

# Equine Veterinary Services

Our Charges Explained



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

# Our Charges Explained

The Dick Vet Equine Hospital (DVEH) is part of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, at The University of Edinburgh, and is a 'not-for-profit' organisation. We are committed to offering the highest standards of care to your horse or pony. We are required to cover our running costs but our fee structure is not driven by the need to generate profit.

By attending the DVEH you can be assured that your horse is attended to by clinicians with recognised specialist qualifications and with significant experience in referral medicine and surgery. You can also be assured that you contribute to the teaching of the vets and specialists of the future and to the advancement of equine veterinary medicine and surgery across the world. Owners may be unfamiliar with the costs of medical care, so we hope to answer some of the questions you may have.

## **Board**

This is the fee we charge for general stable management and upkeep. Our experienced stable-hands are in charge of general stabling care. All horses in our hospital are bedded-down on high quality rubber mats with a deep layer of dust free shavings and have free access to haylage or hay. Your horse will be fed twice daily with concentrate/fibre feeds tailored to their usual diet at home. Fresh water is of course always available and we generally use automatic drinkers; please inform us if your horse is not used to using an automatic water drinker.

## **Professional Fees**

Our vets are trained to the highest standards. All of our senior clinicians have attained European and/or RCVS Specialist status, or have completed the training required for these qualifications. Working in a referral hospital means that our vets are experienced at dealing with unusual or rare cases. As we are aware of the economic realities of keeping a horse, we keep our professional fees to a minimum; however we do need to charge for these procedures. For example, sampling fluid from a joint requires the joint to be thoroughly cleaned and prepared and is a skilled procedure, while ultrasonography requires considerable experience for accurate interpretation.

## **Hospitalisation**

This is the fee we charge for daily veterinary attention of your horse. Horses are evaluated carefully at least twice daily by vets and vet students. Hospital rounds occur soon after the initial veterinary checks where all the clinicians discuss the cases together; this allows us to identify any problems early, encourages lateral thinking with complex cases and also allows us to ensure all clinicians in the hospital are aware of patient status and care plans. Extra hospitalisation and/or evaluation fees are charged when the level of care is intensive, for example following colic surgery or with serious medical conditions such as diarrhoea or when caring for young foals. Our highest daily

charges are for barrier nursing and for isolation, since isolated horses require a specially controlled facility with special precautions, use of protective gloves, boot covers, disposable coveralls, and appropriate safe disposal of waste.

### Diagnostic Fees

We are among the very few hospitals in the UK that has the most up to date diagnostic equipment available to horses. This equipment is very expensive to purchase and maintain. The fees for these diagnostic services reflect the cost of the equipment as well as the high level of expertise required to use it and to analyse the data. Furthermore some of these technologies are expensive in terms of manpower; e.g. MRI requires at least 3 personnel.

### Drugs/ Consumables

Mark-ups on drugs are necessary to help pay for the costs of running the pharmacy. These costs include those for staff, pharmaceutical stock, making sure medications are stored appropriately, reviewing and ensuring the medication prescribed to your horse is appropriate and safe, the maintenance of patient medication records and much more. Our mark-ups are among the smallest in the veterinary profession to ensure that patient welfare is not compromised due to inability to afford the correct and most up-to-date treatments.



### Laboratory Fees

Our routine laboratory has one of the most extensive ranges of tests available and we also have high quality facilities for evaluating samples from patients out-of- hours. We charge a small handling fee to cover the cost of equipment upkeep, for consumables required to take the samples and for the time required and skill in interpretation of the results. The laboratory test itself is charged to clients at cost price.

### Surgery Fees

Our surgery fees are highly competitive and reflect the high level of experience of our surgeons. The fact that we have students attending and observing surgery does not affect the surgery time, as we always endeavour to perform procedures quickly, for the benefit of your horse.

### Anaesthesia Fees

Our anaesthesia fees are also very competitive, especially considering we are one of the few centres in the country where a specially trained anaesthetist (who only does anaesthesia, nothing else) is always in direct charge of your horse. The safest anaesthetic drugs often cost more but we are committed to making anaesthesia as safe as possible for your horse.

