



McMASTER & HEAP
VETERINARY PRACTICE

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VET NURSE AT McMASTER & HEAP

Its early morning and the HOSPITAL nurse is already hard at work, caring for her sometimes numerous & varied hospital patients who have stayed the night.

She cuddles & chats away to them reassuringly as if they were her own!

Some soiled patients are sponge bathed, while other patients are syringe fed. She checks, untwists and flushes IV catheters, administers morning medications, fresh food & clean bedding is lovingly placed! All observations are recorded ready for the "Vet rounds", just as in a hospital!

The Vets at McMaster & Heap rely heavily on the expertise and thoroughness of our nurses to inform us with regards to the patients in her care. The vets check over their patients, authorize blood tests or radiographs, change medication or nutrition plans and update the owners.

Then its back to the hospital nurse to care for the needs of these patients over the course of the day, updating the vet, speaking to the family members involved and organizing visiting times. Excellent time management skills are required to triage the sick arrivals through the day and care for the already sick and injured. Note taking and recording of medications given is of utmost importance.

Meanwhile the doors have opened & the RECEPTION nurse is cheerfully assisting the receptionist, greeting a continuous stream of pets and their owners arriving for today's appointments & procedures!



patients surgical site. She closely monitors the patient through the entire procedure, alerting the vet to any subtle changes in the patients anaesthetic depth, blood pressure and more.

She carefully moves the patient over to a cosy recovery bed, where the hospital nurse is waiting to continue the post operative care.

Evening consults are arriving & reception is a hype of activity. Phones are ringing constantly & owners are arriving to pick up their animals from surgery & hospital.

The reception nurse expertly talks to owners experiencing a wide range of emotions, from extreme sadness, stress, anxiety, to those who are excited or just plain relieved to be able to see their furry friend once more. She goes over the large variety of discharge information that the vets & nurses have carefully put aside for their patients.

The hospital nurse kindly talks to worried owners who are visiting their pets and updates them on the vets plan for overnight care. She carries out her final rounds and ensures everyone gets a cuddle goodnight!

She assists the vet in preparing any extremely unwell patients that require transfer to the after hours clinic.

At 7pm the last consult has finished, and the doors are closed! The nurses may still be buzzing around for another hour or so, depending on today's work load. Although sometimes they are totally exhausted (& covered in various unidentified stains & smells!) they go home to their own pets with a big smile on their face. They know each day they assist the vets in making a huge difference to animals lives by putting 100% of time, love, care & knowledge to ensure each furry patient and it's owner has had the best veterinary service and care possible!!



She expertly multi tasks while answering the relentlessly ringing phones-today she will take a huge number of calls with a wide variety of questions. She must use her problem solving skills to know when it is OK for a patient to come in later in the day, or if in fact it may require a much more urgent consult time.

The SURGICAL nurse gets ready for her busy day ahead. Patients start arriving at 8am for admittance and some days we have 4 vets operating and a list of over 15 surgical procedures to work through. Every nurse has a vet assigned to them to allow continuity of care.

She will talk kindly & soothingly to each patient while efficiently placing IV catheters & obtain blood and urine samples to run diagnostic tests for the vet. She then calculates and administers her patients pre anaesthetic medications as instructed.

Anaesthetic machines must then be checked & the surgical room fully equipped for the variety of today's procedures!

Once everything is ready, she will assist the vet in the patients induction and intubation, before swiftly attaching all monitoring equipment, as well as manual checks. Once happy the patient is stable, she sterile preps the



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