Asthma and allergies to animal dander and other allergens

The prevalence of allergies in the general population is increasing, and it is becoming more common for students embarking on a veterinary programme to have allergies that are relevant to their studies and future career.

In the interests of your safety, self-disclosure of such conditions is imperative at the entry point of the Veterinary Nursing and Bioveterinary Science (VNBS) programme. Generally, such conditions are controllable and students can cope well. In some severe cases, however, an allergy may prove to be uncontrollable and potentially life threatening and thus could be grounds for non-admission to the programme or non-progress once started on it.

In determining whom to admit and whom to graduate, the Bristol School of Veterinary Science must follow the prescribed standards of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and as such does not have discretion to offer individuals dispensation from parts of the course. Exposure to a wide variety of species on the veterinary programme is an inevitable and integral part of veterinary nurse training, and applicants are advised that the requirements of the RCVS Day One Veterinary Nursing Competences mean that students will not be able to avoid contact with certain species on the grounds of an allergy.

If you know or think that you may have an allergy that may be relevant to your study on the VNBS programme and/or your future career, you are strongly advised to seek medical advice before embarking on the programme. You are advised to consider the severity of the symptoms you experience, the range of allergens which can trigger these symptoms, methods of controlling these symptoms and the possibility of desensitization.

If you would like before coming to Bristol to discuss how your allergies might impact on your progress on the VNBS programme, please feel free to contact the School Disability Advisor, Dr Severine Tasker (S.Tasker@bristol.ac.uk).

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