



MatamataVeterinaryServices

VETERINARY STUDENTS “ SEEING PRACTICE” POLICY

Matamata Veterinary Services welcomes any student or visitor with an interest in animal health and welfare.

Priority is given to veterinary students from Massey University, especially those in the 4th or 5th years of study. Normally only two students may visit at any one time.

Students should plan to stay no more than two consecutive weeks.

Those who wish may apply to be considered to return to Matamata Veterinary Services, and see practice for a further two weeks at a later date.

Professional Indemnity Insurance for students is covered both by Massey University and Matamata Veterinary Services.

Orientation

On arrival, students should introduce themselves to the Office Manager who will

- Show the students the layout of the clinic
- Introduce the students to the staff as time permits
- Explain how the day-sheet works
- Introduce the students to the Director/Supervisor responsible for co coordinating the student programme

Director/Supervisor will

- Explain the system of day-to-day operation of the clinic
- Explain access terms and use of computer, library and Internet

Occupational Safety and Health (OSH)

Matamata Veterinary Services complies with OSH requirements. You will be made aware of workplace safety, identifiable hazards, emergency procedures and the reporting of any accidents or mishaps (however minor).

Professionalism

Every attempt is made at Matamata Veterinary Services to treat students as professional colleagues. The expectation in return is that students will assume the image of a practicing veterinarian.

This image includes

- Punctuality - students should be at the clinic at 8am or earlier as required
- A reasonable standard of dress i.e. smart casual (no jeans etc).
- Have protective clothing suitable for large animal practice i.e. boots/gumboots, overalls, wet weather gear.
- Availability - students should participate as fully as possible both during normal working hours and after hours (nights and weekends).
- Sensitivity - be careful of questions and verbal exchanges, which involve clients and their animals. Take your cue from the vet concerned but generally the cut and thrust of a complete clinical discussion is saved until after the client has left. Few clients enjoy a complete clinical dissection of their animal's problems.
- Students are expected to make full use of their time here. Any non-clinical time should be utilized reading relevant texts/journals, talking to our vets and generally getting information from wherever possible.

Clinical Practice

- Students are encouraged to attend the maximum number of cases (including the routine) with vets both during the day and after hours. Some of the best practical hands-on experience comes during nights and weekends, especially in the busy season.
- Students are expected to be continually aware of the calls on the day-sheet and should identify which vet is scheduled to the calls they would like to see. The student should then make that vet aware of their wish to go on these calls and be ready to go (complete with personal gear) when the vet departs.
- Be encouraged to handle selected cases to obtain a history, do a clinical evaluation, make a diagnosis, a prognosis and a plan for treatment and follow up.
- Keep a record of cases and write up at least one case report to be presented near the end of your stay at MVS.
- Students are expected to make a 10-15 minute presentation in a social setting to staff, vet and students at MVS. This presentation should be on a topic of individual choice and relevance to MVS.

Confidentiality

Students will be exposed to the complete caseload and management of the practice. There will be situations which should not be revealed between vets, between clients, between practices or detailed once back at University. Students must obviously draw on this experience but never identify the particulars of the animal, client or practice.

Student Evaluation

As requested by the Institute of Veterinary Animal and Biological Sciences, the performance of all students will be evaluated on completion of their time at MVS. This will be done at a practice meeting after the student's departure with contributions from the entire staff. Special emphasis will be given to enthusiasm, self-motivation, compatibility, communication skills and professionalism.