

Queensland
Veterinary
Specialists



ROTATING 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. Our humble beginnings at 263 Appleby Rd, Stafford Heights has led us to who we are today; a multidisciplinary referral and 1st opinion emergency service operating out of 2 purpose build hospitals in Brisbane. Our experienced Veterinarians comprising of Specialists, Registrars, Residents, and Interns.

In August 1998, the Pet Emergency Room was established over the years, it has evolved into a prominent emergency care provider with a large and seasoned offering services 24/7. Notably, Pet ER stands out as the first VECCS certified level 3 trauma centre in Australia.

The Pet ER business was founded with three primary objectives:

Emergency Care: To provide round-the-clock emergency care for animal patients in South-East Queensland.

Critical Care: To deliver in-hospital critical care for primary accessions or cases referred for critical care or out-of-hours attention.

Internship Program: To establish an Internship Program, offering a one-year clinical training opportunity in a hospital setting for veterinarians aspiring to pursue advanced training in any veterinary field.

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 CT scanning, DR xray, endoscopy, laparoscopy, large inhouse 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 rooms with a dedicated scrub room and sterilisation area, as well as 2 specialised procedure rooms for dermatological and medical procedures. The comprehensive radiology suite features 2 x-ray suites, CT scanning, intra-operative fluoroscopy, and a high field MRI, ensuring advanced diagnostics. The hospital also includes a cat-only ward, isolation spaces, 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, and four interns, ensuring our patients receive 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 desexing, 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.



Network of Services

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

- Reproduction
- Dermatology
- Cardiology
- Physiotherapy
- Anaesthesia



Our Internship Program

What to Expect

The Internship Program is a shared initiative, and since its inception, it has trained over 185 interns. [Alumni List here.](#) The internship program is meticulously crafted to identify candidates destined for advanced training, be it clinical residency, non-clinical specialist training, or higher degrees, including advanced general practice. Interns undergo comprehensive training in all clinical disciplines, with a focus on Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Internal Medicine, and Surgery. Emphasis is also placed on familiarising interns with referral and specialist practice processes, honing their skills in data collection and analysis, and preparing them for manuscript presentations at scientific meetings.

Impressively, 75% of all graduate interns have progressed to advanced training, with 91% of those desiring advanced training successfully pursuing it.

The practice takes referrals from approximately 500 veterinarians in Australia. We see between Pet ER and QVS, approximately 25,000 referral cases per annum with a split between approximately 80% canine and 20% feline.

The approximate breakdown by service is as follows:

- Small Animal Surgery (incorporating orthopaedics, soft tissue surgery): 2500 cases
- Small Animal Medicine (incorporating canine and feline internal medicine, diagnostic imaging, theriogenology, oncology): 4500 cases
- Dermatology: 3000 cases
- Emergency Medicine and Critical Care: 15000 cases

OUR GOALS

- To provide Interns with extensive exposure to and training in clinical and technical aspects of the disciplines of Internal Medicine, Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Critical Care.
- To provide Interns with an intimate understanding of the referral process.
- To assist Interns to identify career goals and aspirations.
- To encourage Interns to seek additional training after the Internship and to actively promote and assist Interns in seeking that training; including assistance with the preparation of applications.
- To encourage evidence-based, scientifically-driven clinical practice in Interns and others.
- To provide training in advanced veterinary scholarship, including speaking to professional audiences and the preparation of scientific manuscripts.
- To foster a sense of professional fellowship among former and current Interns, and among all current and former clinic employees.
- To organically grow an international network of graduate (past) Interns to assist current candidates.

Intern Clinical Responsibilities – Pet Emergency

The intern is responsible for:

- Primary accession emergency medicine (including consultations, diagnostics, treatment and hospitalisation) according to Pet Emergency protocols during Pet Emergency shifts; under the direct or indirect supervision of senior staff.
- Critical care of hospitalised patients as directed by the primary clinician who may be: a. Specialist b. Referring general practice veterinarian c. Pet Emergency clinician 3. Discharge of Pet Emergency hospitalised cases.
- Communication with PE and QVS clinicians, owners and referring veterinarians in person, or by phone or email.
- Quick and accurate completion of medical histories according to Pet Emergency protocols.
- Use of senior Pet Emergency clinicians and QVS referral back-up when necessary for EMCC cases.
- Contribution to work on Public Holidays and weekends and at night.
- Participation in and contribution to rounds, seminars and continuing education.
- Participation in staff meetings and basic practice management.
- Assisting lay staff with the duties of veterinary nursing and reception.

Our Internship Program

What to Expect Continued

Intern Clinical Responsibilities — Queensland Veterinary Specialists

The Intern will:

Assist referral staff as directed with:

- Consultations
 - Diagnostic procedures
 - Surgery Position Description —2024 Rotating Internship in Small Animal Medicine, Surgery, Emergency Medicine and Critical Care
 - Treatments
 - Discharges
 - Medical records
- Participate in and contribute to rounds, seminars and continuing education.
 - Participate in basic practice management.
 - Assist the lay staff with the duties of veterinary nursing and reception.
 - Demonstrate a developing interest in and commitment to a specific discipline within veterinary science.

