

The logo for West Ridge Veterinary Practice features the text "West Ridge" in a dark green serif font above "Veterinary Practice" in a larger, bold, dark green serif font. The text is set against a background of a light blue sky and a bright green grassy field with a white shadow cast by the grass.

West Ridge Veterinary Practice

Small Animal Veterinary Surgeon Vacancy 2020

The Practice

West Ridge comprises a tradition, independent mixed practice in Mid Devon. The practice comprises three sites, at Witheridge, Lapford and Winkleigh which are all rural villages in this beautiful part of South West England. The beaches of both the North and South coasts are easily accessible, and we are situated between Exmoor to the North and Dartmoor to the south. However, the area is not remote, being just 20 minutes from the M5 and the main line railway.

Each of the three sites is fully equipped to provide a small animal veterinary service to our loyal, appreciative and friendly clients, most of whom are “countryside dwellers” and expect a traditional, local veterinary service. However, our small animal services are now concentrated in Witheridge and Winkleigh, with Lapford used as the centre for our growing equine department

The practice provides veterinary services to farms, equines and pets. All three departments are currently enjoying strong growth, due to an expanding client base and increasing services. There are currently 12 veterinary surgeons of varied experience, some of whom are sector specialists, some generalists. The size and management of the practice allows some flexibility in both specialisation and working hours such that we can enjoy a reasonable work life balance and concentrate on the aspects of veterinary practice that we enjoy.

We have a sister practice, Park Hill Vets, in Tiverton, which provides more specialist and high level small animal services and allows us to share expertise and facilities. We currently share out of hours cover with Park Hill, but we are currently setting up a specialist out of hours service company based in the Park Hill surgery so that all small animal emergencies between 6pm and 8 am, and Sundays, are dealt with by the emergency service.

The Job

We have a vacancy for a small animal practitioner, based at the main practice site in Witheridge, to be part of a team of three experienced small animal veterinary surgeons who will ensure that there is a senior vet available at both Winkleigh and Witheridge at any one time. The job will consist of the usual variety of consultations and surgical procedures, mostly at Witheridge but occasionally at Winkleigh. The Witheridge premises has its own team of support staff, with a well-equipped consult room, surgical facility and all the usual equipment including its own laboratory with haematology and biochemistry. Both sites have their own surgical and diagnostic facilities including ultrasound and digital radiography.

Our flexible working conditions allow us to accommodate someone who might want to do some mixed practice work, including both farm and equine, should anyone want to occasionally escape the

confines of the surgery, but this is not obligatory. The job would be between 70% and 100% small animal.

We can also provide flexibility in working hours, with the opportunity to work a basic three, four or five day working week, but with flexibility to meet personal circumstances and the needs of the business. Our preferred option is for an average four day week comprising 0900 – 1800 each working day. The contract will be for a specific number of working days per calendar year, so that we can provide flexibility between all three small animal vets whilst maintaining cover for our valued small animal clients.

Example options:

- A full five day week: 260 working days per year, with 20 working days holiday plus 8 bank holidays. The five day week would include 18 Saturdays on rotation with other vets.
- An average 4 day week, comprising 208 working days per year, including 18 Saturdays, with 16 days holiday plus 8 bank holidays
- An average 3 day week, comprising 156 working days, including 18 Saturdays, with 12 days holiday plus 8 bank holidays

The vacancy is for a veterinary surgeon who has core skills and experience in general small animal practice. This would include the following key skills:

- Consultation skills: the ability to examine any small animal professionally and competently, and follow the normal diagnostic procedures confidently and ensuring client satisfaction
- Surgical skills: able to perform routine surgical procedures including neuterings, lumpectomies and laparotomies, and an initiative to learn and develop further skills in basic orthopaedics and soft tissue surgery if you want.
- Diagnostic skills: able to use and interpret ultrasound and radiography, biochemistry and haematology.

We have a variety of expertise within the practice, and a good working relationship with our sister practice, Park Hill Vet Clinic, which enables support and mentoring for areas of expertise that require further development.

As well as the usual CPD, we will encourage you to enrol for a certificate and support your certification after three years of service. If you are already enrolled, we will support your continued involvement.

The Package

Salary

The salary will depend upon:

- Experience and technical ability
- Qualifications, including any certificates or post graduate qualifications
- Work package, including hours per week and out of hours involvement
- Flexibility.

The range will be £35,000 - £70,000 per annum, depending on days worked and qualifications, experience etc.

Time off and benefits

You will get 4 weeks holiday per year, increasing after 5 years' service. You will also get statutory bank holidays, (or time off in lieu, in the unlikely event that there should be any need to help during a bank holiday).

You will be provided with a vehicle, which you can use for private mileage, or just business use if you choose to take the more tax efficient option. Alternatively, you can provide your own serviceable car and claim mileage monthly for business use

There are other fringe benefits that our staff enjoy, including facilities for staff dogs, access to the practice's horse trailer, and staff discounts.

The attraction

We are an independent practice, owned and managed by a single director with clear management and strategic direction. You will work as part of a congenial, supportive team where we enjoy a good working atmosphere. Our aim is to enjoy the work as well as make a living.

We are located in a rural situation, but with easy access to countryside, cities, beaches and hills.

Our clients appreciate us, and we know most of them well. We have a fair charging system, and offer excellent value. We will never decline veterinary care for reasons of funding, and will always try our best to provide appropriate care for any animal that needs it.

We can be flexible with working hours and skills, but we would expect some flexibility in return: the team works best when everyone is supportive and respectful.

Next steps

If you are interested in applying for this vacancy, please email us with some indication of what you think you can offer West Ridge, and how you see yourself fitting in to the practice. Include your current level of experience, and some indication of where you see your career developing in the years to come.

If we think there is some potential, we will arrange an informal interview, where you can hopefully come for half a day and meet the people with whom you will be working, and see directly what West Ridge can offer. Include your mobile and email address so that we can contact you.

If you would like to discuss anything on the phone, call me on 07889 760921.

Email us vets@westridgevets.co.uk

Yours sincerely

Dick Sibley BVSc HonFRCVS

Director

