

Hospital for Small Animals

Our Research



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

Our Research



world
class

Here at the Dick Vet, our primary focus is to improve the lives of animals. We do this through the delivery of world-class clinical-care to patients in our hospitals. We also aim to improve the lives of animals by undertaking clinical research. Our aim is to define what world-leading patient care looks like in the future, by undertaking transformative research today.



ethically
approved

By carrying out ethically approved research, in a highly transparent manner, we aim to transform the care that we can offer to patients. We are determined to understand more about why animals become ill, with the ultimate aim of developing novel diagnostic tests, superior treatments and better preventative health strategies.

Defining what **world-leading patient care** looks like tomorrow by undertaking **transformative research** today



In order to carry out this research, we sometimes will invite you and your pet to be involved in our research programme.



You will always be asked before your pet is involved in any research and you can always say no, without it impacting the care that your pet receives in any way. We will never carry out any research that may unduly harm or endanger your pet. All our research undergoes strict ethical approval to ensure we adhere to the highest possible standards.

What kind of research is undertaken?

Through our Clinical Research programme, we have made significant advances in our three core research areas.



Better Diagnostic Tests

Many animal diseases are challenging to diagnose. Consequently, there is a clear need to develop better tests that can diagnose important diseases more accurately and less invasively. We have a long track record of developing new tests that improve the ability of vets to diagnose diseases.

Our ongoing research in this area is leading to the development of new tests that are available to veterinary surgeons in our hospital and beyond, leading to faster and more accurate diagnosis of debilitating diseases.



Better Treatments

While better diagnostics tests allow us to understand what disease is making your pet unwell, many of these illnesses are still challenging to successfully treat. Even where a treatment is available, side effects can significantly impact on patient quality of life.

Research currently underway in our hospital aims to identify new, effective and transformative treatments for our patients. We have great experience in running clinical trials, which allows us to define the effectiveness of new treatments. We ensure that we do so in the most ethical and transparent way possible.



Better Preventative Health Strategies

The most effective way of keeping our pets healthy is to prevent diseases from initially developing. This can be achieved with better preventative health strategies that allow animals to live longer, healthier lives. Therefore, one of our key research ambitions is to develop approaches which prevent animals from becoming ill in the first place.

Our research in this area will often involve studying large populations of animals over a long period of time. This enables us to define the relative impact that genes and environment have on an individual animal's health outcomes. This research programme allows us to develop guidelines and strategies which lowers the risk of diseases developing in healthy animals.



When might I be asked to take part?

If your pet is undergoing treatment or diagnostic investigations with us and meets the criteria for one of our ongoing research studies, your veterinary surgeon may invite you to be involved. Your vet will explain exactly what the research will involve for you and your pet, and you will have a chance to ask any questions that you might have.

Am I obliged to take part?

You are not obliged to take part in any study if you do not wish to. Your decision will always be respected without pressure and will not influence the outstanding level of care we provide to all our patients.



How can I find out more about current research programmes?

We invite you to visit our website at **edin.ac/vet-research**, where you can find out about our current diagnostic, treatment and preventative health research programmes. You can also ask your vet about our research activities, they will be happy to discuss this with you.

How can I support the research being undertaken?

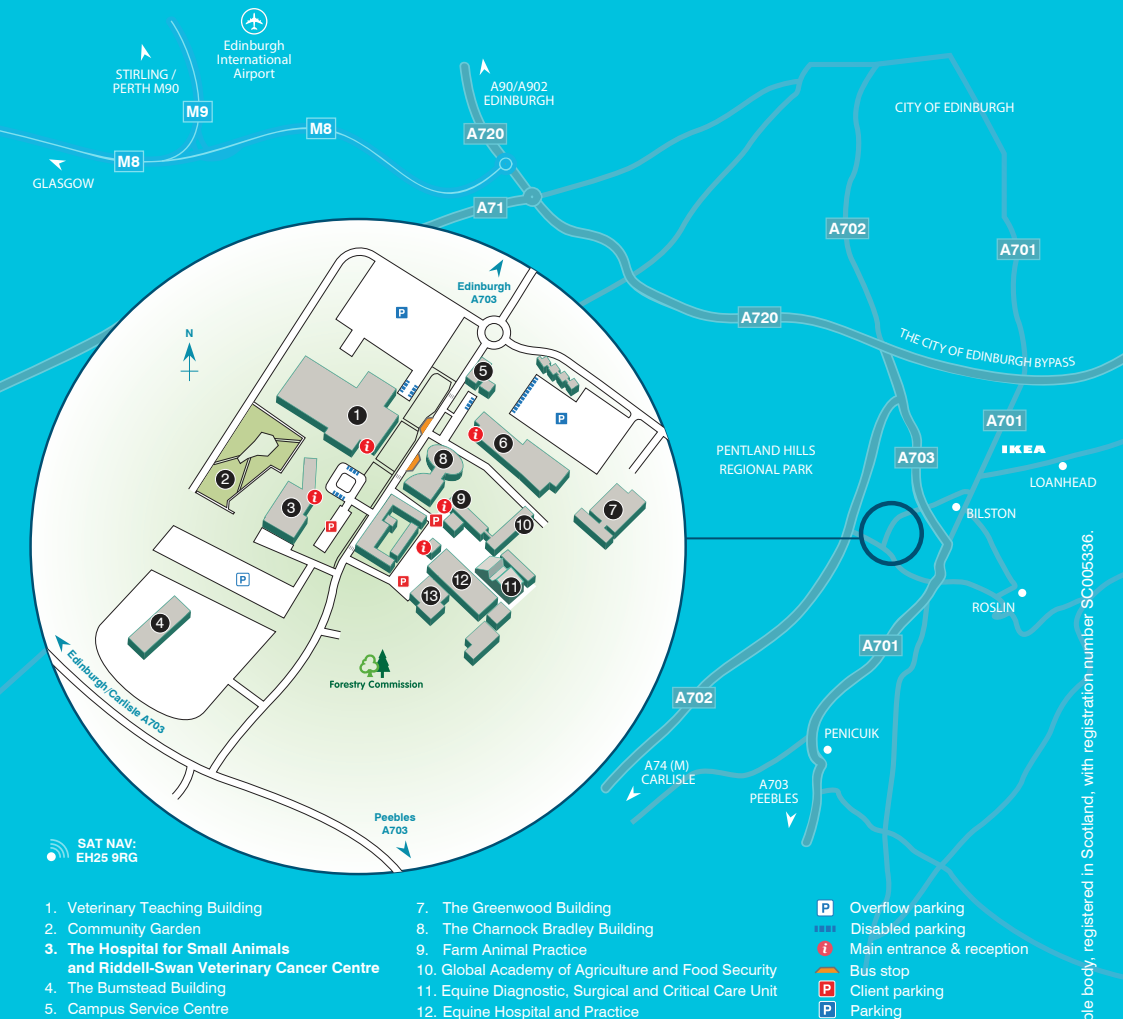
Undertaking transformative research in our clinics at the Dick Vet Hospital for Small Animals requires considerable investment. This is only possible through the continued generosity of our funding partners, which can include clients and friends. Your support allows us to continue to grow our life-changing research programme, and to use cutting-edge technology to ensure we provide the very best care possible for all of our patients - today and tomorrow.

Find out how to donate and what we do with your donations:

edin.ac/support-hfsa

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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 Hospital for Small Animals is a not-for-profit organisation.