Intern Scholarship Responsibilities

The Intern will:

- Prepare one manuscript for publication in the peer reviewed veterinary scientific literature.
- Prepare and deliver one presentation to a national veterinary or scientific audience.
- Prepare Practice Protocols, Client Information Sheets and Social Media Stories (following established guidelines).
- Learn a standardised approach to CPR under the RECOVER initiative.
- Participate in didactic training; including seminar days, biweekly tutorials, journal club and M&M rounds.

Intern General Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Intern:

- To behave in a professional manner.
- To willingly and enthusiastically assist other staff, both veterinarians and nurses



Our Nursing Team

The nursing team at QVS is not only crucial in supporting the internship program and providing comprehensive care but is also known for being approachable, knowledgeable, eager to help, and supportive. With a focus on Emergency Medicine, Critical Care, Internal Medicine, and Surgery, these nurses play an instrumental role in ensuring interns receive extensive exposure and training in these disciplines. They foster a sense of professional fellowship among interns, making them an integral part of an intern's journey throughout the 12 months.

Our nurses and veterinary technicians are fundamental in our hospital, advocating for patient wellbeing, driving treatment plans, and enriching patient care. They are not only highly skilled in their technical abilities but also deeply compassionate and dedicated to the animals under their care.

These professionals play a pivotal role in implementing treatment plans, ensuring patients receive the necessary medications, treatments, and monitoring. They are adept at handling a wide range of medical equipment and technologies, ensuring that each patient's needs are met with precision and care.

In essence, our nurses and veterinary technicians are not just caregivers; they are advocates for animals, ensuring that each patient receives the compassion, attention, and treatment they deserve.

The nursing team's dedication, approachability, knowledge, eagerness to help, and support contribute significantly to the success of the internship program and the high standard of care provided at QVS.



Testimonial

Click here for a full list of our intern alumni ****[Alumni List here](#)****

“After two years in small animal general practice, I felt like I was ready for a new challenge so I applied for the 2015 Pet Emergency internship and was thrilled to be offered a place. The internship was one of the hardest but also one of the most rewarding years of my life. My knowledge, experience and skills grew enormously during that year. I was exposed to a huge variety of cases – both those primary accession cases that walked through the door on my emergency shifts, as well as those treated by the specialists. The internship not only built up my clinical knowledge but also developed my confidence, client communication, time management and problem-solving skills; which were invaluable when I came to do my residency. By far the best outcome of the internship was the wonderful friendships I made and cherish to this day, as well as the access to the huge professional network of Pet Emergency and QVS alumni.

I started the internship not really knowing what I wanted to do with my career, but by the end of it I knew I wanted to pursue specialisation in Ophthalmology. In 2022, I passed my Fellowship exams to become a boarded specialist.”

Sarah Richardson, BVSc. FANZCVS (Ophthalmology)

“I graduated from UQ in 2017 and completed the Pet ER/QVS Internship in 2018. I wanted to complete an internship to build a strong foundation in clinical case management, including emergency and specialty medicine cases. The basics of medicine are covered in vet school, but it is not until you put these into practice that you truly learn how to become a competent veterinarian. I wanted to make sure I developed good habits and the highest level of patient care and clinical case management. I always knew I wanted to pursue a residency program, either in emergency and critical care, or internal medicine. I never thought that my veterinary career would take me to the United States, but the global and diverse Pet ER/QVS network gave me the opportunity to secure a residency in ECC at University of Illinois. Post-residency I passed my specialty boards in ECC and went on to complete a Fellowship in Extracorporeal Therapies and Nephrology at The Ohio State University. It is here I found my true passion for the kidneys and the power of extracorporeal therapies. I am currently continuing my training in nephrology, and am one of the inaugural residents in the new American College of Veterinary Nephrology and Urology. I am on my way to being one of the first board-certified veterinary nephrologists in the world, and I couldn't have done it without the Pet ER/QVS internship program. I have never loved my life and job as much as right now, and it is wonderful where one opportunity can take you in life. I would highly recommend the internship due to the amazing Pet ER/QVS network, many opportunities for primary case management, diverse specialty clinical caseload and the team of people in the hospital. I made lifelong friends at Pet ER/QVS and it gave me the foundation and connections to take my career to a level I didn't think was imaginable!”

Amanda Spillane, BVSc. DACVECC



Applications are open

For a January 2025 start...

- Successful applicants should be committed, intelligent, open-minded scientists, and dedicated, willing, enthusiastic veterinarians, regardless of experience level.
- Graduation and completion of Bachelor Veterinary Science, Doctor Veterinary Medicine or equivalent
- Registerable veterinarian in Queensland, Australia by course commencement

Benefit from our proven expertise and success, spanning over 29 years of training, where we have nurtured the careers of over 185 interns. Impressively, over 75% of our graduates have advanced to distinguished positions worldwide, including roles in specialties and academia across diverse disciplines.

Applications open from 20th May 2024

Application close date: 12th July 2024

