



THE IRISH BLUE CROSS

A N I M A L W E L F A R E C H A R I T Y

Job title: Head of Veterinary Services

Fixed Term Contract: Maternity Cover commencing July 2024

Core hours: 37.5hrs per week, usually 08:00 – 16:30, Monday to Friday, with some flexibility. Due to the nature of the role occasional Saturday or evening work is required.

Salary: Dependent on experience

Location: Inchicore, Dublin 8

About The Irish Blue Cross

The Irish Blue Cross is a long-established Dublin based animal welfare charity.

Our mission is to offer affordable veterinary care to eligible owners, promote welfare and responsible pet ownership and alleviate the suffering of animals.

About the role

This is a fixed term contract for the maternity cover for The Head of Veterinary Services based in our Inchicore clinic which has state-of-the-art facilities. As Head of Veterinary Services you will be responsible for the day-to-day management and leadership of a well-established and talented veterinary team of twelve in the Inchicore clinic. You will also be responsible for the delivery of our service through our mobile clinic teams.

This is a hands-on role and between two to three weekday mornings, you will be performing surgery and consultations at the Inchicore clinic, with occasional mobile clinic work also.

Reporting to and working closely with our CEO and management team, you will be responsible for our veterinary services planning and resources. Your role will be integral to ensuring as many pets as possible benefit from our services whilst keeping within budgets, maintaining a low-cost approach through seeking discounts, sponsorship, and benefit-in-kind where possible.

In addition, you will:

- Act as the Charity's Veterinary Council of Ireland Certificate of Suitability holder for the Inchicore Clinic and its mobile veterinary units.
- Act as Radiological Protection Officer and liaise with the EPA.
- Liaise with the Veterinary Defense Society, the Veterinary Council of Ireland, the Pet Emergency Hospital and others to meet professional codes of practice and day-to-day objectives.
- Oversee best practice and ensure adherence to protocols and procedures to maintain high quality veterinary services throughout the Charity's clinics.
- Ensure compliance with regulations under the Veterinary Practice Act and The Animal Remedies Regulations.
- Participate on animal welfare committees for The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and others and attend conferences on animal welfare.
- Provide analyses and reports for sub-Committee Board and Board meetings.
- Communicate with special interest groups, the public, media, and attend conferences, receive training, etc.

About you

You will be a qualified veterinary surgeon with skills and experience in leading and managing a team of qualified veterinary practitioners in a fast paced small-animal veterinary practice, or with an interest to progress your career in this area.

You will be a good communicator, an effective mediator, and an inspiring motivator.

You will have a positive, flexible, and caring approach towards The Irish Blue Cross, its teams, clients, and their pets.

Essential qualifications, skills, and experience:

- Registered with the VCI
- Skilled or keen interest in leadership, operational and people management, planning, budgeting and decision-making.
- Excellent surgery, clinical, consultation and record keeping skills.
- Successful track record in managing a diverse and heavy workload as part of a team.
- Excellent communication, literacy, numerical, IT and administrative skills.
- Experience of working to strict deadlines and within health and safety protocols.

Desirable skills and experience, and other:

- A track record of building and nurturing key relationships within the veterinary sector.
- Take phone calls outside of work hours (e.g., if a team member is unable to attend work, etc.).

Our benefits:

- CPD allowance
- Veterinary Council Ireland and Veterinary Defense Society annual fees
- 4 weeks annual leave and 4 designated company leave days
- Canteen facilities
- Free Car Parking
- Good public transport links nearby
- Bike to Work Scheme
- EAP
- Sick Pay
- Discounted veterinary treatment for your pets
- Flexibility around core working hours (where appropriate for the clinic)
- Private office
- Mobile phone
- Free tea and coffee
- Job satisfaction of working in a charity setting – making a real difference to both people and pets in the community

How to apply

Please email your CV with a covering letter, highlighting your relevant skills and experience, and why this position interests you to our CEO on chris.conneely@bluecross.ie
If you'd like to learn more about the role or speak to our current HOVS directly, please email laura.mock@bluecross.ie

We will be considering applications as we receive them

The Irish Blue Cross is an Equal Opportunities Employer

Our Core Values and What They Mean

Integrity. We act in an ethical, transparent, and honourable way.

Dynamic. We are ambitious and optimistic, striving for success.

Responsible. We are proud of our professionalism and hold ourselves accountable for the work we do.

Fair and Reasonable. We aim to be consistent and treat everyone equally.

Compassionate. We believe in showing respect and kindness and we aim to be supportive and caring in all that we do.