



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH
The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies

The Hospital for Small Animals



Information for Referring Vets



We care about our patients, our clients and our referring vets. We are home to a wide range of Specialists, world-leading in their field, with access to outstanding facilities, many unmatched by other hospitals in the UK.



– **Sue Murphy**

Director of Clinical Services



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WELCOME

Welcome to the Hospital for Small Animals' first referring vet brochure. Whether you're considering referring to us for the first time, or have had a long relationship with us, we hope this guide to our services will prove useful.

The Hospital is proud to be part of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, one of the world's best veterinary schools, at the University of Edinburgh. Our status as an educational institution means we are not-for-profit, and a key part of our mission is training the next generation of exemplary veterinary professionals to the high standards we are known for.

We are home to a wide range of Specialists, world-leading in their field, and have a proven track record of excellence in veterinary care. Our facilities are outstanding, many unmatched by other hospitals in the UK – such as our linear accelerator, which you can read about on page 23.

Alongside our clinical care and education, we conduct world-leading, transformative and ethical research, which would not be possible without the many and varied cases we see. All research is undertaken on an opt-in basis, and has a significant and wide-ranging impact on animal and human wellbeing across the planet.

The results of our research are shared with the wider veterinary community, allowing improved care to the animals we all look after. Thus, our role is to help not only the animals we see but the ones we will never see.



Alongside our clinical care and education, we conduct world leading, transformative and ethical research, which would not be possible without the cases you refer.



– Sue Murphy

Director of Clinical Services

We're always happy to help veterinary colleagues – whether or not you decide to refer. You can find our contact information at the bottom of each page. Please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,
Sue Murphy

BVM&S MSc (Clin Onc) dip ECVIM-CA (Onc) MRCVS
EBVS® European Veterinary Specialist in Small Animal Oncology
RCVS Recognised Specialist in Oncology
Director of Clinical Services, Hospital for Small Animals



HOW TO FIND US

The Hospital for Small Animals is located at the Easter Bush Campus, eight miles south of Edinburgh city centre.

For a range of options to reach us, including bus routes, please visit: www.ed.ac.uk/vet/services/small-animals/referrals/find-us

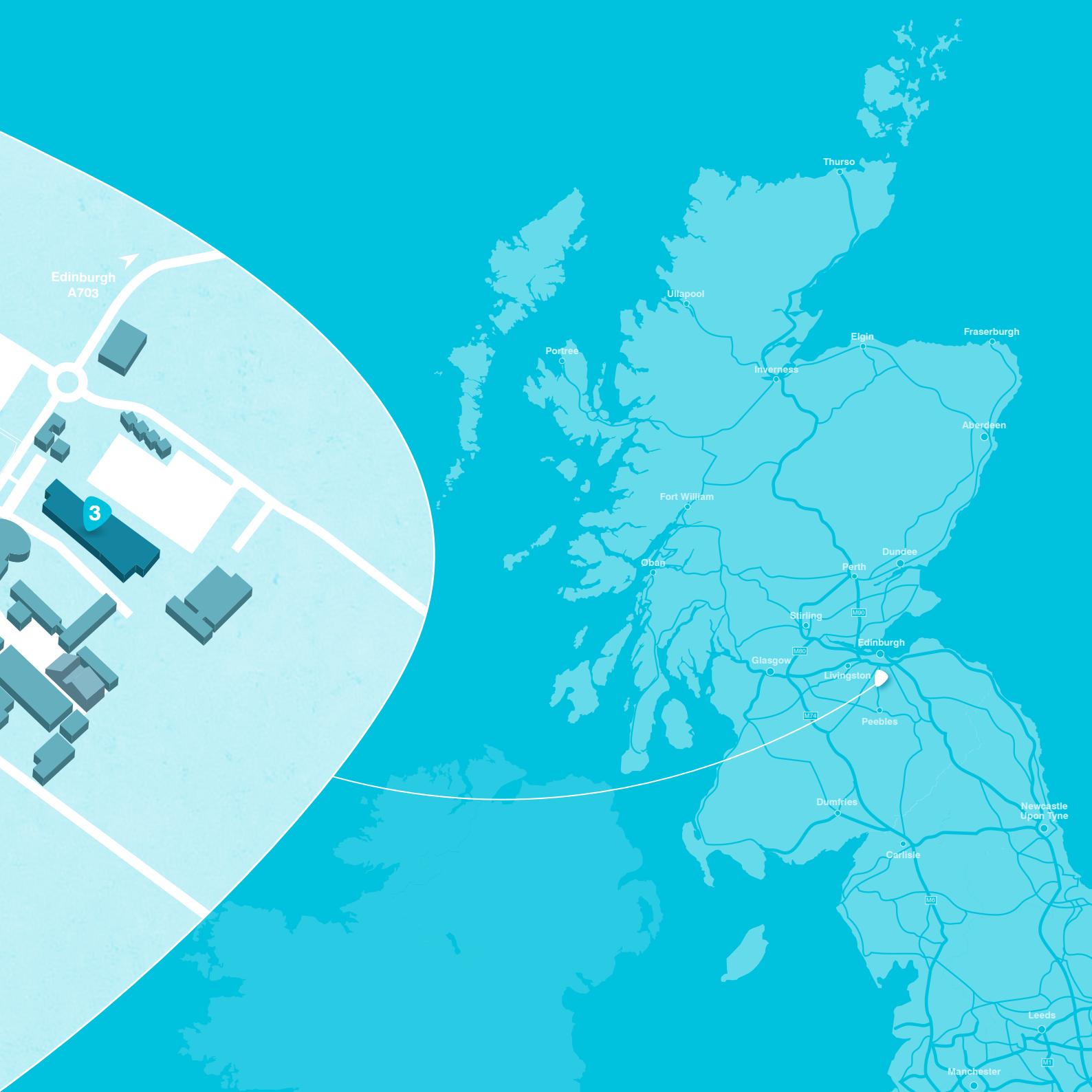
- 1 Hospital for Small Animals
- 2 William Dick building
- 3 The Roslin Institute



