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**Senior Groom**

**GRADE 4**

**Job Purpose**

Deliver high standards of organisation and cleanliness within the Equine Hospital by performing routine cleaning and maintenance duties. Undertake daily animal husbandry duties when required and provide a high standard of daily care to all patients. Provide technical support to the nursing staff, veterinary surgeons and undergraduate students within the hospital.

**Main Duties and Responsibilities**

1. Day to day husbandry and care of animals using best practice for techniques and standards of care. This includes prioritising the tasks that need done each day and problem-solving issues as and when they arise. In addition, monitoring stock levels and having the foresight to plan ahead for what might be needed for items such as feeding, bedding, equipment and actioning ordering supplies as needed.
2. Supervision and training of grooms to ensure protocols are adhered to and work is carried out to the high standards expected, setting an example with your own work. Managing the daily workload in their areas of responsibility.
3. Ensuring all areas of the stables, examination/treatment rooms, outside areas and isolation unit are kept clean and tidy, adhering to biosecurity protocols.

Knowledge of biosecurity protocols and ability to work with clinical staff to develop and evolve protocols for the hospital.

1. Perform basic patient monitoring including demeanour, temperature, pulse, respiration rate, capillary refill time and mucous membrane colour. Recognise abnormalities and know when to report changes to the veterinary nurse or clinician.
2. Ensure that feeding plans advised by clinicians for post-operative patients, or others requiring a specialised diet are adhered to, making sure that overnight rations are prepared so that out-of-hours staff can feed accordingly.
3. Daily husbandry of the University of Glasgow undergraduate teaching horses including arranging farrier appointments, transportation, recording weights and reporting any health issues to clinical staff.
4. Engagement, implementation and communication (to visitors and students) of health and safety policies and Standard Operating Procedures. Participation in training such as first aid and fire safety, risk assessment, implementation of any training and ability to come up with practical solutions for health and safety issues that arise. Participation in relevant committees such as biosecurity and/or health and safety.
5. Transporting patient to and from the hospital including out of hours on a rotational basis (if B&E licence held and hold relevant experience), assessing fitness to travel and adhering to health and safety guidelines.
6. Provide veterinary technician support to the first opinion equine practice veterinarians. Providing behavioural consultations to clients (if the relevant qualifications and experience held). Riding patients for diagnostic procedures (if the relevant experience is held)
7. Setting up and cleaning theatre or diagnostic equipment, adhering to health and safety regulations, assisting with the cleaning and packaging of surgical equipment. Reporting any issues to the nursing team promptly.
8. Restraining animals for clinical and nursing staff when performing clinical procedures. Preparing patients for surgical procedures, assisting with sample/data collection and restraining animals for farriery.

Restraining animals for advanced medical imaging.

1. Lunging, long reining and trotting up animals for lameness assessment.
2. Supervising students while they are handling patients to ensure Health and Safety protocols are being adhered to.
3. Any other tasks within the level of responsibility to their role as deemed suitable by their line manager.

**Qualifications**

Either: Ability to demonstrate the competencies required to undertake the duties associated with this level of post having acquired the necessary knowledge and skills in a similar role. Or: Scottish Credit and Qualification Framework level 5 or 6 (National 5 or 6, Scottish Vocational Qualification level 2 or 3) or equivalent, and experience of personal development in a similar role.

**Desirable**

Equine Behaviour and training qualification

Animal transport competency certificate

Full UK driving licence with B&E category. (If transporting)

**Knowledge, Skills and Experience**

* Excellent animal handling skills to ensure safety of clients, staff and students.
* Excellent riding skills with evidence of riding different types, ages of horses.
* Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, orally and written.
* Ability to recognise changes in an animal’s demeanour and behaviour.
* Excellent animal handling skills to ensure safety of clients, staff and students.
* Evidenced ability to clean to a high standard.
* Evidenced ability to use initiative.
* Evidenced ability to work independently or as part of a team.
* Basic IT skills.
* Good organisational skills and an ability to prioritise work.
* Ability to be discreet and maintain confidentiality
* Use of initiative and judgement to resolve routine work problems independently, referring complex problems as appropriate
* Extensive experience of working in professional yards with at least 10 horses, which has included sole charge of yard.
* Extensive experience of all aspects of caring for and handling stabled horses to enable a wide range of clinical and diagnostic procedures to be carried out.
* Experience of working in an equine clinical environment
* Experience working with fit competition horses, youngstock and stallions.
* Experience of lunging and long reining a wide variety of equines
* Experience of supervision of junior team members.
* Ability to perform well in a team, under pressure.
* Knowledge of equine veterinary diagnostic equipment

**Desirable**

* Experience transporting a variety of different equines in a trailer.
* Experience of working in an equine clinical environment
* Experience in teaching equine husbandry to small groups and individuals.
* Experience in training and managing behavioural problems in a wide range of equines.