



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

Guidelines for Referees

Entry into Veterinary Medicine is extremely competitive. The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Medicine has a rigorous selection process and therefore the Personal Statement and Reference sections of the UCAS application are extremely important.

The following guidelines have been put together to help you with the writing of a reference for someone who is applying to Edinburgh's Vet School.

- Please include predicted grades in the predicted grades section of the UCAS form. An application cannot be processed without these.
- We are looking for evidence that the applicant, as well as being excellent at science, is also a well rounded person.
- What are they like as a person, do they have integrity, are they honest, and responsible, do they show empathy?
- How does the applicant get on with peers and teachers? Would they make a good leader? Do they have good interpersonal and organisational skills? Are they able to work as part of a team?
- What activities are they involved in at school – sport, music or other clubs and hobbies? Do they help out with students in other years?
- Confirm what you can of the applicant's personal statement regarding extra curricular activities.
- Do you think they are unsuitable by temperament for the course?
- Through career exploration the applicant should discover early on that veterinary medicine is not just about science but also about communicating with people. It is vital that the applicant understands this and this is why we attach so much importance to practical work experience.
- Don't repeat how well an applicant has done by giving a summary of exam results.
- Please give clear confirmation of any circumstances which might have led to a poorer result than expected in the exams.
- Please tell us if the applicant has overcome educational or social disadvantage.