

**WALES VETERINARY SCIENCE CENTRE
DETAILED JOB DESCRIPTION
VETERINARY DISEASE INVESTIGATOR**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Wales Veterinary Science Centre (WVSC) is an APHA Partner Provider of expert postmortem examinations (PMEs) of farm livestock for UK-wide disease surveillance and is contracted by Welsh Government for tissue collection for the All-Wales Badger Found Dead Survey. It is the lab of choice for many vets in Wales for BVD testing as part of Gwaredu BVD and provides CPD courses for vets. At present, the team comprises the Centre Manager who, as a vet, also performs VDI duties alongside managing the Centre; a second Veterinary Disease Investigator (VDI), and an Administrator, Lab Manager, three Lab-Technicians and a PME attendant. To date, we have relied on additional part-time Veterinary support from retired ex-APHA VIOs and are now seeking to appoint an additional veterinary surgeon as a permanent member of the team, to take us to potentially two full-time equivalent (FTE) vets. With such a small workforce, a harmonious inter-personal working environment is essential and, while individuals may have a defined main role, team working and supporting all areas of activity are essential from time to time.

THE PRIMARY ROLE OF THE VETERINARY DISEASE INVESTIGATOR

- Liaise with private vets in practice about the suitability of animals for submission for PME
- Undertake expert PMEs of farm animals and, within the constraints of a limited budget, collect and submit samples for further testing to confirm the diagnosis suggested from the gross pathology
- Provide clear and concise reports arising from the PMEs
- Advise vets and farmers on specific cases and general disease control
- Ensure accurate reporting of the outcome of PMEs to APHA using the agreed computerised system
- Contribute interesting case histories for the regular WVSC Newsletters
- Undertake PMEs of badgers and submit appropriate samples for laboratory testing
- Provide appropriate training to other members of the WVSC team
- Assist in the development of additional areas of work, including laboratory testing and vet/farmer CPD events
- Assist other members of the WVSC in additional areas of activity as the demand arises

PERSON SPECIFICATION

- Degree in veterinary science and medicine
- Extensive experience of providing expert PMEs of farm animals and disease diagnosis indicated from gross pathology
- Excellent interpersonal and team working skills
- Excellent communication & IT skills

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Part time post
- Holiday allowance 25 days (pro rata) plus bank holidays
- CPD by a range of media is encouraged and sufficient to fulfil RCVS requirements must be undertaken. This includes working up new projects.
- Salary according to experience, in line with APHA and Aberystwyth University scales.
- 7.5 hour working day, but a degree of flexibility expected due to seasonality of work.