



Langford

VETERINARY SERVICES

OOH AVAILABILITY AND PATIENT CARE

OOH cover

All LVS clinics provide an OOH service to clients registered with them. The arrangement for clients to contact the different clinics are set out on the website, as well as displayed in each area. Throughout the night an intern is present to deal with SAH and SAP cases. They will generally be accompanied by students.

Patients will be monitored at intervals not exceeding 2 hours (or as instructed by a clinician) by either an intern, or a student.

Protocol for Care of In-patients overnight

This protocol is for the use of the intern and students who remain on the premises and are responsible for the care of in-patients overnight.

1. At the end of office hours the intern should ensure that they have discussed all in-patients with the veterinary surgeons who are on call that night, asking about:
 - Any medication required to be given
 - Any special care requirements
 - Any changes that should be reported to the on duty resident.
2. The intern should check all patients at two-hourly intervals throughout the night or as instructed by the senior clinician if more frequent. On each occasion the following should be checked:
 - Temperature, pulse and respiration rates should be measured and recorded on the hospitalisation sheet, if the senior clinician has said that this is necessary for any individual patient.
 - Has the animal eaten/drank/urinated/defaecated/vomited? If so, record this and other important observations about the patient on the hospitalisation sheet.
 - Check that the animal shows no signs of pain including colic (if a horse) or post-surgical pain. Contact the duty veterinary surgeon if you feel any animal needs additional pain relief.

- Is the animal clean and comfortable? Change its bedding if required. Its coat may be cleaned with a damp cloth if necessary but no animal should be showered without the permission of the veterinary surgeon. Dressings should be checked and changed if soaked through or contaminated e.g. with excreta. Make sure that any change of dressing is recorded so that it can be charged for.
 - Ensure that any intra-venous drips are running freely at the rate requested by the duty veterinary surgeon. Take remedial action if not. If you are unable to correct the problem, contact the duty veterinary surgeon.
 - Give medication and/or take samples if the duty veterinary surgeon has asked you to do so. Record that this has been done and when, so it can be charged for.
 - Any marked change in an animal's condition should be reported to the duty veterinary surgeon.
3. Before going off duty, the intern must ensure that any relevant information of all in-patients has been discussed with either the veterinary surgeon on their arrival in the morning or the member of support staff who is taking over responsibility for their care.
 4. The intern must consider their personal safety on each and every occasion that they go into a kennel or pen with an animal. Sick animals can be unpredictable, and their condition, and therefore temperament, may have changed since the last check. Your own safety comes before that of the patient. If a patient is in urgent need of attention but you do not feel safe to enter its kennel or pen, contact the duty veterinary surgeon for advice or help.

1.9.3 Surgical emergencies

In case of an emergency, the on duty veterinary surgeon will make the necessary arrangements for the client to be seen. A senior clinician is always available as back up should the need arise.

An anaesthetist is always on call to assist with complex anaesthetic cases.