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Queensland
Veterinary
Specialists



VETERINARY TECHNICIAN INTERNSHIP

Stafford
45 Hayward Street
Stafford Heights,
QLD 4053

North Lakes
53 Flinders Parade
North Lakes,
QLD 4509

History



Established in 1982, Queensland Veterinary Specialists (QVS) is the first private, specialists hospital in Australia. Pet Emergency was then established as a 24/7 service in 1998, becoming the first VECCS certified Level 3 trauma centre in Australia.

We have since grown to be a multidisciplinary referral and 1st opinion emergency service operating out of 2 purpose build hospitals in Brisbane.

Our Veterinary Technician Internship program was established in 2021, in following third-year industry placement opportunities and in conjunction with the University of Queensland as a pathway for new graduates to experience and learn more about speciality and emergency practice and services.

We are a diverse group of specialists, emergency vets, nurses, technicians and support professionals that are committed to working collaboratively to provide compassionate veterinary expertise 24/7. Current disciplines include internal medicine, surgery, emergency and critical care, diagnostic imaging, theriogenology, dermatology, dentistry, anaesthesia and cardiology with immediate plans to expand our services.



Core Values

Mission

Providing compassionate veterinary expertise 24/7

Vision

Our vision is a world where all pets, and those that care for them, receive the support they need to enjoy a fulfilling life.

Core Values

- *AVAILABLE AND ACCESSIBLE* to help our patients, clients, referring veterinarians and each other;
- *COMMITTED* to practicing to the highest standard and providing a high-quality clinical service, embodying excellence in all that we do;
- *COLLABORATIVE*, working together with those that care for our patients;
- *INNOVATIVE* and motivated to continually enhance what we do;
- *RESPECTFUL* to our patients, clients, referring veterinarians, the facilities and equipment, and to each other.

Our Hospitals



North Lakes

Vokes and Peters, known for their distinct architectural style, have designed the North Lakes Veterinary Hospital approximately 35km from Brisbane CBD.

Notable is the meticulous planning, evident in the strategic use of natural light and thoughtful placement of spaces. The clinic fosters a calm environment with a courtyard garden and waiting area. The design ensures a light-filled, open, and collegial atmosphere for the veterinary community. Housing 8 consultation rooms, 2 surgical theatres, in-house Computed Tomography, DR x-ray, fluoroscopy, endoscopy, laparoscopy, large in-house pathology suite, procedure rooms and intensive care equipment our hospital is well equipped to care for our patients needs.



Stafford

Our veterinary hospital in Stafford, designed again by Vokes and Peters, encompasses an impressive area of 1300 square meters and was meticulously crafted in 2021. Purpose-built by Vokes and Peters in collaboration with our directors, the hospital is strategically located with shops just 400 meters away, offering convenience to both staff and clients. A spacious parking area ensures hassle-free access. Furthermore, exciting plans for expansion and renovations on-site are in progress, all expertly overseen by the same architects. The facility is equipped with 9 consultation rooms, 4 surgery theaters with a dedicated anteroom and Central Sterile Supply Department (CSSD), as well as 2 specialised procedure rooms for dermatological and medical procedures. The comprehensive radiology suite features 2 x-ray suites, Computed Tomography, intra-operative fluoroscopy, and a high field MRI, ensuring advanced diagnostics. The hospital also includes a cat-only ward, isolation ward, and a welcoming reception area, complete with a designated cat-only waiting space, providing a well-rounded and pet-centric experience.

Our Departments

Surgery



Our dedicated team comprises four specialists, two registrars, one resident and four interns, ensuring your pet receives the highest level of expertise. Our surgical services, available Monday to Friday, extend beyond regular hours for emergencies. Specializing in orthopaedic, soft tissue, spinal, and oncological surgery, our surgeons are equipped to handle a wide range of procedures. From joint replacements and arthroscopy to abdominal surgeries and advanced interventions, we utilize cutting-edge technologies, including Stryker and Arthrex equipment. Noteworthy is our expertise in minimally invasive procedures, offering options like laparoscopic ovariohysterectomy, prophylactic gastropexy, and various biopsies. As a certified center for BioMedtrix hip replacement and pioneers in hip and elbow scoring, QVS stands at the forefront of veterinary surgical care.

Internal Medicine

Comprising a team of five specialists, four registrars, and three residents, we offer unparalleled expertise in a variety of disciplines.

