

I am writing to let you know of some imminent changes to the veterinary services at Cedar Farm Vets.

I am immensely proud to have been an integral part of the livestock industry in Hampshire, Dorset, Somerset, Berkshire and the Isle of Wight for the last 35 years. So many of you have become great friends during that time and I cannot thank you enough for your good humoured, loyal support for me personally and Cedar Farm Practice as a whole during that time. Every single vet, each member of the support team and all of the myriad of students that have passed through have been extremely grateful to you all.

Time, as they say, stands still for no man, the profession and the industry continues to evolve and throw new challenges at us which need to be met for the good of everyone.

Large animal practices countrywide are facing significant challenges in terms of recruitment and retention of experienced vets. With ourselves and our two sister practices, Damory Veterinary Group at Blandford and Westpoint Veterinary Group at Winchester (all part of VetPartners practices) working in similar geographies yet operating three smaller vet teams, there was a real need to look at how we could restructure the three practices to result in rotas which were sustainable long term for the vets working within them. As a result, we are creating two larger teams of vets to cover the area.

These two larger teams are well placed to make the most of all the resources that an integrated, national company like Vet Partners has to offer.

With this in mind, as part of the restructuring, from early July I will be taking on responsibility for the Export by Vets section of our parent company, Vet Partners, on a national basis. I have been ever increasingly involved in export work ever since Brexit, and there is a need for someone with experience and breadth of knowledge of these matters to liaise with stakeholder groups of behalf of the Vet Partner practices as a whole. In addition, I will be taking responsibility for training and support for other vets involved in export work across the Vet Partners practices. This is all in addition to looking after my own export clients whom I have taken responsibility for since January 2021. In order to have time to do the role justice, I will be coming off the clinical rota in early July to make space for this new venture. This has not been an easy decision, but it is one which makes sense at this stage of my career. I am hugely looking forward to the new challenge. I will still be around in the background to provide support where necessary.

Additionally, I will still be heavily involved in the bovine Advanced Breeding Services that we provide at Cedar. I have had a great passion for cattle Advanced Repro work for many years, heading up the Embryo Transfer service which has clients far and wide across the country. Matt, Mihai and myself also perform large numbers of AI services for clients every year. This will continue unchanged.

I have faith in the structure which is being put together to provide you with good clinical service. We have a great clinical team at Cedar.

Our vets will be joining the two larger teams at Damory and Winchester and Cedar will be closing its current office at Ringwood on Monday 4th July. You will still ring the same phone number and your usual vets will still continue to service you in the daytime. It will be out of hours that you may see a new face. However, we will work really hard to make sure we introduce you to the whole team so that you know who to be expecting.

The two larger vet teams will be based out of Damory and WestPoint Winchester and we will be opening up a part-time meds collection service at Lynwood Vets, Bournemouth, BH37AY. Alternatively, you could collect from either of the practices at Blandford or Winchester. We can also offer you a postal delivery service for orders. We aim to have a Ringwood pick up point as well. All medication must be ordered in advance, so please ring the practice to organise the best way for you.

Based on the vets you see usually and your geographical location you will either join the:

Cedar – Damory Group based in the West

*Damory Lodge, Edward St, Blandford
Forum, Dorset DT11 7QT*

Cedar – Westpoint Winchester based in the East

or

*Bridgets Lane, Martyr Worthy,
Winchester, SO21 1AR*

When you ring the Cedar number you will be asked to select East or West. It is possible you may see vets from either practice Out of Hours. If you are unsure which practice you fall under, please call to discuss.

Winchester team:

Matt Dolbear will be jointly leading the new Winchester team with colleagues from Winchester. Whilst Rosie is heading back home to Sussex to live, she will be very much a part of the new Winchester team, working part time. So from a continuity perspective, there are two vets that you know very well looking after you.

Damory team:

Alex, Mihai and Oli will be working as part of the team based at Damory. The Damory team will be headed up by Matt Burge and Ian Patton but again from a continuity point of view seeing your usual vets will keep the faces familiar.

Support team: Both Emma and Kay will continue to support clients and vets and as mentioned above the number is still the same so you will still get through to a friendly voice on the end of the phone. If you have any questions regarding the new arrangements and how they may affect you, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Matt Dolbear (East)/Matt Burge or Ian Patton (West) to discuss your queries.

Best wishes and once again, huge thanks for your support.

Dave Coombes BSc BVSc MRCVS (DBr)

