



NIGHT SHIFT PATIENT CARE VETERINARY NURSE

Grade and salary: Grade 5 £29,179- £33,482 pa, pro rata, plus holiday supplement, night enhancement, pension and additional benefits (pay award pending March 2025)

Working hours: Part time – 0.73 FTE. Work pattern is 6.45pm– 6.45am (11 hours) for 3 nights duty followed by 6 nights off duty, continuous to include weekends, Bank holidays and University closed days. Overtime included.

Tenure: Permanent

Location: Leahurst Campus, Neston, Wirral

Faculty: Health and Life Sciences, Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences. Department of Small Animal Clinical Science.

Recruiting department contact: rachel.rankin@liverpool.ac.uk

Job ref: 090633

The Role

Role overview and University context:

We invite applications for the post of Night shift Veterinary Nurse within the Small Animal Teaching hospital.

You will be a qualified Veterinary Nurse; this role would be ideally suited to a person with a keen interest in Patient care and enjoys working with a smaller team out of hours.

This part-time post gives you an exciting opportunity to take a role in a first-class small animal hospital.

This post sits in the Department of Small Animal Clinical Science, within the School of Veterinary Science. The Head of Department of Small Animal Clinical Science is Professor Tom Maddox and the Head of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital is Briony Alderson. The Hospital Operations manager is Rachel Rankin, Head Nurse Faye Walsh and Senior Patient Care Nurse Liz Sweeney.

The Small Animal Teaching Hospital (completed 2007) is a busy multidisciplinary referral and teaching hospital seeing over 12,000 appointments per year with an annual turnover of over £7m. As one of the largest and most advanced hospitals built for small animals in Europe the facility sees referral appointments from far and wide. Our team of RCVS and European Specialists work at the cutting edge of veterinary medicine to deliver a service that is world-renowned. Our specialists are supported by interns and residents who are carefully selected, experienced, qualified vets working as "specialists in training". The hospital plays a key role in the education of veterinary students, teaching them the very latest concepts and techniques in a caring and supportive environment.

Clinical research is carried out within the hospital to improve the lives of pets everywhere. Facilities include Philips Ingenia MRI, Toshiba Aquilion 80-slice CT, two DR radiography rooms, a DEXA scanner, a radiotherapy suite with a dual modality Varian Vitalbeam, three operating rooms, an in-house laboratory, dermatology, endoscopy and cardiology suites and associated consulting and ward space.

The hospital plays a key role in the education of Undergraduate Veterinary Students, teaching them the very latest concepts and techniques in a caring and supportive environment. The final year students are involved in many of our consultations and procedures. The students rotate through the hospital as part of their clinical training, and core teaching, this includes elective weeks

This role is primarily based in patient care areas and theatre departments of the hospital, including the ICU. You will collaborate closely with the Out-of-Hours (OOH) and Primary Care Emergency veterinary teams to deliver exceptional patient care. The position offers an excellent opportunity to utilise and develop your skills, including supporting emergency and critical care cases.

This part-time role involves working three 11-hour night shifts followed by six consecutive nights off on a rolling rota. The position includes opportunities for overtime and comes with a generous benefits package, including:

- Competitive pension scheme
- Generous annual leave allowance, inclusive of bank holidays and University closure days
- Family-friendly policies, such as maternity, paternity, and adoption leave
- Access to in-house seminars and training opportunities within the department
- Comprehensive induction training alongside the team
- Discounted medical care for your pet
- Annual pay reviews
- Paid overtime opportunities

Key responsibilities and duties:

The Night Patient Care Nurse in the Small Animal Teaching Hospital primarily works in in-patient areas and the ICU, providing nursing support alongside the night veterinary clinical staff. This role allows you to fully utilise your nursing skills, including assisting with anaesthesia, emergency and critical care, and routine patient care.

You will demonstrate strong organisational skills, including teamwork and decision-making, and take responsibility for managing your workload during night shifts. The role requires close collaboration with clinical staff while adhering to hospital protocols and procedures.

You will perform a wide range of clinical tasks, including nursing care, dispensing and preparing medications, stock control, billing, and related administrative duties.

Ensuring high standards of tidiness and cleanliness in all areas of the hospital.

Communicating effectively with all hospital staff, especially the day nursing and auxiliary teams, to ensure seamless service delivery.

Key Duties:

- Deliver high-quality nursing care to animals in the wards, ICU, and all clinical services, such as soft tissue surgery, neurology, orthopaedics, oncology, internal medicine, cardiology, imaging, anaesthesia, and dermatology.
- Assist in anaesthesia induction, monitoring, and recovery.
- Monitor and manage pain levels, ensuring timely relief is provided.
- Maintain cleanliness and functionality in all wards, ICU, treatment areas, and equipment.
- Restock inpatient areas and assist with ordering consumables as required.
- Support case processing tasks, such as sample submissions.
- Perform general nursing care to the highest standard.

Educational Support:

- Supervise and assess undergraduate BVSc students during clinical rotations.
- Assist with OSCE examinations and provide training on activities such as blood sampling, IV catheter placement, fluid therapy, urinary catheter placement, monitoring critically ill patients, and ICU techniques.
- Facilitate problem-based learning sessions and deliver occasional lectures in relevant fields (training and support provided).
- This role is a vital part of the hospital's mission to deliver exceptional patient care while supporting the development of the next generation of veterinary professionals.

Additional Duties

- Contributing to hospital evolution and service development.
- Adhering to local and legal safety standards to maintain a secure working environment.
- Performing any additional duties as assigned by senior nurses or clinical staff.

This role demands a proactive, responsible approach and a commitment to maintaining high standards in all aspects of work.

The Veterinary Nurse will take direction from the Senior nurse in the first instance, Head Nurse. Liaison with Head of Department of Small Animal Clinical Sciences via Operations manager.

