The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
Easter Bush

A. Hospital for Small Animals
On 14 May 1999 the small animal hospital and teaching unit, designed by Forum Architects, was opened by the Patron of the School, H.R.H. The Princess Royal. It houses clinical consulting rooms, operating theatres, kennels, tutorial rooms and offices.

B. Large Animal Hospital
In 1982 the teaching of large animal veterinary surgery moved out of the city to Easter Bush. The new Equine Hospital and Large Ruminant Hospital facilities were completed in 2003.

C. Proposed Cancer and Imaging Centre, built as an extension to the Hospital for Small Animals. This facility will provide our radiotherapy service. It will be the home to a Computerized Tomography (CT) scanner that will allow advanced imaging for both small animals and horses.

D. The MRI Unit for large animals houses diagnostic equipment for the imaging of soft tissues.

E. The Scintigraphy building houses diagnostic equipment for the imaging of bone and hard tissues in horses.

F. Since May 1947 the Veterinary School has had a commercial farm (Home Farm) at Easter Bush which was used for teaching purposes. The cattle were transferred from Home Farm to improved facilities at Langhill Farm (M) in July 2002.

G. This proposed new building will accommodate undergraduate teaching activities, the library, staff rooms and a refectory. It is planned to be completed by the year 2010.

H. Easter Bush Veterinary Centre
In 1982 a Veterinary Field Station and Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine were opened on the land to the south-west of Home Farm. These buildings house clinical teaching facilities, research laboratories and offices as well as lecture theatres (C), seminar rooms, the View refectory and a gymnasium.

J. The indoor equine exercise area.

K. The Welcome Trust buildings house the treadmill which is used to help diagnose respiratory disorders in horses.

L. The Sir Alex Robertson Building was so named to commemorate the School’s Director from 1958-1964 and Dean from 1964-1970.

The building provides accommodation for Tropical Animal Disease research as well as the School’s Administration Office.

M. Langhill Farm (see road map below). This essential teaching resource includes a large dairy herd of 220 milking cows which are constantly monitored by webcams to provide images for the 'Virtual Farm' project.

P. Car Parking.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Current and Historical Sites associated with Veterinary Education in Edinburgh

Strategic Plan for the Vet School

Over the next three years, the school will increase the annual intake of undergraduate students from 120 to 160. The additional students will enter a newly designed Graduate Entry Programme, a four year vet course for graduate candidates who possess a suitable science degree. This course was run for the first time, very successfully, in academic year 2006-07 with 72 students. Staff numbers will grow in parallel with student numbers.

Students interested in veterinary research careers currently have the option of intercalating an MSc or a PhD into their BVMS3 studies. The School is now looking at ways of reducing the number of years required by fully integrating the degree programmes. Greater choice and flexibility will allow students the opportunity to complete parts of their research programme during elective periods in their studies. The new combined BVMS3/PHD program will be offered in 2008/09.

The School is also developing a number of e-based postgraduate and continuing professional development courses and this area is planned to expand significantly in the future, incorporating short courses on site for registered students and vets.

For additional information contact:
School Office
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
The University of Edinburgh
Roslin, EH25 9RG
Tel: +44 (0)131 650 6130; Email: Dick.Vet@ed.ac.uk

Designed and devised by Colin M. Warwick & Alastair A. Macdonald
Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh, 2007
Sites Associated with Veterinary Education in Edinburgh

William Dick (1793-1859), was the veterinary surgeon who founded the first veterinary college in Scotland. He was the second college in Great Britain, the first being the Royal Veterinary College in London, where William Dick qualified in January 1818 at the age of 24. As well as being a professor of veterinary science, he owned an extensive veterinary practice in Edinburgh at a time when the horse was the main mode of transport. He was very public spirited, sitting on the Town Council, serving as a Justice of the Peace and an office bearer with the High Constables and Trade's Maidsen Hospital. Dick's college (which he paid for out of his own pocket) was situated in Clyde Street (K) from 1823-1916. In 1916 it moved to Summerhall (L). Edinburgh had two other veterinary colleges as a result of William Dick's influence. The Edinburgh New Veterinary College (U) founded by John Gamsie, existed from 1837 to 1865. The other college, that of William Williams (M), was more successful than Gamsie's and existed from 1873 until 1904, when it was relocated to Liverpool.

K. Clyde Street (where the bus station now stands) was the site of Dick's Edinburgh Veterinary College from 1823-1916. John Dick's farriery forge was situated west of the courtyard and his family lived at number 15, across the road. The College was founded by William Dick in 1823. He commissioned the classical building on the left in 1833 and the right hand block in 1855. The buildings around the courtyard were gradually purchased until the college occupied the whole site. There being no room for further expansion, the College was relocated to Summerhall in 1916. A plaque at the foot of the college entrance commemorates the site of the College.

L. Gayfield House, William Williams (a graduate then Principal of the Dick Vet) founded the New Veterinary College in 1873. It was situated in the cramped premises of Gayfield House for ten years before moving to Elm Row (U) in 1883. Privately owned, the island Gayfield House can still be seen in East London Street.

From Grant's Old & New Edinburgh

M. Custom-built as William Williams' New Veterinary College in 1883, the façade can still be seen and, although hidden, the main courtyard structure still also exists. The Williams' College was here until 1904 at which time it was transferred to Liverpool University. The courtyard was roofed over and after several diverse occupations it currently houses the Drama Centre of Queen Margaret University College.

From VNC prospectus 1963, R&D/SVS archive

N. William Dick attended lectures by John Barclay who lived and lectured at No. 10 Surgeon Square (in the centre of the section). Barclay (1785-1826), was so impressed by the young William Dick that he recommended his backing by the Highland Society of Scotland. Old Surgeon's Hall (on the left in the section) can still be seen from the car park behind High School Yards.

From 'Modern Athens' by T.H. Shepherd, 1829

O. Old College, University of Edinburgh: Designed by Robert Adam and completed by William Playfair. Since its founding in 1522 the Dick Vet has been associated with the University. William Dick encouraged his veterinary students to attend lectures in the medical school and the Royal College of Surgeons where, among others they were taught by Professor of Anatomy, Robert Knox, of Burke and Hare notoriety. University veterinary degrees were instituted in 1911. The Dick Vet was incorporated into the University in 1961.

Photo, C.M. Warwick

Q. Before William Dick, James Clerk (1732-1808) was the prominent member of the farriery trade who, in 1776, became Farrier to King George III. Clerk's museum (since 1841) and offices (1869 until 1935) of the then renamed Highland & Agricultural Society of Scotland were at 3 George IV Bridge. The Society set examinations and awarded diplomas certifying successful completion of the veterinary course from 1829 until 1844, then from 1846 until 1861.

From Grant's Old & New Edinburgh

R. Canongate Kirkyard. James Clerk's grave is marked by this plaque in 1561 by members of the Veterinary Profession. Directions - From the front door of the church turn right, under the trees through the wall, turn left. Walk 40 metres towards Calton Hill.