POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position Title: Veterinary Nurse – Small Animal Internal Medicine
Organisation Unit: School of Veterinary Science
Position Number: 3028602
Type of Employment: Full Time- Fixed Term
Classification: Hew Level 4
Location: Gatton

THE UNIVERSITY OF QUEENSLAND

The University of Queensland (UQ) contributes positively to society by engaging in the creation, preservation, transfer and application of knowledge. UQ helps shape the future by bringing together and developing leaders in their fields to inspire the next generation and to advance ideas that benefit the world. UQ strives for the personal and professional success of its students, staff and alumni. For more than a century, we have educated and worked with outstanding people to deliver knowledge leadership for a better world.

UQ ranks in the world’s top universities, as measured by several key independent ranking, including the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities (43), the US News Best Global Universities Rankings (52), QS World University Rankings (47), Academic Ranking of World Universities (55), and the Times Higher Education World University Rankings (65). UQ again topped the nation in the prestigious Nature Index and our Life Sciences subject field ranking in the Academic Ranking of World Universities was the highest in Australia at 20.

UQ has an outstanding reputation for the quality of its teachers, its educational programs and employment outcomes for its students. Our students remain at the heart of what we do. The UQ experience – the UQ Advantage – is distinguished by a research enriched curriculum, international collaborations, industry engagement and opportunities that nurture and develop future leaders. UQ has a strong focus on teaching excellence, winning more national teaching excellence awards than any other in the country and attracting the majority of Queensland’s highest academic achievers, as well as top interstate and overseas students.

UQ is one of Australia’s Group of Eight, a charter member of edX and a founding member of Universitas 21, an international consortium of leading research-intensive universities.

Our 50,000-plus strong student community includes more than 13,000 postgraduate scholars and more than 12,000 international students from 144 countries, adding to its proud 240,000-plus alumni. The University has about 7,000 academic and professional staff and a $1.8 billion annual operating budget. Its major campuses are at St Lucia, Gatton and Herston, in addition to teaching and research sites around Queensland and Brisbane city.
The University has six Faculties and four University-level Institutes. The Institutes, funded by government and industry grants, philanthropy and commercialisation activities, have built scale and focus in research areas in neuroscience, biomolecular and biomedical sciences, sustainable minerals, bioengineering and nanotechnology, as well as social science research.

UQ has an outstanding track-record in commercialisation of our innovation with major technologies employed across the globe and integral to gross product sales of $11billion+ (see http://uniquest.com.au/our-track-record).

UQ has a rapidly growing record of attracting philanthropic support for its activities and this will be a strategic focus going forward.

Organisational Environment

The School of Veterinary Science has a rich history, having been founded in 1936, and with a reputation for graduating highly capable veterinarians. The Veterinary Science program at UQ has full accreditation with the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the American Veterinary Medical Association. The School also contributes to programs in veterinary technology and animal & veterinary bioscience. The respected QS World Rankings recently ranked UQ as 22nd in the world in the field of Veterinary Science.

The School of Veterinary Science has high quality facilities at the UQ Gatton Campus, providing the teaching, research and clinical infrastructure and resources to further develop its strong reputation as a leading provider of veterinary training, research and clinical care. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital is an organisational unit within the School that includes all of the School’s clinical facilities; the equine and small animal hospitals at Gatton, the Clinical Studies Centre at Gatton, and a small animal hospital & large animal clinic at Dayboro (northwest of Brisbane).

UQ VETS Equine Specialist Hospital has a strong caseload that is largely referral based with some primary accession cases. Facilities include orthopedic, soft tissue and standing surgery operating theatres; advanced diagnostic equipment (digital radiography, computed tomography (CT, nuclear scintigraphy, and echocardiography), high speed treadmill, intensive care unit (including dedicated foal ICU) and dedicated isolation unit. The hospital offers a 24 hour emergency medical and surgical service. UQ BVSc students spend a month rotating through the hospital in their final year.

UQ VETS Small Animal Hospital boasts the latest in veterinary medical and surgical diagnostic and treatment options which underlie the School of Veterinary Sciences’ commitment to providing high quality, compassionate care to meet the needs of the patient, client, referring veterinarian and clinical year veterinary students. The Small Animal Hospital provides a 24 hour Emergency and Critical Care service.

UQ VETS Dayboro is one of the few truly mixed practices within easy commuting distance of Brisbane. This new facility was opened in 2013, with upgrade of the small animal facilities to hospital status, improved large animal outpatient facilities, and accommodation for nine students. Situated 45 minutes north of Brisbane, the area hosts both commercial and hobby farmers offering a mix of 50/50 small and large animals. The large animal component consists of horses, dairy and beef cattle and a growing number of camels. Large animal veterinary work is performed mostly on-farm but there also outpatient facilities available at the practice.

