

Farm Animal Services

Farm Animal Hospital



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

Welcome to the Dick Vet Farm Animal Hospital (FAH)

Alongside our first opinion Farm Animal Practice, the Dick Vet is also pleased to offer hospitalisation facilities for all types of farm animals.

We are able to provide a range of complex diagnostic, surgical and critical care procedures on any farm animal species using our access to large animal imaging facilities, surgical suites and hospital/isolation facilities.

The FAH has custom designed housing and handling systems for bulls, cattle, youngstock, sheep, goats, pigs, alpacas and llamas. It is staffed by a team of dedicated farm animal only vets alongside a range of auxiliary staff and services.

All enquiries about referring cases for full work up or for specific diagnostics can be made through the Farm Animal Practice Reception. We are happy to provide estimates for any work advised.

Although we are happy to speak to animal owners directly, all referrals must come through the farm's private veterinary surgeon or veterinary practice.

Farm Animal Hospital



The Farm Animal Hospital (FAH) has a wide range of ancillary diagnostic tools available including radiography, ultrasonography, biochemistry and haematology as well as access to specialist anaesthetists and surgical facilities. Expertise and assistance is also available from our equine and small animal colleagues to ensure that we achieve the best outcome for the patient. This working partnership across disciplines means we have readily available access to other diagnostic modalities such as endoscopy and cardiac ultrasonography, as well as the facilities to perform full general anaesthesia in all farm animal species.

The FAH can accept cases from all over the UK. Animals must be fit to transport, and veterinary advice must be sought if there is any doubt about the welfare of cases. All cattle must have a known BVD status, and be accompanied by their passport showing a movement off the farm of origin. Appropriate movement licenses will be required for all other species unless directed otherwise.

We understand the limitations placed on veterinary surgeons in private farm animal practice, and so our vets will be happy to discuss any case with you and provide a rough investigation plan and likely prognosis prior to referral.

Farm Animal Teaching Hospital

We also admit a wide range of cases into the FAH for teaching purposes. Primarily these are animals with no economic value to the farm, and by sending cases into the FAH, the farmer will save on fallen stock removal charges. An animal collection service is also available by prior arrangement.

Animals admitted to the FAH will receive appropriate diagnostic work-up and treatment as appropriate. Our undergraduate veterinary students and Residents are involved in this process as much as possible, whilst always supervised by an academic member of staff. Our aim is to expose our students to the widest possible range of farm animal clinical cases that they are likely to encounter in practice, so that they have in-depth hands-on practical experience of the examination, diagnosis and treatment of individual animal medicine and surgery.

Following appropriate diagnostic procedures, cases may then be necropsied via the Easter Bush Pathology Service. Farmers and referring veterinary surgeons will be informed of clinical findings.

The Farm Animal Teaching Hospital can offer a “cull ewe” service, where farmers may submit 10 cull ewes that are not fit for sale. They will receive appropriate diagnostic testing and necropsy, so that their underlying disease condition(s) can be determined.



Farm Animal Referral Hospital

The Farm Animal Referral Hospital can accept cases from all over the UK, if referred to us by a veterinary surgeon.

For farmers who would like to refer a case into the FAH, please do so through your veterinary surgeon, who will be required to give details of the case history, previous treatments etc. All animals must be fit to transport, and veterinary advice must be sought if there is any doubt about the welfare of cases. All cattle must have a known BVD status, and be accompanied by their passport showing a movement off the farm of origin (the FAH has its own holding number).



Farm Animal Hospital Staff

Our Farm Animal clinicians have a range of clinical experience and interests and have published extensively in veterinary literature.

They are always happy to speak to vets to discuss cases and offer advice, whether that leads to a referral or not.

Second opinion visits to farms can be arranged by local vets and our clinicians are more than happy for these to be accompanied.

The Farm Animal Services offer veterinary CPD to local vet practices and provide case-based newsletters which are sent out to our referring practices.

Our senior clinicians are also available to speak at client events if local practices are interested.

The Farm Animal Hospital

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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 Farm Animal Hospital is a not-for-profit organisation.