

# Hospital for Small Animals

## The Emergency and Critical Care Service



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

# Welcome to the Emergency and Critical Care Service

The Dick Vet Emergency & Critical Care (ECC) service provides rapid evaluation, advanced diagnostics and ongoing intensive care for any of your patients that are severely injured or ill, whatever the cause. We see same-day referrals 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, typically accepting cases as soon as the patient can be transported to us. If your patient needs stabilisation before travel, we are happy to provide advice on this over the telephone.

We function in a similar way to our counterparts in human hospitals. Upon arrival, your patient will be triaged and, if necessary, provided with immediate stabilisation. After admission, patients with life-threatening conditions are hospitalised in our well-equipped Intensive Care Unit, with round-the-clock intensive monitoring and specialist care.

The service is led by board-certified specialists in ECC and closely allied disciplines. Our team includes highly skilled residents, dedicated interns, and nurses with advanced critical care training and qualifications. We collaborate with our in-house multi-disciplinary team of specialists in surgery, anaesthesia, diagnostic imaging, neurology, internal medicine and oncology, working together to ensure your patient has access to the specialised care it needs, no matter what the nature of the emergency.

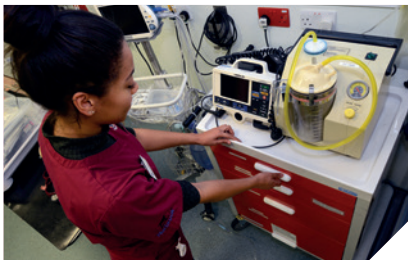
# Why refer to the ECC team?

Dick Vet ECC is able to offer intensive care for the sickest of patients. Our team provides 24-hour specialist care, with a high ratio of staff to patients including one to one nursing when required.



## Diagnostics

In addition to the standard diagnostics available to any patient in our hospital, our ECC service is well equipped to provide cage-side emergency diagnostics, such as ultrasound, for those patients too critical to move. We have extensive monitoring capability including direct arterial pressure and continuous ECG monitoring. Our in-house laboratory includes specialist equipment such as a blood gas analyser, blood coagulation analyser, and colloid osmometer. We can also run other standard emergency blood tests such as blood typing, cross matching, biochemistry and haematology at any time of day or night.



## Treatment

Most ICU patients require advanced supportive care as well as primary treatment for their underlying condition. Our supportive care facilities include:

- State-of-the-art climate-controlled oxygen cages
- Programmable syringe drivers and experience in providing multimodal analgesic infusions and other intensive pain management techniques
- Total parenteral nutrition and/or tube feeding for nutritional support
- Transfusion of blood component products in dogs, and of whole blood in dogs and cats

## Common reasons for referral

Dick Vet ECC treats patients with a wide range of conditions. Sometimes it is unclear what is wrong with the pet other than that “he/she is really sick” at the time of referral. Common conditions that we see include:

- Anaemia
- Cardiac arrhythmias
- Diabetic ketoacidotic crisis
- Dyspnoea
- Electrolyte abnormalities
- Foreign bodies requiring endoscopic removal
- Haemoabdomen
- Heart failure
- Immune-mediated conditions
- Meningitis
- Renal failure
- Poisoning
- Oncologic emergencies
- Pyrexia of unknown origin
- Septic peritonitis
- Severe pancreatitis
- Status epilepticus
- Trauma of any cause

## How to refer

We strive to make the referral process as easy as possible. If you would like to refer a case, all you need to do is contact us via phone on **0131 650 7650**, and let our receptionists know that you would like to make an emergency referral. One of our senior clinicians will make every effort to speak to you immediately. If this is not possible because of current emergency cases, we will call you back at the earliest opportunity. We typically discuss the case briefly over the phone so that we can be ready for its arrival, and to provide advice if needed on stabilisation before transfer.

Faxing, e-mailing, or sending the clinical history to us is very much appreciated, as are any blood test results and copies of digital radiographs, when available.

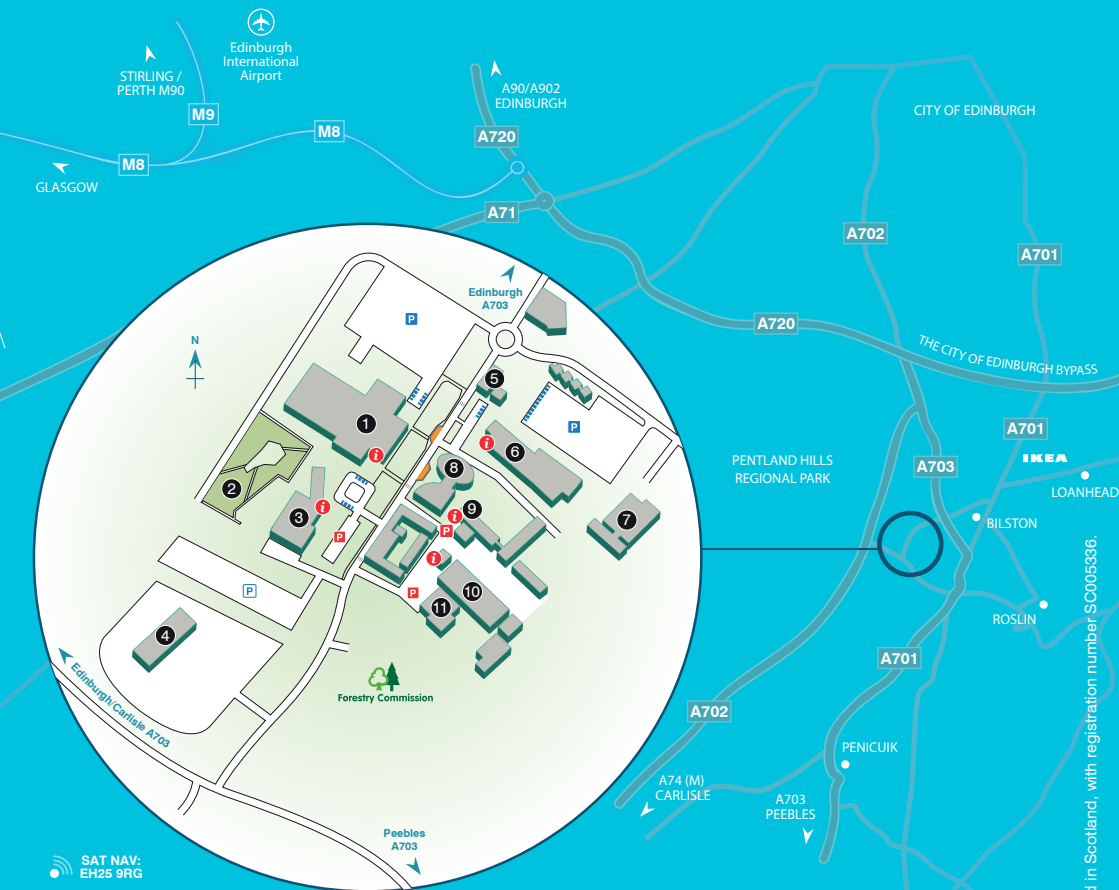
While your patient is hospitalised we will keep you regularly updated with phone calls or via e-mail. In addition, we are committed to sending you a copy of the client discharge instructions at the time of patient discharge, and providing you with a referral letter within 48 hours of discharge.

If you have any questions about a patient, please contact us on **0131 650 7650**.

**The Hospital for Small Animals**

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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

As part of The University of Edinburgh, the Hospital for Small Animals is a not-for-profit organisation.

The University of Edinburgh is a charitable body, registered in Scotland, with registration number SC005536.