



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

SURGICAL VETERINARY NURSE

Grade and salary: Grade 5 £30,180 – £34,630 pa. Plus 26 days holiday pro rata, pension and additional benefits.

Working hours: Full time – 35 hours per week between 7am – 9pm plus overtime

Tenure: Permanent from 11 January 2027

Location: Small Animal Teaching Hospital, Leahurst campus, Wirral

Faculty: Health and Life Science, Institute of Infection, Veterinary and Ecological Sciences, Department of Small Animal Clinical Science

Recruiting department contact: iveshr@liverpool.ac.uk

Informal enquiries: Rachel Rankin rlr@liverpool.ac.uk

Job ref: 119153

Role overview and University context:

We invite applications for the post of Veterinary Nurse specialising in Surgical nursing in the Small Animal Teaching Hospital, Leahurst Campus.

You will be a qualified Registered Veterinary Nurse: this role would ideally suit for a veterinary nurse with experience in referral surgical/theatre nursing.

The University of Liverpool is one of the UK's leading research institutions with a prodigious spread of expertise – from the humanities and social sciences to engineering, science, veterinary science, and medicine. It attracts collaborative and contract research commissions from a wide range of national and international organisations – commissions valued at more than £100 million annually.

This post sits within the [Department of Small Animal Clinical Science](#), within the School of Veterinary Science. The Head of Department of Small Animal Clinical Science is Professor Tom Maddox, and the Head of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital is Briony Alderson. The Hospital Operations manager is Rachel Rankin, Head Nurse Faye Walsh, and Senior Surgical Nurse Anna Reeves.

The Small Animal Teaching Hospital (completed 2007) is a busy multidisciplinary referral and teaching hospital seeing over 12,000 appointments per year with an annual turnover of over £9m. As one of the largest and most advanced hospitals built for small animals in Europe the facility sees referral appointments from far and wide. Our team of RCVS and European Specialists work at the cutting edge of veterinary medicine to deliver a service that is world-renowned. Our specialists are supported by interns and residents who are carefully selected, experienced, qualified vets working as “specialists in training.” The hospital plays a key role in the education of veterinary students, teaching them the very latest concepts and techniques in a caring and supportive environment. Clinical research is carried out within the hospital to improve the lives of pets everywhere. Facilities include Philips Ingenia MRI, Toshiba Aquilion 80-slice CT, two DR radiography rooms, a DEXA scanner, a radiotherapy suite with a dual modality Varian Vitalbeam, three operating rooms, an in-house laboratory, dermatology, endoscopy and cardiology suites and associated consulting and ward space.

This post is predominantly based in theatre, though you will work in the wards and ICU areas, working alongside the clinical services, assisting with the caseloads and patients. You will be encouraged to fully utilise your nursing skills: this will include assisting in surgery, anaesthetics, emergency and critical care and routine patient care.

This is a full-time position working 35 hours per week, normally Monday to Friday. However, flexibility is required to meet the operational needs of the Small Animal Teaching Hospital and ensure continuity of patient care.

You will be required to participate in the nursing rota for weekends, bank holidays and University closure days, for which overtime payments or time off in lieu will apply.

The role also requires flexibility to provide cover for colleagues during periods of absence, including occasional out-of-hours shifts and adjustments to normal working patterns where necessary. The post holder will be expected to communicate effectively with colleagues and management, supporting the coordination of appropriate nursing cover to maintain safe staffing levels and continuity of service.

The University of Liverpool offers a generous package of benefits, including:

- Attractive pension
- Generous annual leave plus Bank holidays and University Closure days
- A range of family friendly policies, including maternity, paternity and adoption pay and leave.
- In-house seminars and opportunities to train in other areas around the hospital.
- Induction training which includes working alongside the team
- Discounted medical treatment for your pet.
- Yearly pay raise.

Role

The core role of this Surgical nurse is the provision of specialist nursing to our diverse referral caseload, from Soft Tissue Surgery, Neurology, Orthopaedics, Oncology, Internal Medicine, Cardiology and Dermatology. You must have a good knowledge of all aspects of specialist nursing.