Our Internal Medicine encompasses diverse areas such as Gastroenterology, Haematology, Endocrinology, Respiratory Medicine, Neurology, Cardiology, and Urogenital Disease. Our specialists employ common medical procedures, including Ultrasound, MRI, Endoscopy, and technical procedures such as bone marrow aspirates, CSF collection, joint taps, and feeding tube placement.

For Oncology cases, referrals are seamlessly integrated into our internal medicine and surgery services. Our comprehensive approach to cancer care includes technical procedures like Trucut, Jamshidi, incisional and excisional biopsies, as well as laparoscopic and cystoscopic biopsies when required. We also provide chemotherapy appointments and treatment services.



Our Departments

Critical Care



Our specialised team, with over 35 years of combined clinical experience, is committed to delivering exceptional 24/7 lifesaving care for pets in critical medical emergencies. Led by two critical care specialists and supported by two residents, our team is dedicated to providing unparalleled expertise in critical veterinary care. Supported by a team of specially trained nurses and ICU veterinarians, our facilities ensure continuous gold-standard care.

Patients may be admitted to our ICU through the 24-hour Emergency Department, other specialty departments, or referred directly from general practice veterinarians.

Our Critical Care team handles a wide range of cases, including acute abdomen, bleeding disorders, cardiac disease, endocrine disorders, respiratory distress, trauma, toxicities, and more. Our comprehensive service offers mechanical ventilation, high-flow nasal oxygen, temperature and humidity-controlled oxygen cages, continuous multi-parameter monitoring, blood transfusions, bedside ultrasonography, digital radiography, endoscopic foreign body retrieval, and advanced diagnostic imaging techniques such as CT and MRI.

Emergency

Pet Emergency is committed to serving the communities pet's needs, offering emergency and after-hours veterinary care 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year in both of our Brisbane hospitals. Our team comprises 26 emergency and critical care veterinarians who step in when your regular veterinarian is not available.

With our patients under 24-hour observation and the care of our qualified emergency veterinarians, our open-plan treatment area enables us to admit, stabilize, and monitor multiple cases simultaneously. Our close association with Queensland Veterinary Specialists ensures constant access to leaders in various fields, such as Small Animal Surgery, Internal Medicine, Reproduction, Dentistry, Cardiology, Oncology, and Dermatology. This collaboration allows our emergency clinicians to formulate comprehensive plans, offering ongoing support beyond the initial presentation to our facilities.



External Services



We also offer the following disciplines to our patients via our external providers and network:

- Reproduction
- Dermatology
- Cardiology
- Physiotherapy

Our Internship Program

What to Expect

INTERNSHIP GOALS

- To provide exposure to a variety of medical and surgical cases through a 6-monthly rotation between departments (QVS)
- To provide exposure to a variety of emergency and critical care cases (PetER)
- To gain a comprehensive understanding and confidence in the fundamentals of veterinary nursing, including intravenous catheterisation, intubation, surgical preparation, patient treatments, administration of medications, etc.
- To provide ongoing internal Continued Professional Development (CPD) through nurse education nights, bi-annual QVS conference, 1-on-1 training sessions and mentorship
- To progress through competency based skills with subsequent remuneration
- To receive mentorship from clinical educators and specialists in a variety of disciplines, including Anaesthesia, Surgery, Internal Medicine, Emergency & Critical Care, and Diagnostic Imaging
- To foster a sense of professional fellowship among former and current interns, and among all current and former clinic employees
- To develop core technical skills (see more detail below)
- The possibility of permanent contract upon completion of the internship, dependent on position availability

SURGERY & ANAESTHESIA SKILLS

Our interns will gain exposure to and confidence in performing the following skills:

- Anaesthesia
 - Common nerve blocks using a nerve stimulator
 - Constant Rate Infusions
 - Arterial line placement and management, invasive blood pressure monitoring
 - Comprehensive understanding of:
 - ECGs
 - Capnography
 - Blood pressure management
 - Medical maths
- Multi-modal analgesic strategies
- Development of individual anaesthetic plans under the guidance of specialist anaesthetists
- Diagnostic radiology and advanced imaging, including DR, CT, MRI and fluoroscopy
- Surgical gear and instrument maintenance
- Advanced surgical caseload, including Total Hip Replacements (THR), complex fractures, spines, Brachycephalic Obstructive Airway Syndrome, caesareans, complex soft tissue and critical procedures (splenectomies, Gastric Dilation & Volvulus, exploratory laparotomy, septic abdomens, etc)