Contact us

- 0131 650 7650
- HfSAreception@ed.ac.uk
- www.edin.ac/hfsa





Edinburgh
A703

3

Referrals

REFERRING TO US



 [edin.ac/
hfsa-referral-form](https://edin.ac/hfsa-referral-form)

We want to make this as simple as possible!

To refer a patient to us, please phone us on **0131 650 7650**, email us at hfsareception@ed.ac.uk or complete an online request at www.edin.ac/hfsa-referral-form

Once the client is registered with us as a referral you can either book the appointment with us or we will contact the client to organise the appointment – whichever you prefer.

Please do not ask a client to arrange a referral directly.

Case details

To allow us to have a full picture of the condition to be referred for, please send a case summary along with full details of all tests carried out and the results. You can email this information to hfsareception@ed.ac.uk together with the client's name, email address and telephone number.



 **0131 650 7650**

 **HFSAreception@ed.ac.uk**

Dealing with Clients

We will send out an information pack to the client explaining what to expect on their visit and give directions on how to find us.

If the client would like to change their appointment or ask for any information, they can call the main reception, on **0131 650 7650** or email **hfsareception@ed.ac.uk**.

Emergencies

For emergencies within normal working hours, please phone **0131 650 7650**.

If you wish to make an emergency referral out with normal office hours (Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5:30pm), please contact our emergency service on **0131 650 7650** and follow the instructions.

EMERGENCY AND CRITICAL CARE

The Emergency and Critical Care Service is the front line of emergency care at the Hospital for Small Animals, working 24 hours a day to stabilise and treat critical patients. Our team of Critical Care Specialists see cases which require immediate intervention, as well as offering consultations for referring vets on emergency cases.



24 hour Service seven days a week

- 📞 0131 650 7650
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We have a dedicated, continually-staffed Intensive Care Unit which ensures we provide the highest level of care to patients with life-threatening conditions. This Unit includes advanced climate-controlled oxygen cages.



We were the first veterinary hospital in the United Kingdom to provide High Flow Nasal Oxygen therapy for patients with higher oxygen requirements.



Our extensive in-house laboratory facilities, imaging facilities and advanced haemodynamic monitoring capabilities, allow for a rapid diagnosis to be made and treatment to be implemented. Close collaboration with other services within the hospital ensures that each patient gets the best possible care at all times.



A member of our ECC team is always available to help referring vets by phone. We are happy to both provide phone advice to referring veterinarians and accept emergency referrals at any time, 24 hours a day. We ask for all referring vets to contact us prior to referral to ensure patient are stable prior to travel.



CARDIORESPIRATORY SERVICE

The Cardiorespiratory Service provides a diagnostic work up, treatment and surgical service for animals with heart and chest conditions. Our team is among the most experienced in the UK and our Specialist vets provide both immediate and long-term care.



24 hour Service seven days a week

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We have advanced imaging facilities, which, along with our Specialists' expertise, allows us to perform advanced cardiac diagnostic techniques including pacemaker implantation and other procedures involving Interventional Radiology.

