



Donkey Sanctuary Ireland - Head of Veterinary Services

The Donkey Sanctuary is an international animal welfare organisation, offering care and protection to donkeys and mules worldwide. We are working for a world where donkeys and mules live free from suffering, and their contribution to humanity is fully valued. We are achieving this by transforming the quality of life for donkeys, mules and people worldwide through greater understanding, collaboration and support, and by promoting lasting, mutually life-enhancing relationships.

An exciting opportunity for someone with a welfare driven attitude to veterinary medicine to join our friendly, enthusiastic veterinary team in Ireland.

As Head of Veterinary Services Ireland, you will manage the veterinary clinical team on a day to day basis and provide veterinary care for Donkey Sanctuary donkeys. You will oversee the provision of dental and foot care by contracted paraprofessionals and support the veterinary needs of donkeys in Ireland with technical expertise and knowledge. This will ensure that high quality veterinary care and advice is provided by The Donkey Sanctuary Veterinary Department.

You will provide day to day management of the clinical team, which includes a veterinary surgeon, 3 nurses, 2 lab technicians, an administrator and 4 grooms. You will oversee the running of the hospital, which has full surgical facilities including a diode laser for sarcoid surgery, respiratory endoscope, ultrasound and CR machine. You will also be responsible for the onsite laboratory services and provide veterinary care for all animals resident at The Donkey Sanctuary Ireland (approx. 900). There is a strong emphasis on preventative medicine so you will be responsible for monitoring herd health and implementing preventative health care programs where appropriate.

Good communication skills are required as you will need to liaise with the Deputy Director of Veterinary Services on clinical, herd health and biosecurity matters and work with the Veterinary Team Administrator to ensure effective control of the veterinary supplies and external veterinary services elements of the veterinary budget. You will also work alongside a dedicated welfare team helping to provide veterinary advice and support to donkeys across Ireland. An interest or experience in education and training is important as you will provide both in house training for staff and education to students, vets and paraprofessionals across Ireland.

A veterinary degree that is recognised by the VCI, significant experience in equine practice and good IT skills are essential to this role.

If you feel you have the qualities, skills and experience to fulfil this varied, rewarding and vital role, and would like to be part of the evolving program of change taking place within the charity, we would love to hear from you. This is a full time, permanent contract working 39 hours per week.

All applications via The Donkey Sanctuary Recruitment Hub

<https://jobs.thedonkeysanctuary.org.uk/jobs/vacancy/head-of-veterinary-services-0571/589/description/>

The Donkey Sanctuary is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable people (children and adults), and expects all staff and volunteers to undertake this commitment. Applicants will be subject to safer recruitment processes, and may be Garda vetted where required for the post. The Donkey Sanctuary is an equal opportunities employer.