

The Animal Production, Welfare and Veterinary Sciences Department



Harper Adams
University

The Animal Production, Welfare and Veterinary Sciences Department (APWVS) is currently composed of 40+ academic and 20+ technical, research and support staff in the following areas:

Animal Systems, Animal Health and Welfare and Veterinary Nursing. The Department actively contributes to all course areas offered by the University, and to an expanding research and outreach portfolio.

An integral part of the University campus is its 230-hectare farm which provides excellent facilities for demonstrating sound commercial practice and supporting research and teaching activities. The Department operate dairy, beef, sheep, pig and poultry facilities on the campus, all of which are used extensively in teaching, research and reach-out.

The Harper Adams Companion Animal House is a purpose-build building housing a range of small mammals and exotic species including guinea pigs, rabbits, degus, rats, snakes and birds. It also has a paddock and stabling for a small number of horses. The unit is used to demonstrate the husbandry and handling of small animal species and allow behaviour and welfare studies to be carried out on a range of species.

The Veterinary Nursing Unit allows the teaching of clinical and non-clinical skills to students studying veterinary nursing and other course areas. It consists of a pseudo-veterinary practice that includes a functional operating theatre, pre-operative room, x-ray room and consulting room.

The newly completed Veterinary Services Centre is available for use by the students from May 2014. The multipurpose design that will provide facilities for physiotherapy (including Hydrotherapy) and animal behaviour cases to support teaching across a wide range of programmes in veterinary nursing, physiotherapy and behaviour and welfare at both undergraduate and postgraduate level. In addition to this it will provide a research base for the provision of evidence to support the teaching and as a means of enhancing the reputation of the professionals through publication in refereed journals.

Harper Adams has a modern well-equipped laboratory complex supported by a laboratory manager and five full-time technicians. The laboratory complex facilitates both teaching and research, and houses six teaching laboratories equipped for studies in Nutrition, Soils, Crop Protection, Applied Biology, Microbiology and Molecular Biology. In addition, there are controlled access areas for project and research work in Microbiology, Applied Science and Molecular Diagnostics.

APWVS are active in applied research across a range of topics, details of which is published every year in the Harper Adams Research Report. In addition to research output, staff from APWVS are active within the wider national and international academic community as members of learned societies, editors and reviewers of scientific journals, external examiners at other institutions and by attendance at conferences and scientific meetings (see Harper Adams Annual Research Report, available on request).

The department contributes to all the programme areas delivered by the University, principally to the Agricultural related courses and in particular the Animal related courses. The department has a strong portfolio of undergraduate and postgraduate taught programmes, including undergraduate programmes in Veterinary Nursing, Bioveterinary Science, Animal Science, Veterinary Physiotherapy and Clinical Animal Behaviour and Welfare and at Masters in Veterinary Physiotherapy, Veterinary Nursing, Veterinary Pharmacy and Ruminant Nutrition and the Blended / distance learning Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing and BSc Honours part time degree in veterinary nursing.

APWVS is actively involved in reach-out, both in terms of full cost short-courses and in the transfer of research output to industry for application. The department is heavily involved in the training of staff within the Veterinary Medicine sector such as Suitably Qualified Persons (SQP) as defined in the Veterinary Medicines Regulation and a number of other part-time blended learning work-based programmes including a range of Veterinary services related topic areas. These initiatives include elements of distance learning and the accreditation of work-based learning. The department works

with Improve International and the European School of Postgraduate Studies in the accreditation and delivery of a suite of 10 postgraduate veterinary programmes.

The department encourage staff to take full advantage of the facilities in teaching, research and reach-out and have an active policy of developing new and innovative means of delivering teaching both on campus and wider. We are investing in physical resources to enhance our capacity including most recently expanded Poultry research facilities, Pig research facilities, dairy cow research facilities and currently Veterinary Service Centre. Current appointments demonstrate our commitment to further enhancing our academic staff numbers.