We are one of the few centres in the UK to offer interventional radiology, a field of medicine which uses minimally invasive procedures, such as fluoroscopy and endoscopy, for diagnosis and treatment without the need for more invasive techniques. These techniques may provide faster recovery, shorter anaesthesia, reduced time in hospital and the ability to treat previously untreatable diseases.

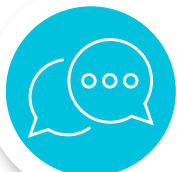
Where colleagues in different services across the Hospital for Small Animals suspect cardiac disease, we offer immediate internal consultations. A dedicated Intensive Care Unit and a 24 hour service means that every case receives the best possible care.



We are happy to work with our referring vet colleagues via the reporting and advisory service, to check and offer our opinion on ECG or radiographs.

DERMATOLOGY SERVICE

The Dermatology Service offers a professional and prompt service to referring vets and clients, seeing any skin problems that might occur.



Contact us

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Our team is led by Specialist dermatologists and we treat all companion animals, exotic species, equine and farm animals.

Common problems referred to us include:

pruritus

alopecia

nodules

pustules

claw and hoof disease

scaling

ulcers

antibiotic resistant infections

chronic otitis



We offer a full allergy testing and immunotherapy service, including subcutaneous, sublingual, intralymphatic and one-day induction protocols.



Our facilities include a video-otoscope for viewing and treating external and middle ear conditions and we offer CO2 laser surgery for foot, skin and ear conditions.

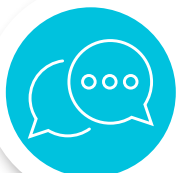


The Dermatology Service has pioneered new treatments for allergies and other skin diseases, including a laser surgery technique for pododermatitis.






FELINE MEDICAL SERVICE

The Feline Medical Service specialises in the medical diagnosis and treatment of cats, ensuring that they receive a high level of care.



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We are a team of Internal Medicine Specialists, residents and interns. We have state-of-the-art facilities and work closely with other services within the Hospital for Small Animals, so that each case can receive timely and appropriate treatment following diagnosis.

We are one of a small number of centres in Europe that is able to offer radioactive iodine treatment of hyperthyroidism. Furthermore, our expertise enables us to offer some of the shortest hospitalisation times of any centre, allowing cats to return home as soon as it is safe to do so.



The Hospital has a separate space in our waiting area for cats and a designated cat ward with environmental adjustments to ensure that the care and recovery of our patients is optimal.

We are very happy to work with referring vets on any feline cases and provide free advice. We accept routine referrals and emergencies in conjunction with our Emergency and Critical Care Service.






INTERNAL MEDICINE SERVICE

The Internal Medicine Service specialises in complex medical problems, which are difficult to diagnose or treat. Our highly qualified, board-certified Specialist vets utilise state-of-the-art diagnostic and treatment facilities to provide a high level of care.



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We offer a full range of investigative diagnosis and treatment for medical problems including endocrine, gastrointestinal, hepatic, renal, nasal and haematological diseases.



We are aided by advanced facilities including flexible video-endoscopy, which allows examination and biopsy of the gastro-intestinal, urinary and respiratory tracts.

Commonly, gastric and oesophageal foreign bodies can be removed using our endoscopic suite, avoiding the need for invasive surgery.

We often work with colleagues from other specialities within the Hospital for Small Animals. This multidisciplinary approach enables us to tailor treatment plans to meet the needs of each animal.



NEUROLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY SERVICE

The Neurology and Neurosurgery Service at the Hospital for Small Animals is one of the largest in the UK and is comprised of some of the most highly trained and qualified neurologists, with both European and American board-certified Specialists in Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery.



24 hour service seven days a week

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We provide a high standard of care and quality of life for patients with neurological illness.

We commonly see cases including:

seizures

tumours (brain or spinal cord)

neuropathies

head and spinal cord trauma

degenerative disease

We have advanced imaging equipment and facilities, including:

MRI

CT

fluoroscopy

electrodiagnostic equipment (for EEG and EMG and BAER)



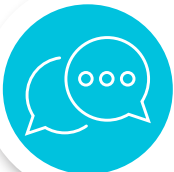
Working with colleagues in other services such as physiotherapy (REPAIR centre) and oncology, we can offer a complete range of cutting edge diagnostic and treatments, to provide a truly holistic approach to care.

We offer a 24 hour Specialist service and provide free advice and free telemedicine service for referring veterinarians.



ONCOLOGY SERVICE

The Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre is one of the largest oncology centres in Europe and has more than a decade's experience in providing world-class care for pets diagnosed with cancer. Our team comprises both European and American board-certified Specialists and we work closely with owners and referring veterinarians to diagnose and treat pets, while prioritising quality of life.



