

## **Student Guidelines**

### **Welcome to LLM Farm Vets**

As the gap between student vet and vet in practice becomes increasingly difficult to bridge we are keen that you make the most of your time with us. We hope to expose you to as much 'hands on' work as possible and give you a full insight into the demands of farm animal practice, thus making the transition into practice that bit easier. We feel this is particularly important due to the declining number of new graduates entering farm animal practice, which, if it continues, will have large implications for both our practice and farm animal practices nationwide.

By following these guidelines we hope that you will be able to use your time with us to its full potential and get the best from your visit.

**Your aims and goals** - If you have a particular area that you would like to improve on, or you want more practical experience of specific procedures, then let us know at the beginning of your time with us so that we can try and expose you to these where possible. We would encourage you to think about what your objectives are for your time with us and discuss these with us early on.

**Meeting up with vets** - On your first couple of days with us there will be a basic outline for your day included in your student pack. This will have details of who you are going out with and what you can expect from those visits. After this you are expected to be independent in organising your days with the vets.

There is a bank of TV screens in the main office, these display the calls booked for each day. Should you require guidance on which calls you would be welcome on, or the codes used on the screens, please chat to either a member of the Diary team or a Vet. We strongly recommend speaking to the vets the day before to arrange meeting places and times for the following day. If it is

suggested to you that you should go out with a different vet, please don't take it personally, there are some farms that are more student friendly than others and it is our wish that you gain as much knowledge as possible through attending these farms.

**Always ask questions** - Make the most of your one-to-one time with the vets and ask questions. The vets don't mind and may even learn something themselves. Time in the car represents a great opportunity to discuss how to approach different clinical scenarios and will also highlight your weaker areas so that you can improve on them.

**Out of hours** - Most emergency work e.g. calving's, prolapses etc occur out of hours. If you are wanting to be involved in out of hours calls then please let the vet on call know and be prepared to drive to calls to meet the vet. There is a list of the vets on call for your time with us included within your student pack but this is subject to change. A constantly updated list of vets on call can be found in the main office on the small white board (you will be shown where this is on your practice tour).

**Feedback and Assessment form** - On your last day we will book some time for you and a vet, with whom you have worked closely with, to go through any questions you may have and give feedback. You will be asked to complete a feedback form also about your time spent with us.

We ask that you leave your assessment form with us and we aim to have it back to your university within two weeks of your last day. Please let us know if this is needed sooner.

We complete an internal assessment form for every student. This is so that we can keep a record of your input and enthusiasm for future reference and opportunities.

## **How you can help us**

As you will appreciate, the practice is a very busy place and there are certain things that you could do to help both the vets and the office staff in order to help things run more smoothly:

**Vets' Cars** – When you come back to the practice after calls, ask the vet if they would like you to restock their vehicle with any consumables that have been used during the day's calls. The medicines required to restock the vehicles are in named boxes by the back door at the practice. This will help you to gain an understanding of how much of a particular medicine is used, what for, as well as giving you an idea of how to (or not to) organise your vehicle when in practice.

**Brew Making** – We all love our brews and making teas and coffees will certainly endear you to everyone. There is a list of how everyone takes his or her tea/coffee in the kitchen.

## **Things to get involved with**

### **Grassroots Herdcheck Cell Count Reports**

Every month several of our clients receive a report based on their latest cell count recordings. This highlights areas that they need to tackle in order to reduce their cell count or prevent it rising. At the beginning of your time with us, enquire with a vet as to which farm you can have a go at writing a report for. They will take you through what is involved and then discuss it afterwards.

### **Newsletter**

Every month we produce a practice newsletter that keeps farmers informed about seasonal problems they should be looking out for and offers/promotions we are offering at the practice. If you would like to write a short piece to be included then please feel free. Contributions are always welcome. If this is something you are interested in please let Lucy or Claire in the main office know.

### **On-farm Investigations**

You may wish to get involved in some on-farm investigations that are being carried out, for example lameness scoring and mastitis sampling. We hope that this will provide you with some good hands-on experience – you may find that the next time you do this it will be on your own in practice! If you ask the vets they will be able to advise you of any work you could get involved in during your time with us. It is better to enquire about this at the start of your placement.

### **Social Media**

During your time out on farm you may be asked to capture some videos and photos for us. These are used for marketing purposes, training on occasion and

to increase engagement on the practice's social media platforms. If this is something you are keen to help with please speak to Lucy and she will give you guidance on this. You are not expected to feature in any social media posts (unless you really want to) but Lucy needs to brief the Vet/Vet-tech before any media is used.

### **A few more helpful tips**

- There is an alphabetical list of all our clients next to the big wall map, along with the farm name and grid reference
- There is also a colour coded guide to which farms are more 'student friendly' than others (this is usually based on handling facilities).