The hours of the post are determined by operational need: flexibility in hours is expected. The post holder is required to ensure good communication and must organise adequate cover with colleagues.

You will be required to be part of the technical rota for weekends, bank holidays and University closed days, this will be paid overtime. To ensure continuous service and meet operational need you will be required to cover the absences of others and to be flexible in swapping shifts to meet the operational needs of the Hospital.

Additional requirements:

Manual Handling

The post involves bending, stretching and manual handling of loads up to 15kg. A system to control the risks is in place. The appointee will be required to complete a health questionnaire. Appointment will be subject to Occupational Health screening.

Pathogens

You will be required to handle pathogens or potentially infected specimens of unfixed animal tissue (including blood), although appropriate measures will be in place to control the risk. You may be offered appropriate immunisations and/or records of your work with infectious material/infectious micro-organisms may be kept. You will be advised in your offer letter to contact the occupational Health Department to check on your vaccination status.

Exposure to Animals

As an applicant for a post which involves work in animal houses and/or handling animals, you should be aware that:

- There is a possibility that you may develop an allergy to the animals you are in contact with. The risk is substantially reduced if correct working practices are used and protective clothing is worn.
- Milder cases may be controlled by the use of protective clothing or medication and some people who are affected are able to continue working with animals.

The appointee will be required to complete a health screening questionnaire and clearance from Occupational Health must be received before exposure.

Gluteraldehyde/Asthmagens

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Control of Noise

You will work in an area where noise has been identified as a potential hazard. A system to control the risks is in place. You may be required to wear hearing protection or to undergo checks on your hearing. Appointment will be subject to Occupational Health screening and clearance must be received before exposure.

In addition to the above, all University of Liverpool staff are required to:

- Adhere to all University policies and procedures, completing all obligatory training and induction modules, including Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety.
- Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons.
- Participate in the University's Professional Development Review scheme and take a proactive approach to own professional development.
- Demonstrate customer service excellence in dealing with all stakeholders.
- Embody and uphold the University's Vision and Values.

About you

Experience

Essential

1. Relevant experience in high quality small animal environment, including responsibility for patient care, stock, client communication and work organisation.
2. Experience of working on own initiative and appropriate unsupervised decision making.
3. Experience in organising teams.

Desirable

1. Post qualification experience in a university or referral hospital environment; experience in a veterinary training environment and demonstrating to veterinary undergraduates.
2. Post qualification experience of working in across disciplines.
3. Experience in a veterinary training environment and demonstrating to undergraduates or new members of staff.

Education, qualifications and training

Essential

1. Qualified veterinary nurse, registered veterinary nurse BTEC First certificate (or equivalent).
2. Proven interest in patient care.

Desirable

1. Nursing Degree, Veterinary Nursing Diploma or equivalent.

Skills, general and specialist knowledge

Essential

1. Excellent general nursing and animal handling skills.
2. Excellent communication skills.
3. Literate and numerate.
4. Proficient in the use of computers.
5. Effectively prioritise workload.
6. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
7. Interest in patient care provision for hospitalised animals.

Desirable

1. Experience in intensive care nursing, and specialist nursing.
2. Advanced knowledge in Infection control.
3. Good working knowledge of a referral hospital.
4. Good working knowledge of small animal surgery.

Personal attributes**Essential**

1. Ability to communicate effectively with all staff, students and clients both verbally and written.
2. Positive team member.
3. Ability to work using your initiative, to self-motivate and motivate others.
4. Ability to work within a team and independently.
5. Ability to solve problems and respond to queries.
6. Highly motivated and conscientious individual.
7. Flexibility regarding working hours.
8. Ability to remain calm and assertive under pressure.

About us

Established in 1881, we are an internationally renowned Russell Group university recognised for our high-quality teaching and research. We are consistently ranked as one of the best [universities](#) both nationally and globally, and the majority of our research is rated world leading or internationally excellent. [Find out more about us.](#)

Why Work Here

We recognise, appreciate and celebrate the incredible work our staff do every day. As well as generous terms and conditions, we offer a range of enviable benefits and provide support for colleague's wellbeing and development. Discover more [about working here.](#)

Moving from abroad

As a global institute, we welcome applicants from all nationalities, moving from a different country can be challenging and we would like to help as much as we can, we have put together some information on eligibility to work documentation, accommodation, schools, healthcare, life in Liverpool and the UK as well as other practical information. Discover more about [moving from abroad.](#)

Our Staff

Whether it be their friendly colleagues, supportive managers or our outstanding facilities, our staff can explain better than anyone what it is like to work for us and why they enjoy their role. See what our [colleagues have to say.](#)

How to Apply

Application process

Our e-recruitment system enables you to register for an online account, where you can view, copy and edit your applications. Set up your account on our [Vacancies Portal](#).

Once you submit your application you will receive an automatic email acknowledgment. You can view your application at any time by clicking into the application history section of your account.

The recruiting department will endeavour to respond to each application. However, if you have not heard within six weeks of the closing date, please take it that your application has not been successful on this occasion.

Job description

After the closing date this job description will be removed from our website. Should you wish to refer to this information at a later date please ensure you save a copy of this document.

Right to work

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment we make to you will be conditional upon you gaining it. The UKVI have an interactive tool allowing you to immediately see if vacancies are eligible for a Skilled Worker visa. You will need to know the SOC code for the role, view our [most used SOC codes](#), if none of these apply to this role, there are more codes on the eligibility checker. The skilled worker eligibility checker can be found on [GOV.UK](#).

Disabilities and alternative formats

If you have any other requirements which will help you access the application or interview process or employment opportunities at the University, or if you require copies documentation in alternative formats, please email: jobs@liverpool.ac.uk or telephone 0151 794 6771.

