterinary Office Co-ordinator and Isolation Co-ordinator if required
- Provide groom and office cover as directed
- Carry out any other reasonable duty that may be required

Additional Duties

- Take an active role in supporting Charity events and speaking to members of the public in order to promote the organisation worldwide
- General cleaning/maintenance of the hospital

Responsibilities of all Donkey Sanctuary Employees

- Behave in a polite, compassionate and courteous manner to colleagues and supporters at all times and take every opportunity to provide excellent customer service
- Use appropriate language and tone when communicating with others, whatever form of communication is being used
- Behave with integrity and honesty
- Demonstrate a positive attitude to working with others and show consideration in all situations
- Achieve good time keeping and good levels of attendance to support self, team and the Charity in achieving good performance
- Respect the contribution of others within the Charity
- Demonstrate sharing of knowledge and good practice to facilitate collaborative working
- Have a positive and proactive attitude toward achieving the Charity aims and objectives, at all times
- Take due care when working and act responsibly for own health and safety and that of others, following appropriate health and safety standards
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuing personal development
- Take every opportunity to act as an ambassador for the Charity and its subsidiaries, promoting its work at all times

Responsible to

Senior Veterinary Nurse

Communication links

Internal:

Senior Vet Nurse, vets and grooms – assisting with procedures and updating treatments

Veterinary Surgeons

Farm Managers/Supervisors – arranging worming and x-rays, etc

Research – worming and dung samples

Laboratory – blood sample results

Relevant UK departments

External:

Drug suppliers – ordering drugs

Equipment suppliers – arranging servicing, etc

Hours

39 hours per week, Monday to Friday. This is a multi-site, 7-day operation and therefore there will be a requirement to work flexibly to meet the needs of the Charity.

Location

There may be occasions when you may be requested to work at another location considered reasonable by the Charity.

Knowledge and Skills

Essential:

- Veterinary nursing qualification (Diploma or Degree in Veterinary Nursing)
- Registered – VCI Veterinary Nurse Register
- Experience of handling and working with equines

- Experience of anaesthetic monitoring and assisting with surgical procedures
- Experience of taking radiographs
- Excellent communication skills with a variety of audiences both professional and lay
- Full valid driving licence

Desirable:

- Able to demonstrate general laboratory and scientific method skills
- Able to demonstrate ability to adapt to new technology
- Able to demonstrate experience of working in equine/mixed practice
- Able to demonstrate experience of assisting with equine endoscopy and ultrasonography

Personal Attributes:

- Friendly and respectful manner
- Polite, compassionate and courteous
- Able to work as part of a team
- Able to demonstrate the ability to establish, build and maintain successful relationships with staff and supporters
- Takes every opportunity to provide excellent customer service
- Willing to work outside in adverse weather conditions

Note:

To reflect any changes within the Charity during the next few years, the scope of this role will be regularly reviewed and may evolve to meet those needs. Any changes will be agreed in advance with you and confirmed in writing.