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We work closely with owners to ensure that they are able to make informed decisions on treatment options, as well as understanding the prognosis of the pet's particular cancer. This ensures that we have the best therapeutic plan for each pet and that we involve owners and the referring vet in every stage of the treatment.

We are able to offer a full range of diagnostic and therapeutic options including:

surgery

radiation therapy

chemotherapy

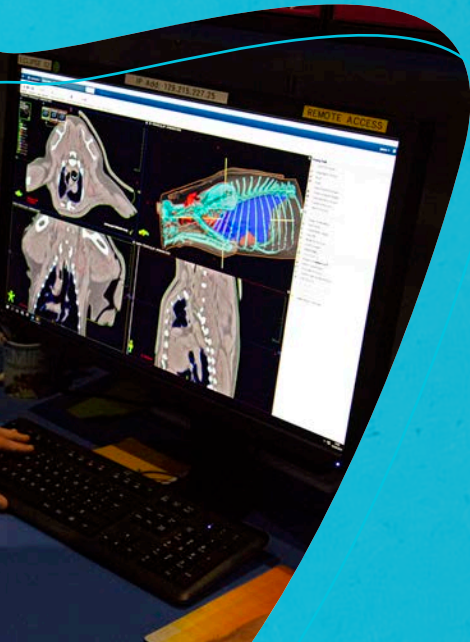
targeted medical therapy

immunotherapy



We are fortunate to have cutting-edge technology to perform radiation therapy in the form of our Vital Beam linear accelerator with cone beam CT scan. This allows us to deliver IMRT, treating with extreme precision that enables us to deliver the maximum dose to kill the tumour cells, whilst minimising the effects on normal cells. We are the only veterinary centre in the UK that has the ability to offer these advanced techniques.

We are happy to accept referrals from vets across the UK.



OPHTHALMOLOGY SERVICE

The Ophthalmology Service offers investigation and treatment of all types of eye disease across all species, as well as routine health screening via the British Veterinary Association, Kennel Club and International Sheep Dog Society hereditary eye disease scheme.



24 hour service seven days a week

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Our Specialist-led ophthalmology service accepts all cases of medical and surgical ocular disease. We have a well-equipped hospital, with state-of-the-art facilities.

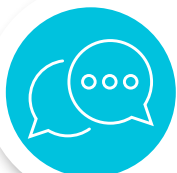
We work closely with experts in all fields of veterinary medicine and surgery (including exotic animal and equine clinicians), allowing us to offer a truly comprehensive service. We offer a 24 hour service, seven days a week, supported by our Emergency and Critical Care team out of hours and at weekends.

We are happy to provide consultations on referral from vets and/or provide advice as needed.



ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY SERVICE

The Orthopaedic Surgery Service delivers world-leading care for companion animals, with cutting-edge treatments for joint diseases, fractures and lameness investigations.



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Our team contains RCVS and European board certified Specialists, who have the expertise to perform orthopaedics surgeries including:

complex spinal fracture stabilisations

tibial plateau levelling osteotomy

total hip replacement

patellar luxation correction

angular limb deformity corrections

We have state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities including:

MRI

CT

intra-operative fluoroscopy

arthroscopy



We work closely with the REPAIR Centre to optimise our assessments and postoperative rehabilitation, and with internationally renowned colleagues in Anaesthesia, Neurology and Diagnostic Imaging to provide the very highest standards of care.

www.ed.ac.uk/vet/repair

Our team is at the forefront of technology and technique and works to ensure that all cases receive up-to-date clinical care.

We are always happy to provide consultations to referring veterinarian colleagues.



PHYSIOTHERAPY SERVICE

The Royal (Dick) Edinburgh Physiotherapy Assessment & Intensive Rehabilitation (REPAIR) Centre optimises patient rehabilitation using physiotherapy, hydrotherapy and rigorous evaluation of treatment response.



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- www.edin.ac/hfsa





Our qualified veterinary physiotherapists assess patients by evaluating gait, pain, musculature and joint range of movement.

We can further assess our patients by the use of:

pressure mats

Von Frey filaments

thermal sensitivity testing

goniometry (to take repeatable measures of the range of movement of particular joints)

On the basis of the referral and the assessment, we will develop a bespoke treatment plan.

This plan may include:

manual therapy

electrotherapy

hydrotherapy

therapeutic exercise

home exercise programme

In order to:

facilitate movement

promote strength/balance

encourage muscle development

maximise function

We work with colleagues across the Hospital for Small Animals to assist in the rehabilitation of patients in every service, as well as accepting external referrals.



