



Westpoint Veterinary Group Internship Programme

About Us

National strengths and Local service

Westpoint is the largest veterinary group in the UK specialising in production animals. With 12 practices spread countrywide, we offer our clients a unique range of benefits. These will have a direct and positive impact on the profitability and efficiency of their farm and the health and welfare of their animals.

A dedicated local service with the backing of a national group

The group provides administrative support to our vets allowing them to spend more time on farm work and less time in the office. At a local level this ensures that our vets can really get to know the specifics of our client's business and work in partnership with the farmer to maximise their profits.

Advice from in-house specialists

Several of our vets are further qualified within specialist fields such as mastitis, reproduction, foot care and farm management. All of our local vets have direct access to these leading industry experts for in-depth advice and support.

Knowledge of the most up-to-date preventative methods, treatments and products

We invest heavily in on-going professional training for all of our vets. This means that they are able to keep abreast of the very latest innovations in the prevention and cure of diseases and can use this knowledge to directly benefit our client's business.

A real understanding of the farming business and its traditions

Included within Westpoint is our team based in West Sussex which is one of the oldest farm animal practices in the country. We are very proud that such a long established firm forms part of our group and reflects our philosophy of providing a thoroughly modern service based on traditional values.

Fast and efficient laboratory services

Our vets are supported by a highly qualified laboratory team, providing them with microbiological analysis and veterinary diagnostics in the fastest possible time.

All of the benefits and strengths of our national group are brought to farmers locally by our team of vets.

At a local level, we offer:

- Full 24 hour emergency cover
- A direct line to an experienced vet at any time, free of charge
- A unique 2 vets per farm system, ensuring continuity and quality of service
- A farm technician service supplying skilled on-farm support from foot trimming to vaccinating and blood sampling to cattle weighing
- Training courses and workshops for farmers and farm staff such as Five Point Dutch foot trimming, AI courses and production improvement programmes



Westpoint Veterinary Group Internship Programme

Introduction

The Internship offers the chance to work at the forefront of farm animal practice in a commercial environment, coupled with training and CPD to take your Day 1 skills and build on them over a full 12 month programme. The aim of the course is to produce farm animal veterinary surgeons with the knowledge, skills and ability to deal with routine fertility visits and herd health disease problems in an evidence based way, where you learn to focus on not just animal health but producer objectives.

Your course mentors

Westpoint has a significant number of vets with post graduate qualifications; several of our vets hold PhDs, diplomas or certificates. In addition most of our senior vets are working towards further post graduate qualifications. As such you will be working in an environment with a strong commercial focus, but with a bedrock of science underpinning everything you do.

In-house learning

A dedicated mentoring process has been created over the last few years for interns. In-practice weekly one-to-one sessions, on and off farm, allow for specific training goals to be reached. Your personal development from scanning to surgery is fully supported by this process.

Regular clinical club meetings bring external speakers, many experts in their field, to teach on a variety of different topics through the year. This informal environment promotes discussion and debate. Journal clubs and farmer training events also offer the chance to learn on a daily basis.

Monthly CPD workshops

A specific series of two day CPD workshops where you will concentrate on the core areas of farm animal practice. The sessions are split between formal teaching, practice solutions to common problems and hands-on practical tutorials in the company of experienced vets and other experts.

Areas covered include:

- Fertility and scanning
- Herd Health Planning and Farm finance
- Foot trimming and mobility
- Calf health and youngstock
- Mastitis and milk quality
- Sheep health and production
- Data management on large herds
- Beef health and production
- Infectious disease investigation techniques



Paul Daly BSc PhD BVMS MRCVS

"I was brought up on farm in Galway, Western Ireland. My route to vet school was rather unusual as, before graduating in 2009, I completed an honours degree in Chemistry and Biology, followed by a PhD and research at Dublin veterinary school and then applied to Glasgow Vet school as a mature student."

"The vets at Westpoint have a broad level of knowledge and years of experience. During my internship I found that at any stage there was always a member of the senior team available if I needed help, support or advice. This allowed me to gain the maximum amount of experience in the shortest period of time. The experiences were varied and dealt with all farm animals."

"I would recommend any veterinary student with an interest in farm animal practice apply for this internship as there are few programmes that offer so much experience in so little time. My internship period was so good, following it, I applied for and won a full time role that I started in November 2010."



Paul is pictured with one of the Hereford bulls based at Westpoint head office

Olivia Brabant MRCVS

"I grew up in rural Buckinghamshire where I was lucky enough to have lots of experience of farming before coming to vet school. I graduated from the RVC in 2010."

"I applied for the farm internship in March 2010, and was lucky enough to be offered a position with the Warnham practice. I have always enjoyed farm animal practice and wanted to pursue a career in this area. I felt this internship would allow me to quickly improve my practical skills, benefiting from an accelerated learning process and become competent in all aspects of farm animal practice."

"Over the last 6 months I have learnt and developed many new skills. I believe I am working towards becoming competent in many aspects of farm animal practice. My skills of pregnancy diagnosis and surgery have been greatly improved by working with the vets with their wealth of experience and willingness to teach and support me."

"There is a lot of mentoring that I believe a young vet would not necessarily receive if they were to venture straight out into practice. I believe that the Westpoint Internship Programme offers a wealth of experience and allows you to develop into a well rounded and competent vet."



Olivia is pictured with Jon Mouncey performing a caesarean

Further information on the programme is available from Jules Dare or Jon Mouncey at Westpoint Veterinary Group, visit our website www.westpointfarmvets.co.uk and click on the Education link or send us an email on intern@westpointfarmvets.co.uk

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