



## **Risk Assessment: Advice concerning the Health & Safety of Students engaged in Extra-Mural Work** June 2022

There are inherent risks in working with animals and in handling drugs. It is your responsibility to take care to minimise these risks, not only for yourself but also for colleagues and others likely to be affected by your actions.

The following general points should be borne in mind:

- Always adopt appropriate methods of approach and restraint for animals under the direction of the supervising vet.
- Undertake procedures with animals, equipment, drugs and chemicals only when you have permission and understand what you are doing. If in doubt, stop and ask.
- Wear clean protective clothing appropriate to the practice/establishment and to the procedure being undertaken. Remove protective clothing when the procedure is complete and clean or dispose of it appropriately.
- Exercise good personal hygiene at all times. Wash/shower when appropriate when a procedure is complete.
- Avoid smoking or consuming food or drink whilst working with animals. No food or drink is allowed in the vets office or any clinical areas. There is a staff room in the building for consumption of food.
- Treat any cuts or abrasions and ensure that these are properly covered before commencing work with animals.
- Ensure that you are adequately protected against tetanus.
- In the event of being bitten or scratched, thoroughly clean the wound with hot, soapy water, then seek medical advice as appropriate.
- Report promptly any accident or injury to your supervisor – it will be entered in the practice accident log.

In addition, the process of handling animals, carrying out post-mortem examinations or collecting samples may lead to exposure to allergens, parasites, bacteria or viruses. Some of the associated infections may be zoonotic e.g., anthrax, leptospirosis and salmonellosis.

- Although all faeces are potentially hazardous, special precautions must be taken when handling animals with diarrhoea because of the risk of infection by *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter* and *Cryptosporidium spp.*
- Wear adequate protective clothing when handling calves with ringworm or sheep with orf and report any signs of skin irritation or inflammation immediately.
- Dispose of any animal carcass and spent equipment in an appropriate manner.
- Women who are or suspect that they may be pregnant must declare this to their training supervisor because of the risks associated with anaesthesia, radiography, drug handling and zoonoses. They should not work with lambing ewes or handle aborted material from any species because of the risk of *Chlamydia*, *Toxoplasma* or other infections. Beware also the potential risk from toxoplasma in cat faeces.
- If you need to consult a doctor, make him/her aware of any recent exposure to animals or animal material.



## **COVID – 19 RISK PROCEDURES**

### ***WE REQUIRE YOU TO BRING YOUR OWN COVID LATERAL FLOW TESTS DURING YOUR PLACEMENT.***

To limit the risk of introducing infection we ask that students bring their **own** Covid Tests (lateral flow tests) to take on the first Monday and Thursday of your placement. You may be able to access tests either from your university, pharmacy or local authority.

If you are having trouble getting tests, then please contact Jess at the surgery prior to your arrival.

During the Covid-19 pandemic we have implemented several protocols to protect the health and safety of our staff, clients and students. These procedures are also in place to ensure the continuity of the business and therefore must be followed.

Under the following circumstances we would request that you contact your supervisor/Jess Phillis and **DO NOT ATTEND** any veterinary call outs until further notice:

- You show any symptoms of Covid-19 (continuous cough, fever, lose of taste/smell)
- You are awaiting results of a Covid -19 tests
- You are in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19, showing signs or is awaiting a Covid test.
- You are contacted by government test and trace regarding a contact with a person who has had Covid-19
- You are showing any similar signs of a cold or flu (fever, coughing, nasal discharge)

**We may change these procedures in line with government guidelines and you will be informed prior/during your placement.**

**PLEASE SIGN THE HEALTH AND SAFETY DECLARATION DOCUMENT TO INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THIS ADVICE/RISK ASSESSMENT**