RABBIT AND EXOTIC SERVICE

The Rabbit and Exotic Service is one of the largest and best-equipped exotics services in the UK, and provides diagnostic investigations and treatment for rabbits, small mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish and invertebrates. We also provide services and treatment for zoological collections and wildlife casualties.



24 hour service seven days a week

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Our Specialist-led service accepts all cases of medical and surgical disease and we have a well-equipped hospital, with state-of-the-art facilities. We work closely with all the other Specialist departments within the Hospital for Small Animals, collaborating to enable us to offer a truly comprehensive service and provide the best outcomes for our patients.

We offer a 24 hour service, supported by our Emergency and Critical Care Service out of hours and at weekends, and are happy to offer consultations to referring veterinarian colleagues and accept referrals from across the UK.



SOFT TISSUE SURGERY SERVICE

The Soft Tissue Surgery Service offers compassionate, Specialist-led care for companion animals requiring surgical treatment for a variety of conditions - from nose to tail, and everything in between.



24 hour service seven days a week

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Our highly experienced team comprises RCVS and European board certified Specialists, supported by a dedicated wider surgical team. We work with services across the Hospital for Small Animals to provide collaborative care for all cases that require our expertise.



Within the Hospital we have world-class surgical theatres, with advanced equipment that allow us to perform soft tissue surgeries ranging from oncological resection and wound reconstruction to minimal invasive thoracoscopic/laparoscopic procedures and attenuation of portosystemic shunts.

We are one of the few centres in the UK to offer interventional radiology, a field of medicine which uses minimally invasive procedures, such as fluoroscopy and endoscopy, for diagnosis and treatment without the need for more invasive techniques. These techniques may provide faster recovery, shorter anaesthesia, reduced time in hospital and the ability to treat previously untreatable diseases.

We provide a 24 hour service, prioritising animal welfare above all other concerns.

We are always happy to discuss cases or provide consultations with referring veterinarians.



DIAGNOSTIC IMAGING SERVICE

The Diagnostic Imaging Service performs and interprets a wide range of diagnostic imaging studies to help clinicians across the Hospital for Small Animals investigate disease. We use cutting-edge imaging technology and have a highly experienced team of veterinary radiologists and radiographers to perform these studies.



Contact us

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- 🌐 www.edin.ac/hfsa





Our in-house services include Digital Radiography, Fluoroscopy, 16 slice CT, ultrasound and high field MRI.

We provide a consult service for radiographic studies for veterinarians in our referral area and on receipt of files, we aim to provide a comprehensive report for you within two working days. If you require this service urgently, then please contact us in advance and we will get back to you as quickly as we are able.






ANAESTHESIA SERVICE

The Anaesthesia Service supports colleagues across the Hospital for Small Animals, 24 hours a day. Our Specialist-led team has a wide range of experience with a variety of anaesthetic techniques, allowing each patient to have a tailor-made protocol. We provide round-the-clock monitoring and care of patients before, during and after anaesthesia, with a specialist vet or nurse assigned to them throughout.



Contact us

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Using specialist monitoring equipment - very similar to what would be used in a human hospital – we can closely track changes during anaesthesia, ensuring gold standard care.

We are experts in pain management, and can employ a range of different techniques as appropriate to ensure patients are as pain free and comfortable as possible. These include locoregional anaesthesia ('nerve blocks'), epidurals and intravenous infusions.

Sometimes, for the more complex procedures and surgeries we utilise more advanced monitoring and equipment – including mechanical ventilation, arterial line placement (for blood pressure monitoring) and neuromuscular blockade. We pride ourselves being able to plan each case carefully, to ensure the best possible outcome from the anaesthesia.



OUR CLINICAL RESEARCH

Defining what world leading patient care looks like tomorrow by undertaking transformative research today.

We undertake ethically approved research in the hospital, in a highly transparent manner, with the aim of transforming patient care. We are determined to understand more about why animals become ill, with the aim of developing novel diagnostic tests, superior treatments and better preventative health strategies. Through our Clinical Research programme, we have made significant advances in our three core areas.

Better Diagnostic Tests

We have a programme of work to develop novel diagnostic tests which more accurately diagnose important disease in a non-invasive manner.

Better Treatments

We are working to discover novel treatments to improve patient outcomes.



Better Preventative Health Strategies

We are working to develop better preventative health strategies which will allow companion animals to live longer, healthier lives.

To find out more about our clinical research programme, visit our website at:

 edin.ac/vet-research

Contact us

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-  HfSAreception@ed.ac.uk
-  edin.ac/hfsa
-  DickVetHfSA
-  [thedickvet](https://twitter.com/thedickvet)
-  [thedickvet](https://www.linkedin.com/company/thedickvet)