Key Responsibilities

You will have excellent organisational skills including teamwork and decision making. You will be expected to manage your own workload in close co-operation with clinical staff while adhering to hospital protocols and procedures.

You will need to be able to communicate with all hospital staff, especially the day and night nursing and auxiliary teams, to ensure a smooth and efficient service is maintained.

Key duties include:

Delivery of all aspects of theatre nursing support including.

- Instrumentation, preparation of theatres and surgical trolleys.
- Preparation and positioning of patients for procedures.
- Aseptic techniques.
- Monitoring sedations and general anaesthetics.
- Handling of patients during recovery.
- Providing specialist nursing care to animals in the surgical environment.
- Scrubbing in and assisting the surgeons.
- Assisting with the induction of anaesthesia, monitoring, and recovery, including sedations.
- Monitoring levels of pain and providing pain relief.
- Fluid and drug therapy.
- Assisting with veterinary procedures in the intensive care unit and ward areas.

- Communication with other hospital teams regarding in-patients (e.g. to facilitate patient imaging or surgery) patient transfer to and from theatre.
- Maintaining on-going client contact where appropriate.
- Collection of samples, collation of data and monitoring of clinical trials and other research projects undertaken by clinicians.
- Ordering of equipment, drugs, and consumables through appropriate routes, including liaison with outside agencies.

The technical team provide considerable support to undergraduate students on clinical rotations and are involved in training, demonstrating, and assessing practical skills as follows:

- Preparation and delivery of short inductions to undergraduate students including an introduction to Theatre.
- Helping to teach/demonstrate to veterinary students.
- blood sampling.
- intravenous catheter placement.
- anaesthesia/sedation monitoring.
- urinary catheter placement.
- monitoring of critically ill patients.
- ICU techniques.

May also involve facilitating problem-based learning and occasional didactic lectures in appropriate fields. Training and support will be given.

You will also be expected to carry out any other appropriate duties as advised by the Senior Nurses or the Head Nurse, contribute to the evolution of the hospital and service development and work with the rest of the nursing team to share tasks.

You will take direction report to Senior Surgical Nurse and be line managed by the Head Veterinary Nurse and Operations manager. Liaison with Hospital Management is via the Head of Hospital.

Additional requirements:

Manual Handling

The post involves bending, stretching and manual handling of loads up to 15kg. A system to control the risks is in place. The appointee will be required to complete a health questionnaire. Appointment will be subject to Occupational Health screening.

Pathogens

You will be required to handle pathogens or potentially infected specimens of unfixed animal tissue (including blood), although appropriate measures will be in place to control the risk. You may be offered appropriate immunisations and/or records of your work with infectious

material/infectious micro-organisms may be kept. You will be advised in your offer letter to contact the occupational Health Department to check on your vaccination status.

Exposure to Animals

As an applicant for a post which involves work in animal houses and/or handling animals, you should be aware that:

- There is a possibility that you may develop an allergy to the animals you are in contact with. The risk is substantially reduced if correct working practices are used and protective clothing is worn.
- Milder cases may be controlled by the use of protective clothing or medication and some people who are affected are able to continue working with animals.

The appointee will be required to complete a health screening questionnaire and clearance from Occupational Health must be received before exposure.

Gluteraldehyde/Asthmagens

The appointee will be required to complete a health screening questionnaire and clearance from Occupational Health must be received before exposure.

Control of Noise

You will work in an area where noise has been identified as a potential hazard. A system to control the risks is in place. You may be required to wear hearing protection or to undergo checks on your hearing. Appointment will be subject to Occupational Health screening, and clearance must be received before exposure.

