

Hospital for Small Animals

The Internal Medicine Service



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

Welcome to the Internal Medicine Service

The small animal internal medicine team consists of highly qualified specialists in small animal medicine and is expertly supported by a team of residents, interns and nurses. Our combined aim is simply to provide outstanding service and care to our patients, clients and referring veterinarians.

The facilities at the Hospital for Small Animals are world-class and include state-of-the-art imaging and critical care suites.

The Internal Medicine team also has on-site support from specialists in soft-tissue surgery, diagnostic imaging, cardiology, oncology, dermatology, anaesthesia, neurology, orthopaedics and pathology. This support network allows us to deliver excellent care to patients who have a wide range of medical conditions.

As well as providing support to vets in practice and state-of-the-art investigation and treatment of clinical cases, all our staff are actively involved in research to further our understanding of disease and advance new treatments. Current research interests include: inflammatory bowel disease, liver and kidney disease, hepatic encephalopathy, calcium and vitamin D metabolism, and endocrine disease.

Why choose the Internal Medicine Service?

- Senior staff who are Recognised Specialists in Veterinary Internal Medicine
- Cases seen rapidly
- On-site clinical pathology and histopathology labs
- Video endoscopy, rhinoscopy and cystoscopy facilities
- Excellent hospital staff and facilities with full imaging, neurology, surgery, oncology and anaesthesia support
- 24 hour in-patient care, with a dedicated Intensive Care Unit

Common reasons for referral

- Gastrointestinal disease
- Nasal discharge
- Urinary incontinence/dysuria
- Renal disease
- Liver disease
- Pancreatic disease
- Endocrine disease
- Unstable diabetes mellitus
- Haematological disorders
- Pyrexia of unknown
- Weight loss

Case advice

The internal medicine team are more than happy to discuss cases with referring vets that wish to continue managing a case in practice or if they are unsure if referral is needed.

Arranging a referral

We aim to make the referral process as quick and easy as possible. Initial contact is made by the referring vets on **0131 650 7651**. Our reception staff will organise a prompt referral at a time to suit the owner. Urgent cases can be seen the same day where necessary.

A referral request form is available from our website at:

www.ed.ac.uk/vet/refer

This can be emailed to **HfSAreception@ed.ac.uk**

or faxed **0131 650 7652** to our reception team.

Case follow up

As well as having a discharge appointment with the owner, we will contact the referring vet by phone or email when the animal is discharged with details of their investigation, diagnosis and treatment plan to allow seamless continuity of care when the animal is next seen at the practice. We work closely with both the owner and referring vet to ensure everyone is aware of follow up treatment. Ongoing management of cases is often arranged in conjunction with the referring practice.



Video endoscopy

We have a wide range of endoscopy equipment, allowing us to investigate and treat problems in a minimally invasive manner. Gastrointestinal, urinary (both male and female) and respiratory tracts can all be accessed and biopsied. Nasal, tracheal, oesophageal and gastric foreign bodies can often be removed under endoscopic guidance, avoiding major surgery. Balloon-dilation of nasopharyngeal, oesophageal and rectal strictures are frequent procedures. Cystoscopic-guided laser ablation can be performed on ectopic ureters, again providing a convenient, and minimally invasive treatment for these patients.



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

telephone 0131 650 7650
fax 0131 650 7652
email HfSAreception@ed.ac.uk
www.ed.ac.uk/vet/hfsa-int-med



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