The UQ VETS Clinical Studies Centre facilitates and provides support to pre-clinical and clinical training in companion animals as well as a renowned research hub for clinical and
behavioural research. The Centre includes a 16 – table surgical teaching facility, and is also used for veterinary continuing education events. The Clinical Studies Centre is also home to the School’s Pets-for-Life Adoption Program.

UQ staff also supervise clinical placements at the RSPCA’s Brisbane Animal Care Campus, Wacol.

Further information and details of the research interests of academic staff may be accessed on the school’s web site at http://www.uq.edu.au/vetschool/.

Information for Prospective Staff

Information about life at UQ including staff benefits, relocation and UQ campuses is available at - http://www.uq.edu.au/current-staff/working-at-uq

DUTY STATEMENT

Primary Purpose of Position

The primary purpose of this position is to provide support and assistance to veterinary staff and to assist Clinical Academics in the undergraduate teaching of veterinary and veterinary technology students in a clinical environment.

Duties

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

General

- Provide skilful and professional support to a large team of veterinary staff, including veterinary specialists.
- Assess, monitor, treat and maintain excellent husbandry standards for patients in ICU, isolation and hospital wards.
- Liaise confidently and competently with a large team of veterinarians, veterinary specialists and support staff regarding patient treatment and care.
- Provide clinical training/teaching support for the School’s training/teaching of veterinary and veterinary technology students.
- Undertake correct care, cleaning and maintenance of technical and specialised instrumentation and equipment.
- Adhere to SOPs (standard operating procedures) for Nursing and contribute to review of SOPs.
- Use practice management software to support the efficient administration and business management requirements.
- Assist with radiography, Computer Tomography, Scintigraphy and M.R.I. procedures
- Competently perform diagnostic clinical pathology techniques.
- Assist with management of pharmacy inventory, including stock levels, prices and stock take, using the practice management software.
- Provide a high level of customer service to clinic clients, veterinary students, staff and other external clients, both by phone and in person.
- Provide administrative support to all clinic staff as required and assist with reception duties as required in an efficient and effective manner.
- Carry out other duties as required by the Lead Nurse or Operations Manager.

Specific
• Be knowledgeable and provide proactive technical support for specialty procedures such as endoscopy, bone marrow, joint tap and CSF sampling.
• Actively contribute to the delivery of chemotherapy and to the training of non-specialty nurses to the safe handling of chemotherapeutic drugs.
• Be focused on patient care/comfort and assist with internal medicine and critical cases in ICU who might need advanced care such as blood transfusion, enteral nutrition or else.
• Act as role model for other nurses of the hospital and have a strong sense of leadership and professionalism.
• Have strong communication skills with internal medicine clients, and efficient yet pleasant communication style with students, nurses and clinicians.
• Provide clinical training/teaching support for the School's training/teaching of veterinary and veterinary technology students in the field of small animal internal medicine.
• Assist coordination of procedures involving different services such as anaesthesia, imaging or surgery.

Other

Ensure you are aware of and comply with legislation and University policy relevant to the duties undertaken, including:
• the University's Code of Conduct requirements of the Queensland occupational health and safety (OH&S) legislation and related OH&S responsibilities and procedures developed by the University or Institute/School
• the adoption sustainable practices in all work activities and compliance with associated legislation and related University sustainability responsibilities and procedures
• requirements of the Education Services for Overseas Students Act 2000, the National Code 2007 and associated legislation, and related responsibilities and procedures developed by the University

Organisational Relationships

The position reports to the Lead Nurse – Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Essential:

• Cert IV in Veterinary Nursing and/or Bachelor of Applied Science (Veterinary Technology) and/or Bachelor of Veterinary Technology or equivalent, together with nursing experience of at least 2 years.
• Demonstrated ability to deliver and maintain high standards of professional veterinary nursing in all areas of nursing.
• High level organisational skills.
• Demonstrated ability to work flexibly with the use of initiative and autonomy.
• Good written and oral communication skills and demonstrated ability to use these skills in managing professional & operational relationships with colleagues, clients and students.
- Knowledge of ethical requirements, principles and practices relevant to all areas of veterinary nursing.
- Knowledge and application of relevant policies and procedures applicable to employment, including workplace health and safety, employment equity and anti-discrimination.
- Ability to work in a team and maintain effective working relationships.
- Enthusiasm, initiative and self-motivation.
- Demonstrated commitment to ongoing professional development and excellence in the field of veterinary nursing.
- Interest in the clinical teaching of veterinary and veterinary technology professionals in training.
- Willingness to participate in other professional service activities e.g. VNCA, community organisations, RSPCA, PetPEP (AVA).
- Possess or be able to apply for a radiation license.

The University of Queensland values diversity and inclusion and actively encourages applications from those who bring diversity to the University. Please refer to the University's Diversity and Inclusion webpage (http://www.uq.edu.au/equity) for further information and points of contact if you require additional support.

This role is a full-time position; however flexible working arrangements may be negotiated.

Accessibility requirements and/or adjustments can be directed to the contact person listed in the job advertisement.