In addition to the above, all University of Liverpool staff are required to:

- Adhere to all University policies and procedures, completing all obligatory training and induction modules, including Equality & Diversity and Health & Safety.
- Support the University's vision to drive forward environmental and social equity through delivery of our [Sustainability Strategy](#) and associated action plans.
- Demonstrate customer service excellence and continuous improvement in engaging with all stakeholders.
- Respect confidentiality: all confidential information should be kept in confidence and not released to unauthorised persons.
- Participate in the University's Professional Development Review scheme and take a proactive approach to own professional development.
- Embody and uphold the University's Vision and Values.
- Demonstrate flexibility in on-campus-presence to enable participation in business-critical activities, including reasonable participation in such things as: open days, invigilation, welcome week activities, confirmation and clearing and financial year-end activities.

About you

Experience

Essential

1. Relevant experience in high-quality small animal nursing, including responsibility for patient care, monitoring of patients during and after anaesthesia, dispensing, and work organisation.
2. Experience of working on own initiative and appropriate unsupervised decision making.
3. Experience in organising teams.

Desirable

1. Post qualification experience in a university, referral hospital, or emergency clinic environment; experience in a veterinary training environment and demonstrating to veterinary undergraduates.
2. Post qualification experience of working across disciplines especially Surgical nursing.
3. Experience in a veterinary training environment and demonstrating to undergraduates or new members of staff.

Education, qualifications and training

Essential

1. Qualified registered veterinary nurse.
2. Proven interest in Surgery.

Desirable

1. Nursing Degree, Veterinary Nursing Diploma or equivalent.
2. Certificate in Emergency Medicine or equivalent post-graduate qualifications.

Skills, general and specialist Knowledge

Essential

1. Excellent general nursing and animal handling skills.
2. Excellent communication skills.
3. Interest in patient care provision for hospitalised animals.

Desirable

1. Specialist skills in surgical/emergency nursing.
2. Good working knowledge of a referral hospital.
3. Advanced knowledge in anaesthesia.

Personal attributes**Essential**

1. Ability to communicate well with people at all levels.
2. Positive team member.
3. Ability to work using your initiative and organise work.
4. Ability to work within a team and independently.
5. Ability to solve problems and respond to queries.
6. Highly motivated and conscientious individual.

Desirable

1. Organisational and basic management skills.

About us

Established in 1881, we are an internationally renowned Russell Group university recognised for our high-quality teaching and research. We are consistently ranked as one of the best [universities](#) both nationally and globally, and the majority of our research is rated world leading or internationally excellent. [Find out more about us.](#)

Why Work Here

We recognise, appreciate and celebrate the incredible work our staff do every day. As well as generous terms and conditions, we offer a range of enviable benefits and provide support for colleague's wellbeing and development. Discover more [about working here.](#)

Moving from abroad

As a global institute, we welcome applicants from all nationalities, moving from a different country can be challenging and we would like to help as much as we can, we have put together some information on eligibility to work documentation, accommodation, schools, healthcare, life in Liverpool and the UK as well as other practical information. Discover more about [moving from abroad.](#)

Our Staff

Whether it be their friendly colleagues, supportive managers or our outstanding facilities, our staff can explain better than anyone what it is like to work for us and why they enjoy their role. See what our [colleagues have to say.](#)

How to Apply

Application process

Our e-recruitment system enables you to register for an online account, where you can view, copy and edit your applications. Set up your account on our [Vacancies Portal.](#)

Once you submit your application you will receive an automatic email acknowledgment. You can view your application at any time by clicking into the application history section of your account.

The recruiting department will endeavour to respond to each application. However, if you have not heard within six weeks of the closing date, please take it that your application has not been successful on this occasion.

Job description

After the closing date this job description will be removed from our website. Should you wish to refer to this information at a later date please ensure you save a copy of this document.

Right to work

We have a legal responsibility to ensure that you have the right to work in the UK before you can start working for us. If you do not have the right to work in the UK already, any offer of employment will be conditional upon you gaining it. If the role is based outside the UK, you will need to demonstrate your right to work for the country in which you are to be based.

Disabilities and alternative formats

If you have any other requirements which will help you access the application or interview process or employment opportunities at the University, or if you require copies documentation in alternative formats, please email: jobs@liverpool.ac.uk or telephone 0151 794 6771.

