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**Specialist Practitioner**

**GRADE 6**

**Job Purpose**

The post holder will undertake the management and organisation of their delegated area(s) of responsibility under the line management of the Nursing Services Manager. Principally the post holder is responsible for overseeing and co-ordinating productivity and have a commercial responsibility within the Small Animal Hospital. They will also contribute to the teaching and supervision off staff & undergraduate veterinary students.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Responsible for the day-to-day organisation and management of staff in the Small Animal Hospital to ensure the effective operation of the nursing team. Act as the on the floor supervisor i.e. allocating duties to staff and preparation of rotas to ensure they efficiently and effectively contribute to the running of the organisation.
2. Provide direct specialist support and advice to students and junior staff including overseeing the nursing care of all patients in the hospital and ensuring that this is of the highest standard.
3. Responsible for the teaching, assessment and training of veterinary undergraduates, student veterinary nurses and new members of staff when required to facilitate continued learning.
4. Deputise for the Nursing Services Manager and Deputy Nursing Services Manager in their joint absence.
5. Oversee nursing care of all patients in the hospital and ensure that this is of the highest standard and at times providing this care themselves.
6. Provide advice for a range of queries from clients and referring veterinary surgeons including estimates, first aid advice, appointment requests, and guidance on correct patient care and triaging of emergencies.
7. Direct contact with owners to deliver progress reports on in-patients, keeping them informed of costs and providing a liaison between them and clinicians to ensure a successful relationship between the client and the SAH.
8. Ensure weekly/monthly stock budgets are adhered to within area(s) of responsibility. Source new products and ensure the most cost-effective stock is being ordered in compliance with university procedures and guidelines.
9. Organise the cleaning, servicing and maintenance of equipment and instrumentation, in accordance with manufacturers recommendations and health and safety guidelines, to ensure they are safe and ready for use.
10. Maintain RCVS registered status by completing approx. 15 hours CPD each year (45 hours in 3 years) and by ensuring RCVS retention fee is paid in a timely manner.
11. Assist with the teaching, assessment and support of veterinary undergraduates, student veterinary nurses and new members of staff when required to facilitate continued learning.
12. To assist with clinical research projects within area(s) of responsibility including data collection and sample processing. Where appropriate, contribute to research articles.
13. Any other tasks within the level of responsibility to their role as deemed suitable by their line manager.

**Qualifications**

* RCVS Veterinary Nursing Qualification and fully registered.

**Desirable**

* Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing or Degree in Veterinary Nursing

**Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

* Extensive knowledge of all aspects of veterinary nursing, protocols and procedures to ensure the highest standard of care within the treatment area.
* Knowledge of current Health & Safety Legislation.
* Evidence of staff supervision.
* Excellent communication skills both orally and written.
* Ability to work on own initiative and as part of a team.
* Use of initiative and judgement to resolve problems independently.
* Excellent organisational and time management skills
* Proven ability to manage workload effectively and balance conflicting priorities.
* Ability to lead and motivate a team to foster positive working environment.
* At least 5 years’ experience as a veterinary nurse (may include training).
* Previous experience of supervising staff.

**Desirable**

* Good IT skills and experience of practice management system.
* Ability to operate a range of laboratory and diagnostic equipment.
* Previous experience in a Senior Nurse or Head Nurse role.