

Experienced Vet required to join friendly team in Henley

Who are we?

We are a Small Animal practice, with a main branch in Henley, where we do most of our operating and all of the hospitalization. We also have a branch surgery in Twyford, for vet and nurse consultations and minor ops only. We typically have 8 vets at a time on duty on weekdays across the two surgeries.



We pride ourselves on covering all of our own out of hours cases in-house 24/7 (in Henley). Our endeavor is to provide the very best veterinary care for every patient whilst respecting our clients financial constraints and their personal views as to how much intervention is acceptable.

We currently have 11 vets in all - a mix of full timers and part timers with experience ranging from 3 to 33 years, and 18 full and part time qualified and student nurses, plus practice manager, office manager, 3 lab/kennel assistants and a team of part time receptionists. We are and have always been, a nurse training practice and maintaining that accreditation ensures that our standards of care are regularly checked and remain high

Weekday consulting in Henley is 8am to 8pm, with 8:30 to 6:00 on Saturdays. In general, those vets we consider to be our "full-timers" work 4 weekdays every week in compensation for working a share of the Out of Hours rota (to average a 40 hour week). We have a number of different shift patterns, so the length of a working day varies somewhat.

We are currently also recruiting for a dedicated Night Duty vet to do 3 nights a week, which would obviously reduce the OOH load on the rest of the veterinary team.

Who are we looking for?

The post is full time (i.e. 4 days per week, plus a share of OOH and weekends).

Ideally we'd be looking for somebody with a certificate in medicine, or at least with a keen interest and experience in that area. The right candidate will be a team player who's also happy to take sole charge out of hours. They would need a minimum of 2 years' experience, including some OOH experience ideally.

What are the hours?

The role would 4 week day shifts, one of which may or may not be a midday start and night duty shift, and a 1 in 4 weekend duty rota. There are currently 3 vets involved in each weekend, 4 of the senior vets cover the "long weekend" duties (Saturday morning through to Monday morning), another 4 vets cover the "short weekend" shifts (Friday night duty and Saturday at the Henley surgery until 4 pm) and the remaining 4 vets do the "Twyford Saturday" shifts (9 am at Twyford through to 4 pm at Henley). Those vets that do the shortest of the weekend shifts also do a midweek night duty. They start work at midday on the day of their night duty and are scheduled to leave by 4pm on the following day. There is always a nurse on the premises overnight to take the phone calls and help the vet in every aspect of the in-patient care and in-coming emergencies.

Our consulting is split into blocks of 2 to 2.5 hours per session, with all consultations by appointment, lasting 15 minutes (longer for more complicated cases, talkative clients, etc.). These consulting blocks are punctuated by 30 to 60 minute breaks allowing vets to check on their in-patient and catch up with paperwork, phone calls. We generally have three operating vets on any given weekday, starting soon after 8am, and often continuing until 5 or 6 pm. With 10 vets, that gives each vet at least one ops day per week.

What equipment do we have?

A new ultrasound machine, integrated with PACS, which has enabled our most experienced ultrasonographers to hone their skills still further. We would welcome another vet who is enthusiastic about ultrasound, to share the scanning.

Bronchoscope, endoscope and arthroscope.

Digital xray machine (integrated with PACS).

Comprehensive dental machine and kit + dental xray machine.

Comprehensive orthopaedic kit.

Full Idexx laboratory suite of machines.

Multiparameter monitor.

Blood pressure monitor.

ECG

Tonometer

... and probably a whole lot more that I have forgotten to mention!

We have an exceptional nursing team, and are able to handle most complex and intensive care cases in-house though we are, of course, happy to refer cases when necessary. We do not dictate which referral centre our vets or clients chose to refer a case to.

Salary would be negotiable, depending on experience. We offer 4 weeks + bank holidays as paid holiday per year, with an additional long service allowance rising to a maximum of 5 weeks. For CPD, we have an annual budget per vet, and expect that the CPD time will be completed half in our time, and half in the vet's time. We are also happy to allow additional unpaid leave when there are gaps between the paid holiday that has been booked.

We are pretty flexible in our approach to most things, so don't have a rigid recruitment process, but I would normally expect a single face-to-face interview (rather than more than one), or possibly a telephone interview followed by a face-to-face meeting. Trial days would certainly be a useful option. In fact, spending some time with us as a locum with a view to switching to a permanent position if we all feel we're a good fit for each other is definitely an option.

Please email your CV with covering note to jobs@henleyvets.co.uk