

Hospital for Small Animals

The Orthopaedic Service



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

Welcome to The Orthopaedic Service

We are a referral service staffed by recognised orthopaedic and surgical specialists, specialists-in-training (known as residents) and service-dedicated veterinary nurses. We welcome cases of lameness, whether acute or chronic, orthopaedic trauma or osteoarthritis, and we are happy to see any suspected musculoskeletal or joint problem.

The service offers comprehensive management options for orthopaedic diseases, most often in dogs and cats, although we are also consulted on other small animal species. We repair a wide variety of fractures, treat developmental and degenerative joint diseases, as well as undertaking spinal surgery. Being part of a large teaching-hospital, we are able to work closely with our anaesthesia team to optimise safety and ensure maximal patient comfort before, during and after surgery. We also work in conjunction with other specialist services when needed, to provide the best possible care for all referred pets.

As well as a role in clinical work, we maintain an involvement in ethical clinical research. This allows us to progress the understanding of the orthopaedic diseases that affect our pets. The advancements in knowledge obtained through our clinical research are disseminated worldwide.

We recognise that no two cases are identical and treat every pet as an individual, working with the owners to develop an appropriate and agreed diagnostic or treatment plan.



What to expect

Consultations typically last 45 to 50 minutes, during which each patient is fully evaluated. Cases we are seeing for the first time, will often be admitted to the hospital for further investigation straight after the consultation. Initial investigations are likely to involve X-ray or advanced imaging, such as CT (computed tomography) or MR (magnetic resonance) and this will require sedation or anaesthesia. Additional investigations are carried out as necessary. Once a diagnosis has been confirmed, the management options available, including the aims and risks of any treatment and the expected outcome, are discussed with pet owners, to arrive at an agreed treatment plan. If appropriate, surgery will typically be carried out the day following admission. We prefer pets to remain with us the night before surgery as this gives the anaesthesia team time to fully evaluate the patients, and to construct a bespoke anaesthetic and pain management programme for them.

Following surgery, pets typically remain in the hospital until they no longer require injectable medications; this is usually two or three days, but the time varies with each pet and procedure.

New cases are seen by appointment, arranged by the regular home practice. Emergency cases are seen at short notice, again arranged through the home practice.

We understand that owners are concerned and anxious while their pets are hospitalised for investigation or treatment. We provide regular updates by telephone and are happy to answer any questions an owner may have, however trivial they may seem. We will contact the referring veterinary practice at the time of discharge with an update and a continuing treatment plan.

We discuss and advise on postoperative management and aftercare when the pet is discharged and will prescribe any medications necessary.

Surgical cases are routinely re-evaluated at around eight weeks, and this often involves a brief stay in hospital for the pet so that we can obtain follow-up radiographs.

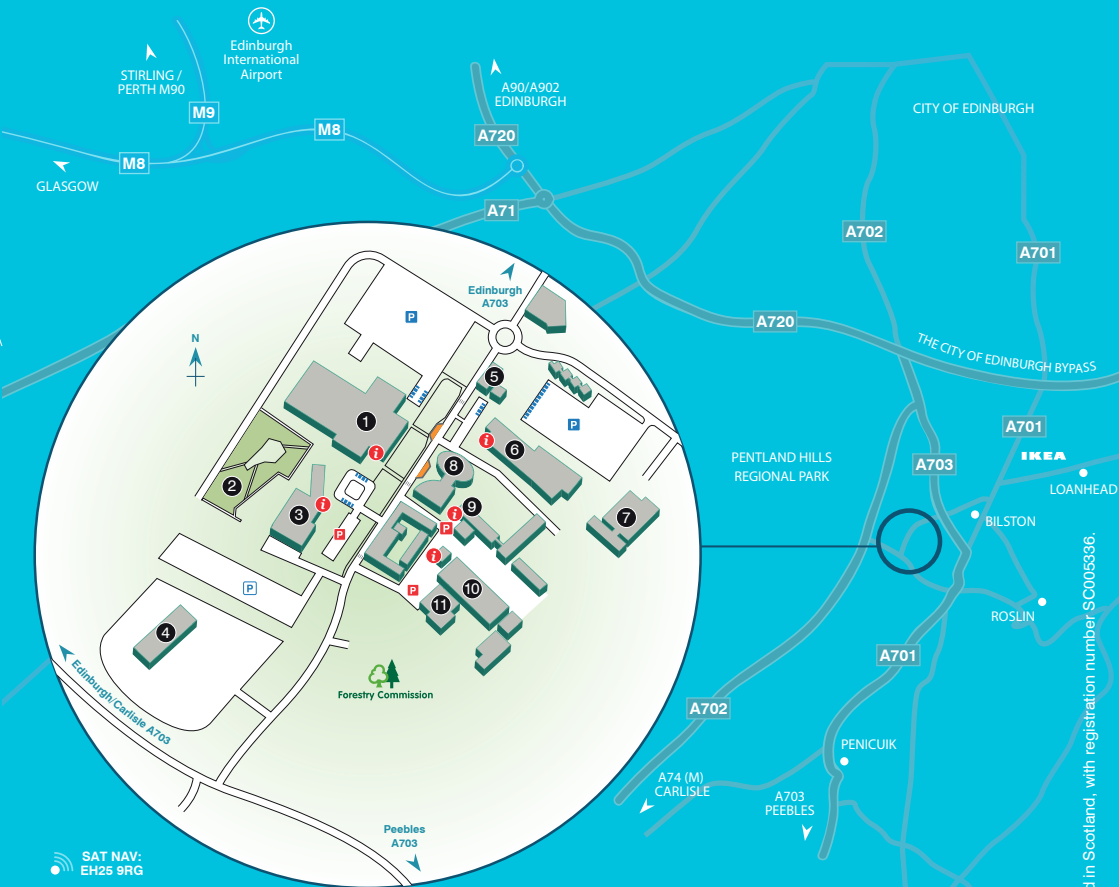
Once stable and making satisfactory progress, we aim to pass patient care back to the home practice for long-term management if needed and we are happy to work with our referring practices in an advisory role or to re-evaluate patients in our clinic as necessary.



Small Animal Orthopaedics

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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

- P Overflow parking
- Disabled parking
- i Main entrance & reception
- Bus stop
- P Client parking
- P 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 Hospital for Small Animals is a not-for-profit organisation.