vetsure
GRADUATE
friendly

Welcome to EMS

The Vetsure Graduate Friendly Practice Scheme helps to 'matchmake' veterinary graduates with quality, independent veterinary practices. The Vetsure network is a friendly and supportive group of independent vets. They are committed to supporting the next generation of vets and veterinary professionals by providing engaging EMS placements.

Practices enrolled in our scheme are very used to working with the next generation of vets to make sure you have a great transition from the protective environment of your vet school, into what can be a turbulent and challenging environment of a private practice.

The great news is that how you spend your weeks on your EMS rotation will play a large part in how well you move through this phase and begin your career. So the choices you make over the next few months will make a big difference and set you on the path to success.

Both student and practice, of course, have a big role to play in making that a reality for you. And as far as we are concerned, you represent the future of our profession so we want to make sure that you are in good hands.

vetsure *for* **VETS**

Why is EMS at a Vetsure Accredited Practice different?

All Vetsure accredited practices follow a simple philosophy that allows all students on EMS the chance to have a deeper learning experience than would otherwise be the case.

In order to get the most from your time with us you should take the following steps…

1 Set Goals

3 Ask

2 Observe

4 Do

5 Reflect

Let's take each in turn and explain what we mean…

1 - Set Goals

What do you want to get out of your time? If you don't have a clear plan on where you are going then how can you expect to ever get there? Goal setting is a crucial skill for anyone who wishes to get better at anything.

So ask yourself what do you wish to master while on your EMS placement? What would the most important things be for you to walk away with so that you can feel that your time has been well spent?

When you arrive at the practice, make sure that you make your mentor aware of what your goals are and that they are achievable! You will need support to achieve your goals.

2 - Observe

Watching how things happen is a vital way of learning and you'll quickly get a feel for how the practice runs and who are good people to ask for help in achieving your goals.

3 - Ask

Be open-minded and ask why the things you observe happen the way they do. And of course, you must ask when you want to get involved with something.

Though our accredited practices are keen to teach, they are also busy clinical and business environments so you must take responsibility for building up your skills. If you want to achieve your goals and learn then ask to be taught. This profession is amazing in just how many people are willing to share their knowledge and skills.

4 - Do

There's nothing like getting your hands dirty to boost your skills, experience and esteem. So go on jump in!

Just remember to always seek permission and guidance to ensure you are doing things the way the practice expects. Things are done differently from one practice to the next and both may be equally right. So remember to be open-minded.
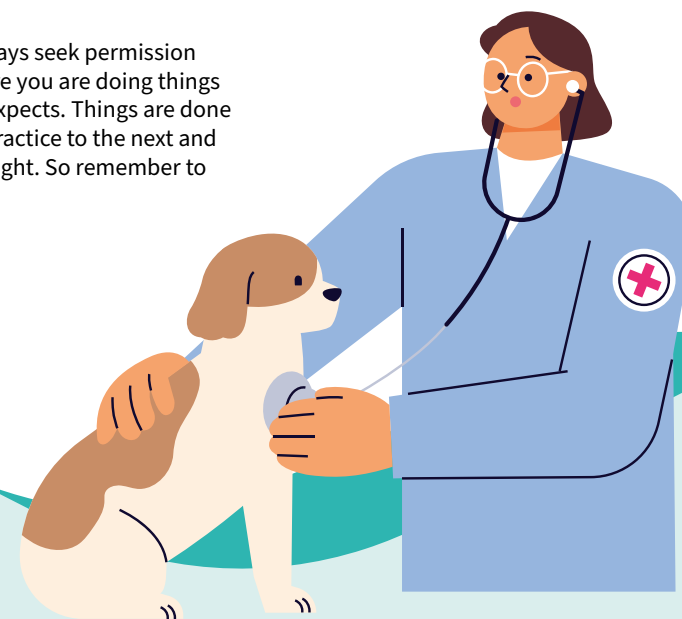
5 - Reflect

Reflection is such a massive part of learning, but is so often lost in the hectic pace of the day. We recommend you keep a journal of events, this will contain case details, but also interaction between people you observed.

Did a client seem resistant to a suggestion? Was there a point of friction in the practice? Were there any patterns you could learn from? Would you have acted differently? What were the effects of the things you observed? Journaling is one of the best things you can do throughout your career to develop self-awareness and keep on learning.

Write it all down and at the end of the day reflect on what you saw. If you follow this plan then you will begin your journey towards mastering the skills required to become a great vet.

All you have to do to achieve this is to practise what you have learned!

EMS Skill Checklist

To help we've pulled together a list of some of the things we'd recommend you focus on to build up your day one competencies as you move towards graduation. This list is by no means exhaustive and if you have mastered some areas and wish to add other things then by all means do so.

- ☐ Basic case management/responsibility
- ☐ Learning basic medicine names, doses, uses and side-effects
- ☐ S/C, I/M and IV injections
- ☐ Catheter placement
- ☐ IV fluid set up
- ☐ Blood/urine collection
- ☐ Animal handling techniques
- ☐ Anaesthesia Techniques
- ☐ Exposure to surgical scrubbing, tissue handling and suturing
- ☐ Basic X-ray positioning and generation
- ☐ Using laboratory machine to generate results (and then interpret them)
- ☐ Consultation room skills
- ☐ Working with team members in fast paced environments
- ☐ Working with fees

Your EMS commitment

What are your responsibilities?

1. Show up on time.

2. Come with a plan.

3. Remember you represent your college, our practice and yourself when on EMS, so behave in a way that shines a positive light on all.

4. Dress to impress - a tux or frock is going a little too far - you will be getting dirty!

5. Be nice - bring the best version of yourself - you owe that to the world.

Do these things and you'll be doing everything possible to maximise your learning and have a great EMS experience. And who knows, if you're a good fit and the timing's right, you might even get job!

Sign me up!

Want to kick-off your career in an independent practice? Just head to vetsurevet.com/careers and scroll to the bottom of the page. There's a form there for you to fill out your details. Let us know the area of the country you'd like to complete your EMS in and whether you'd prefer to work in a small animal, large animal, equine or exotic practice. That's it! We'll share your details with practices that fit the bill. Alternatively, email **admin@vetsure.com** and we will email you a full and up to date list of all the veterinary practices enrolled in the Vetsure Graduate Friendly Practice Scheme.