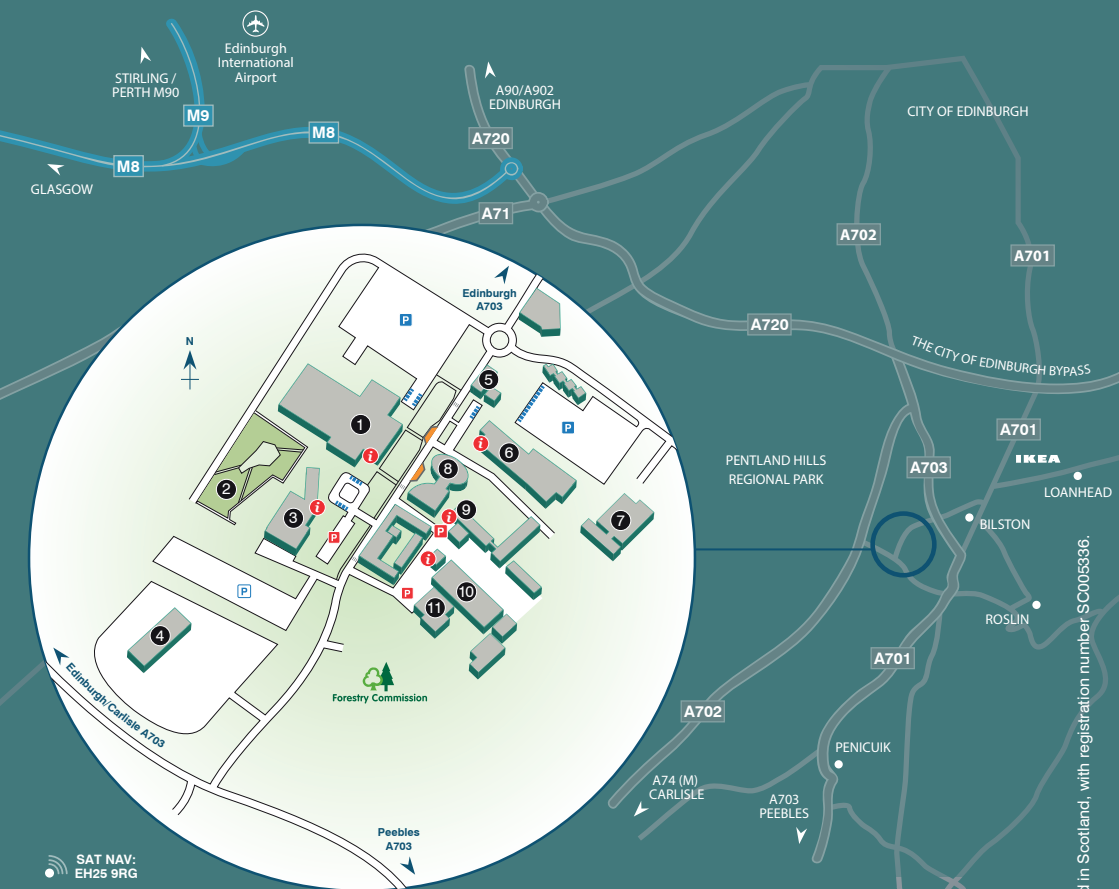
We hope this document has answered some of the questions you may have about our charges, but if you are concerned at any stage about your horse's care, we encourage you to bring this to our attention as soon as possible.

**Charges are added to your account contemporaneously and we can easily update you daily with your running total at any time.**

## Dick Vet Equine Hospital

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies  
The University of Edinburgh  
Easter Bush Campus  
Midlothian EH25 9RG

telephone 0131 650 6253  
fax 0131 650 8824  
email [EQH@ed.ac.uk](mailto:EQH@ed.ac.uk)  
[www.DickVetEquine.com](http://www.DickVetEquine.com)



SAT NAV:  
EH25 9RG

1. Veterinary Teaching Building
2. Community Garden
3. The Hospital for Small Animals and Riddell-Swan Veterinary Cancer Centre
4. The Bumstead Building
5. Campus Service Centre

6. The Roslin Institute
7. The Greenwood Building
8. Campus Hub and Roslin Innovation Centre
9. Farm Animal Practice
10. **Equine Hospital and Practice**
11. Farm Animal Hospital

- Overflow parking
- Disabled parking
- Main entrance & reception
- Bus stop
- Client parking
- Parking

**The Power of Three:** The unique offering of Excellence in Clinical, Teaching and Research make up the three pillars of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

As part of The University of Edinburgh, the Dick Vet Equine Practice is a not-for-profit organisation.