



**Job title: Veterinary General Practitioner**

**Reporting to: Clinical Services Manager**

**FURTHER PARTICULARS**

**Role description:**

The in-house general practitioner plays a vital role in supporting the overall function and high standards of patient care in our unique referral hospital.

Their responsibilities encompass a wide range of duties, to include inpatient care: supervision of daily care and coordination of care for hospitalised patients, managing multiple health issues or comorbidities that accompany their orthopaedic or neurological conditions, monitoring status, ordering and performance of diagnostics and administering of treatments; diagnostic and treatment planning and interpretation, combined with communication and collaboration. This role includes client communication regarding a patient's condition, treatment plan and progress to include admission or discharge where appropriate.

The experience and direct involvement of the General Practitioner team in managing clinical caseloads are essential for the efficient operation of the orthopaedic, neurology, dentistry, and rehabilitation departments. They ensure that all referred patients receive dedicated attention and continuous care under the general oversight of our senior clinicians. These MRCVS veterinary professionals are not enrolled in a training program, such as an internship or residency, but work as permanent members of the clinical team.

Together we will demonstrate safe, clinical decision-making and expert care together with compassionate communication for patients referred to Fitzpatrick Referrals. You will be care driven, have excellent communication skills, exceptionally organised, thorough and be able to operate in a 24/7 team environment.

## Responsibilities and tasks:

### Co-ordinating Case Care

- **Ward Rounds:** Participating in daily rounds with specialists, residents and interns to review all surgical inpatients. The goal is to assess their condition, monitor progress, and adjust management plans.
- **Daily Patient Review:** Independently reviewing patients in wards, especially those with acute concerns, changes in condition, or requiring follow-up treatments or diagnostics.
- **Developing Treatment Plans:** Collaborating with the senior team to formulate and implement comprehensive treatment plans. This includes prescribing medications, ordering advanced imaging and arranging other necessary interventions like fluid therapy or nutritional support.
- **Managing Post-Operative Patients:** Closely monitoring patients after surgery, identifying and managing potential complications such as bleeding, infection, dehiscence, or issues with mobility.
- **Admitting New Cases:** Taking detailed histories from the patients' families, performing thorough physical examinations, and ordering initial diagnostic tests (e.g., blood work, X-rays, ultrasound) for patients admitted for surgical evaluation or procedures. This applies to both routine and emergency admissions.
- **Discharging Patients:** Preparing patients for discharge, which involves writing detailed discharge instructions for the patient's family, prescribing take-home medications, explaining wound care, and arranging follow-up appointments with the surgical department or referring vets.

### Practical Procedures

- **Sample Collection:** Performing venepuncture for blood samples, collecting urine samples (cystocentesis, catheterisation), and obtaining samples for cytology or biopsy.
- **Catheterisation:** Placing intravenous and urinary catheters.
- **Wound Care:** Assisting with or independently performing wound assessment, cleaning, and dressing changes, as well as managing surgical drains.
- **Assisting in Surgery:** Actively assisting senior clinicians during both elective and emergency surgical procedures where requested.
- **Anaesthesia Monitoring:** While often supported by our dedicated anaesthesia team, an appropriate understanding of anaesthetic monitoring is needed and the ability to assist in emergency situations.
- **Emergency Interventions:** Responding to and assisting in the stabilisation and resuscitation of acutely unwell or collapsing patients (e.g., establishing IV access, managing airways, administering emergency drugs).

### Communication and Documentation

- **Liaison:** Maintaining clear and timely communication with veterinary nurses, other departments, and most importantly, referring vets.
- **Family Communication:** Communicating effectively and empathetically with the patient's family about their animal friend's condition, diagnostic findings, treatment options, prognosis, and progress. This requires the right balance of sensitivity and clarity, especially during difficult conversations.
- **Documentation:** Meticulously accurate documentation of all clinical findings, assessments, treatment plans, and procedures in the patient's medical record. This includes detailed surgical logs and daily progress notes.
- **Handover:** Participating in formal handovers between shifts to ensure seamless continuity of care for all patients in our care.
- **Referrals:** Managing and recording referrals from general practice veterinarians or other specialist departments.

### On-Call Responsibilities

- **Emergency Admissions:** Being a primary point of contact for new emergency surgical admissions, assessing them promptly, and initiating immediate stabilisation and management under a senior clinician's guidance.

- **Cross-Cover:** Often responsible for covering a range of surgical cases and general hospital duties when on-call, requiring a broad knowledge base in veterinary emergencies.
- **Responding to Emergencies:** Being available to respond to urgent issues such as acute deterioration, severe pain, or post-operative complications, and initiating appropriate responses and escalation.
- **Assisting in Emergency Surgery:** Actively participating in emergency surgical procedures that may occur outside of regular hours.

#### **Training and Professional Development**

- **Learning and Supervision:** Actively seeking out learning opportunities from senior surgeons and residents, so as to build on your existing knowledge and skills base.
  - **Mentoring:** Providing guidance and support to more junior veterinary colleagues, such as new graduates or final-year veterinary students.
  - **Research and Audit:** Participating in clinical research projects, audits, and quality improvement initiatives to advance veterinary knowledge and enhance patient care.
  - **Attending Meetings:** Participating in departmental meetings, teaching rounds, journal clubs, and multidisciplinary case discussions.
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- To represent and promote the practice, its aims and values at all times
  - In addition to your main duties you will be required to carry out such other duties consistent with your position to meet the needs of the business and as the Company may from time to time require

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

The skills, abilities, experience and knowledge outlined below provide a summary of what is required to carry out this job effectively. They also form part of the selection criteria on which the decision on who to appoint will be made. Please ensure that you show how you meet the criteria outlined below in your application.

Requirement	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MRCVS</li> <li>• Minimum 1 year post graduate experience in practice</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed a surgical and/or rotating internship</li> <li>• Emergency/On-call work</li> </ul>
Clinical skills and knowledge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Client consultations</li> <li>• Anaesthesia monitoring</li> <li>• Wound care</li> <li>• Monitoring post operative recovery</li> <li>• Catheterisation</li> <li>• Taking radiographs</li> <li>• Providing detailed handovers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clinical research</li> <li>• Orthopaedic examination of patients</li> <li>• Neurological examination of patients</li> <li>• Perform A-FAST and T-FAST</li> <li>• Feeding tube placement</li> <li>• Insert central line</li> <li>• Chest drain placement and management</li> <li>• Urinary catheterisation</li> </ul>
Personal skills and characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent communication skills with clients and colleagues</li> <li>• Team player</li> <li>• Ability to work on own initiative</li> <li>• Excellent coordination and organisational skills</li> <li>• Exceptional time management</li> <li>• Ability to work under pressure</li> <li>• Attention to detail</li> </ul>	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to work in the United Kingdom (or eligible to obtain)</li> </ul>	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrity – We always endeavour to do the right thing</li> <li>• Innovation – We challenge ourselves to develop new and better ways to solve problems</li> <li>• Care – We care passionately about what we do</li> <li>• Education – We are totally committed to learning and sharing knowledge and information</li> <li>• Community – We work best when we work as a team</li> </ul>	