

Survey reveals rise in vet remuneration and demand

A SNAPSHOT survey of UK veterinary professionals' pay has broadly indicated remuneration for vets and nurses is on an upward trend, while demand for service is also increasing.

The Recruit4vets 2017 locum and salary surveys interviewed a total of 308 permanent staff (63 per cent vets and 37 per cent nurses) and 131 locums (78 per cent vets and 22 per cent nurses) from across the country to come to its conclusions.

Increased demand

The survey found almost 6 out of 10 (59.74 per cent) of total full-time vet/nurse respondents said their salary had increased in the past 12 months, 36.69 per cent said it had stayed the same, and 3.57 per cent reported a drop in wages.

Around 7 out of 10 locums said demand for their services had increased – up 6 per cent on last year – with

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28.9 per cent stating it stayed the same and 1.95 per cent saying it had decreased.

This year's survey also indicates a nine per cent increase in veterinary professionals carrying out locum work than in 2016.

Pensions

More than half (52.67 per cent) of locums who took part in the survey said their hourly pay rate had remained the same over the past 12 months, but 45 per cent reported their pay rate had increased – with a sharp rise in those charging more than £250 a day.

Additionally, 9 out of 10 of the 308 full-time respondents (88.96 per cent) said their employer paid into a pension scheme for them, while 11 per cent said their employers did not.

Key findings from the Recruit4vets 2017 locum and salary surveys

Salary – permanent vets:

2.86% earn less than £20k per year.

12.38% earn £20k to £30k per year.

46.19% earn £31k to £40k per year.

28.57% earn £41k to £50k per year.

12.38% earn £51k to £60k per year.

2.38% earn more than £60k per year.

The average starting salary is around £31,150 for a newly qualified vet. The average salary for a vet with further training and experience in a small animal practice is £41,148, and, in large animal practices, can increase to £44,142. Senior vets with more than 20 years' experience can earn up to £69,021.

Salary – permanent veterinary nurses:

10% said they earn less than £10k per annum.

35% said they earn £16k to £20k per year.

45% said they earn £21k to £25k per year.

A small percentage reported salaries of more than £30k.

A total of 8 out of 10 permanent VNs earn between £16k and £25k per annum.

Charge rate – locum vets:

18.34% charge less than £200 per day.

4.59% charge £230 to £240 per day.

31.19% charge £240 to £250 per day.

48.41% charge more than £250 per day.

A large increase in the number of locum vets charging more than £250 per day was noted year on year.

In the 2016 survey, only 14.75 per cent said they received more than £250 per day, whereas the 2017 pay rate survey results show more than 48 per cent of vets receive a daily rate of more than £250. When asked "do you feel your skills as a locum are utilised?", around 80 per cent thought they were.

Charge rate – locum nurses:

Minimum pay rates were £10 to £11 per hour.

5.89% receive less than £13 per hour.

58.6% receive £14 to £16 per hour.

19.35% receive £17 or more per hour.

The majority of VNs who took part in the survey have said their hourly charge is £14 to £16 per hour – an increase from the average of £12 to £16 per hour in 2016.

In 2016, 6.9 per cent said they received £17 or more per hour, and in 2017, 19.35 per cent reported they received £17 or more per hour.

IMAGE: Fotolia/Jeanette.

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OST: The AHT's



Veterinary physiotherapy master's degree launched

A MASTER'S degree is being launched next year by The University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science (SVMS) to complement its existing range of postgraduate courses and training.

From September 2018, the SVMS – which topped the table for student satisfaction among UK veterinary schools – will be offering a Master of Science in Veterinary Physiotherapy course over three years, with the option of receiving a Postgraduate Diploma in Veterinary

"It is very much hands-on and designed for musculoskeletal practitioners, VNs and veterinary surgeons, but also for those who want to expand or change their career opportunities."

The course was developed by Canine and Equine Physiotherapy Training in 2008, but



Vet joins 'illustrious group' of fellows

ANDY Moores, a shareholder in Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists, Hampshire and an RCVS specialist in small animal orthopaedics, has been awarded a fellowship by the RCVS.

The fellowship – for his meritorious contributions to clinical practice – is the highest status of membership of the college and recognises the vet's outstanding contributions to the development of small animal surgery over the past 20 years.

Interests

Since graduating from the University of Bristol in 1996, Dr Moores has developed a particular interest in canine and feline hip replacement, arthroscopy, fracture management and humeral intracondylar fissure.

During his career, he has been invited to lecture to general practitioners and other specialists on various aspects of small animal orthopaedics in Europe, Asia and North America, as well as the UK, and has been published widely, with more than 30 peer-reviewed scientific papers.

'Huge honour'

Commenting on the fellowship, Dr Moores, a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons, said: "I am delighted to receive this award, which is the highest level of membership the RCVS can convey.

"Looking at the list of fellowships awarded this year, and in previous years, it is a huge honour to join such an illustrious group."