

Seeing Practice Student Induction 2011

Please read this sheet carefully, print it off and bring it with you on your first day.

Practice History

Cotts Farm Equine Clinic was founded by its 2 directors, John Edwards and Graham Fowke in 2005. Richard Coomer joined the practice in March 2008, around the time that the clinic was officially opened at Cotts Farm by Professor Barrie Edwards. This paved the way for the first time for specialist hospital treatment of horses and donkeys in West Wales. Since then, the practice has grown exponentially. Our interns rotate yearly and Richard Shuttleworth started in September 2008, Dr Shaun McKane in April 2010. We provide first line ambulatory care for horses in Pembrokeshire, West Carmarthenshire and South Ceredigion. In addition, hospital-standard facilities at Cotts Farm allow us to treat second opinion cases as referrals from South and Mid Wales.

Accommodation

We have a list of local accommodation available. This list is downloadable from the website.

Directions

Please see our website www.cottsequine.co.uk for directions to find us.

Work

The practice caseload is split up as above into hospital-based cases, which may be local or may be referrals from vets further away and ambulatory calls (home visits). Veterinary surgeons days are booked up gradually on the clipboard on our computer system as clients telephone for appointments. You can ask any of the reception staff to see what has been scheduled for the following days. **STUDENTS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO USE THE PRACTICE COMPUTERS AT ANY TIME DUE TO DATA PROTECTION.**

Workload is very variable; some days appear to be very quiet and end up busy, others are very busy or remain calm/quiet. Mondays and Fridays tend to be busier than other days. The time of year also has a significant effect. We tend to be quieter between November and February, whilst the longer days of early spring and summer can be extremely hectic. The type of cases also varies with the time of year. Spring and early summer tends to involve a lot of reproductive work, both routine and emergency. Lameness tends to increase during the summer months as horses are worked more. Colics are seen year round, with peaks in early summer and autumn.

Daily plan

First appointments are generally scheduled from 9 am, although earlier calls are booked from time to time. You should arrive by 8.30am. On the first day, you will be shown round the clinic to familiarise you with the facilities and layout of the buildings. You should have read this sheet and signed it, or do so at induction. If you have any questions whatsoever then please ask any member of staff.

Veterinary surgeons can sometimes be busy and not notice students. In addition, not all calls are suitable or interesting for students. We will do our best to introduce you to staff at the start of your time here, but it is recommended that you introduce yourselves to veterinary surgeons you have not met at a suitable time.

We would generally recommend that you study the clipboard schedule first thing in the morning to decide which visits may be of interest and which veterinary surgeons are available to spend time with. The weather in West Wales can be very wet and you are advised to bring warm weatherproof clothing and footwear (walking boots and/or comfortable wellies) with you. Lunch breaks rarely occur, certainly not at any specific time, and you are advised to bring a packed lunch with you.

Office staff finish work at 5.30 pm, routine veterinary work by 6 pm. Emergency cases often arrive in the late afternoon/early evening and surgery may therefore continue well into the evening or night. School students in particular do not need to stay for these procedures, but are always welcome to do so if they wish. Likewise, attendance is optional for veterinary students but we recognise that the experience gained by doing so is likely to be highly desirable.

Equine practice

Horses by their nature can be extremely dangerous. Student seeing practice do not need any previous experience with horses, but you should advise staff members if you do not have experience. Whether or not you are experienced with horses, they often react unpredictably during veterinary examination and treatment. Horses kick both forward and backwards, and bite. Make every effort to stay in front to the side, or well out of reach behind, even if the animal appears placid and quiet. Horses which are sedated can lose their inhibitions and lunge and bite, therefore never 'trust' a sedated horse.

School students may not hold or touch horses unless expressly at the request of, and under direct supervision of, a veterinary surgeon. Veterinary students hold horses under veterinary supervision. If you have any doubt or concern whatsoever about a particular animal, or task, then bring it to the attention of the veterinary surgeon present.

Contact information and medical history

Please advise us if you have any medical conditions or allergies. Please be sure to bring any medication you may require with you. Please list name, address and phone numbers for next of kin (e.g. parent or guardian) for contact in an emergency at the bottom of this sheet.

Confidentiality

The veterinary examination and treatment of any animal is fully confidential and should not be discussed with other persons, be they other clients or not. In seeing practice with us, students take on this responsibility as well. Some of our clients include racehorse trainers and equestrian professionals active nationally and internationally; you may come across horses you have heard of, are famous locally or nationally. It is critical that you do not discuss the specific details of any animals or owners you may have visited in the course of seeing practice at Cotts Farm, with for example, family or friends.

I have read and understood the contents of this induction sheet prior to seeing practice at Cotts Farm Equine Hospital Ltd. In particular I will respect the requirements regarding client confidentiality during my time here.

Cotts Farm Equine Hospital Ltd make every effort to prevent any accident or injury, but I understand that in seeing practice I do so completely at my own risk.

I am 18 years of age or older. If younger, parent or guardian must sign.

I plan to see practice between..... (date) and(date)

Signed.....Date of birth.....

Name (block capitals).....Date.....

Vet School/Secondary school attended (delete as applicable)

.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone number.....Email.....

Parent/guardian name.....Phone number(s).....

.....