

JOB VACANCY

WE'RE SEEKING A FARM, AVIAN & EQUINE SQP AND LAB TECHNICIAN

Are you friendly and well organised with an eye for detail? We're seeking a practical, hard-working person to join our super team on the frontline of delivering animal health services from our busy postal laboratory in rural Northumberland. No previous experience is necessary as full job training will be given, just a willingness to learn and a proactive and enthusiastic approach to practical work is required. Must be physically fit to be on your feet for a few hours doing a physical activity.

About Westgate

For the last twenty-four years Westgate has been leading the field in helping owners and keepers to manage the parasite control of their horses and other grazing animals. We're on a continued mission to slow the threat of wormer resistance by using evidence-based techniques to target treatments only where they're needed. We strive to give the best customer service at every step of the process to make this as easy as possible for our clients. Our technicians (that's you!) provide the timely results that they can trust.

We're looking for a likeminded individual who loves to love their job to bolster our small team. The purpose-built laboratory on the farm is a great place to work with plenty of dog walking at lunchtimes and social get togethers. We're a good bunch. We don't do office politics or "that's not my job". We take turns to make tea and help each other out where we can.

If you think you'd fit well into our small team and would like to be part of a progressive family run business with a caring attitude and a competitive package then we'd love to hear from you.

The Role

We are seeking an experienced Farm, Avian and Equine SQP who is friendly and confident advising customers on parasite control treatments for equine, farm animals and poultry. The full role involves the processing of samples both at the computer and in the lab and carrying out of worm egg counts and other tests as a lab technician and supporting customers with advice on what to do next with their results.

Laboratory experience is desirable but not at all essential as full training will be given. An ability to demonstrate a customer centred approach, a willingness to learn with an eye for detail will stand you in good stead.

Your support will be critical to help deliver the outstanding customer service that is the corner stone of the laboratory service. The successful applicant will be proficient in the use of basic computer processes, to follow set protocol and able to work effectively in a small team as well as independently.

How to apply:

Please provide a covering letter and CV, highlighting relevant skills and experience and describing what attracts you to apply for the role. It would be helpful if you could indicate an approximate start date if you were to be successful, to Operations Director, Kristy Hodgson kristy@westgatelabs.co.uk

Job Description | Westgate Laboratories



Job Title: Farm, Avian & Equine SQP and Lab Technician

Full time position Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm

Salary £18,964.40 to £22,697.96 per annum dependent on experience plus bonuses, 28 days paid holiday plus bank holidays, pension and benefits

Based at Westgate Laboratories, near Morpeth, NE61 3AZ

Line Manager: Office Manager

Key Responsibilities:

The successful applicant will be required to work within a small team to assist in the general running of Westgate Laboratories' postal worm count service.

- Inputting customer data for sample preparation
- Preparing faecal samples for analysis
- Microscope work to analyse samples
- Reporting results via an online data base and using the Xero accounting programme
- Giving advice to farm, poultry and equine customers on their test results and parasite control programmes
- Supporting other members of the team where necessary
- Posting return packs out to customers
- Stock preparation as needed
- Completing CPD to upkeep your SQP qualifications

Plus a possibility of

- Attending shows and events to represent Westgate Labs and promote sustainable parasite control
- Working occasional Saturdays to cover bank holidays

Person Specification:

- Excellent attention to detail; able to work accurately
- Ability to prioritise own work and remain effective under pressure
- Proactive and enthusiastic work ethic
- Flexible approach to work
- Ability to follow directions and work methodically
- Computer literate and proficient in the use of Microsoft Office packages Word and Outlook and on the internet
- Good administrative and organisational skills
- Good interpersonal skills and ability to work well on own initiative and as part of a small team

The nature of the job makes it a physical one especially when the lab is busy with a good proportion of each day spent on feet at the sink and preparing samples. Applicants need to be aware of and prepared for this.