



CARLISLE HOUSE, TOWNHEAD ROAD, DALSTON, CARLISLE, CUMBRIA, CA5 7JF
TEL: (01228) 710208

HEALTH AND SAFETY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

WORK EXPERIENCE STUDENTS & EMS STUDENTS

Due to the nature of veterinary practice, the role of students undertaking work experience is largely one of observation rather than participation. This practice has a legal obligation to assess risk within the workplace and take every effort to eliminate or reduce the risk wherever practicable. This has been done and there are a few important considerations for work experience students.

1. Animals are unpredictable, sick and injured ones even more so and because of this there are some risks that cannot be avoided. The whole of the surgery and any farms or other areas that may be visited are therefore regarded as medium to high-risk areas.
2. Personal health. If the student has any known allergies to animals or other health problems that may affect, or be affected by, work in the practice they must inform the practice manager before starting their placement.
3. Although protective clothing is provided you must wear smart casual, sensible, hardwearing clothing capable of punishment, and sturdy shoes with non-slip soles.

Animal Handling

Students must not handle, approach or even pet any animal unless specifically instructed by a member of staff. If you are accompanying a vet on farm visits you are advised to stand well back to avoid injury. When out on farm visits, only handle the animals under the instruction of the veterinary surgeon.

Disease Risk

There are a number of infections carried by small and farm animals that are transferable to man and can cause serious disease. Soiled areas should not be cleaned unless a member of staff has instructed the student and provided with the appropriate protective clothing.

After any session, the student must remember to wash their hands, this is particularly important prior to eating or drinking.

Drugs and chemicals

A wide range of potentially dangerous substances will be found in any vet practice and unless a member of staff specifically instructs you, students must not handle any drugs or other potentially harmful agents. The head nurse and practice manager should be informed of any drug allergies that the student may have.

X-Rays

Students are not allowed within the designated X-Ray area whilst animals are being radio graphed. We accept that this is not compatible with the idea of gaining experience so would ask the student to stand well away from the X-Ray room when X-Rays are being exposed.



PARAGON VETERINARY GROUP, Townhead Road, Dalston, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA5 7JF (registered office)
TOWNHEAD VETERINARY CENTRE, Townhead Farm, Newbiggin, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0HT

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Small Animal Operations

We do allow students to go into theatre and watch operations. However, this isn't for everyone, if you do feel even slightly unwell in theatre you **MUST** let the nurses know as soon as possible. In the theatre and prep room areas there are a number of tables and work surfaces that have corners which cannot be avoided; these can cause further injury if caught whilst fainting. It is also important that students move around and flex their legs whilst in theatre due to the length of time they will be standing.

Farm visits

Protective clothing & Biosecurity

Protective clothing is NOT supplied.

- Warm clothing
- Waterproof trousers/jacket
- Wellington boots (steel toe caps recommended but not essential)

Dangers on farm

- Livestock – cattle and sheep etc
- Machinery
- Slippery yards/concrete

Working alone with a vet

- Farm veterinary work will involve being alone in a car with a vet travelling to farms for routine visits and to see sick animals
- The student must always listen to the vet's advice when on farm in order to remain safe

Ensure that after farm visits you wash down thoroughly before leaving the premises with an approved disinfectant.

If students have an accident, however minor, or feel they are in imminent danger of injury they must inform the **First Aiders Dalston – Julie Crawford / Donna Hall**
Newbiggin – Liz Lester / Emily Arter

For further information please refer to Paragon Veterinary Group Health & safety manual.

CONFIDENTIALITY

We expect all vets and staff (including students on work experience) to maintain client confidentiality. This means that the student must not discuss aspects of client cases outside of the surgery.

I have read and understood all the above document relating to Health & safety and confidentiality for work experience & EMS students.

EMS Students:

Work Experience:

Signed.....Student

Signed.....Parent/guardian

Date

Signed.....Student

Date



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