Our Internship Program

What to Expect Continued

MEDICINE & CRITICAL CARE SKILLS

Our interns will gain exposure to and confidence in performing the following skills:

- Patient treatments
 - Administering medications
 - Recumbent patient care
 - Pain scoring (Glasgow Pain Scale & Feline Grimace Scale)
 - Providing patient comfort and TLC
 - Medical maths
- Chemotherapy
- Triage
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Laboratory skills (venepuncture, blood collection, processing pathology, interpreting results,
- Nasogastric tube placement & management
- Blood transfusion (collection, preparation and monitoring)
- Endoscopy (gastroscopy, cystoscopy, rhinoscopy)
- Advanced imaging, including DR, ultrasound, CT and MRI

EMERGENCY SKILLS

Our interns will gain exposure to and confidence in performing the following skills:

- Anaesthesia
 - FLUTD, dog fight wounds, stitch ups, tick paralysis, seizure patients
 - Assist on call surgery nurse with anaesthetising critical anaesthetics
 - GDVs, splenectomies, septic abdomens, unstable exploratory laparotomies, intussusceptions etc.,
- Triage (over the phone and in person)
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Ventilator management
 - Tick paralysis and snake envenomation patients
- Patient treatments
 - Administering medications
 - Patient monitoring and TPRs
 - Providing patient comfort and TLC
 - Pain scoring
 - Bladder care
- Laboratory skills (venepuncture, blood collection, processing pathology, interpreting results)
- Systems management

Our Nursing Team

QVS

Across both hospitals, our surgical team consists of 17 qualified veterinary nurses and technicians, and our medicine team (including critical care at Stafford) consists of 22 qualified veterinary nurses and technicians.

Our current veterinary technician interns rotate between the surgery and medicine departments, spending 6 months with each team.

PetER

Across both hospitals, our emergency team consists of 40 qualified veterinary nurses and technicians. Our current PetER interns spend the full 12 months rotating on evening, overnight, and weekend shifts.



Testimonials

"My internship allowed me to put all of the theory and skills from 3rd year BVetTech into practice. I gained intricacies and knowledge regarding anaesthesia and gold standard patient care. I learnt a variety of new skills in a specialist environment that is incredibly supportive of my own learning. I was encouraged to seek autonomy which allowed me to learn and grow my technical skills in advanced areas such as complex anaesthesia, chemotherapy and CPR. I would 10/10 recommend the internship as an amazing opportunity to utilise and expand on your skills and knowledge!"

Hilke Graz

Float Nurse, Stafford Hospital

2022 QVS Internship

"I undertook the 2023 QVS Vet Tech Internship and highly recommend this program to any new graduate technician. I was able to foster and grow my nursing skills thanks to the supportive staff and the wide variety of disciplines that I had exposure to. I would never have imagined being comfortable to do a general anaesthetic on a splenectomy only a year after graduation!"

Miranda Matthews

Float Nurse, Stafford Hospital

2023 QVS Internship

"As a vet tech graduate that had no prior nursing experience, the QVS Internship gave me the best start to my career. I have been able to learn alongside specialists and senior nurses that provided continuous on-the-job training as well as formal training. Everyone understands you are learning and gives you every opportunity to practice newly learnt skills. Once you build confidence, you are given autonomy to make your own patient plans under the guidance of veterinary surgeons & anesthetists."

Gabrielle Crichton

Surgery Nurse, Stafford Hospital

2023 QVS Internship

"I feel like I am getting the best start to my veterinary technician career, being allowed to keep my gold standard care and continually improve and practice my skills and knowledge. I would 100% recommend the internship program to new graduates!"

Ellie Bissaker

Current Veterinary Technician Intern, Stafford Hospital

2024 QVS Internship

Applications are open

For a January 2025 start...

- Successful applicants should be committed, intelligent, dedicated, willing, enthusiastic veterinary technicians, regardless of experience level.
- Graduation and completion of Bachelor of Veterinary Technology from the University of Queensland

Applications open: 1st May 2024

Application close date: 30th June 2024

Apply via [link](#)

