



EMS Blog

From: Gabriel Stringer, 3rd yr Graduate Accelerated BVetMed Course, RVC.
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During my first placement, I had the incredible opportunity to complete a week-long clinical EMS with the George Veterinary Group in their pig department. I focused on Red Tractor herd health and welfare inspections. As an RVC veterinary student, this experience gave me valuable insight into the practical application of farm animal health management and the standards that underpin livestock welfare on English and Welsh farms. We evaluated life stage, housing, bedding, ventilation, feed, water, drug administration, and disease status. For example, there are pros/cons between straw on hard floors and fully slatted pig pens as well as growth differences between EP or PRRS positive vs negative herds.

It was fascinating to see how veterinarians work alongside farmers to monitor herd health, welfare concerns, and sustainable, ethical food production. Highlights of my placement include completing a post-mortem examination, injecting drugs, and discussing life with the farmers.

This placement strengthened my understanding of preventative pig herd medicine and highlighted the vital role vets play beyond treating individual animals. I am grateful for the opportunity to learn from a knowledgeable team and to gain hands-on experience in an area of veterinary medicine that is important for animal welfare and food production.



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