

# Veterinary Nurse

## Level 3

### Overview of the role

Providing expert nursing care for sick animals.

Veterinary nursing is the supportive care of animals receiving treatment within a veterinary practice. A veterinary nurse works as a member of the veterinary team, providing expert nursing care for sick animals. Veterinary nurses also play a significant role in educating owners on maintaining the health of their pets. They carry out technical work and are skilled in undertaking a range of diagnostic tests, medical treatments and minor surgical procedures, under veterinary direction. Veterinary Nurses are registered professionals and work within the standards and scope of practice defined by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

For more information on the role of the RCVS, go to the website provided below.

<http://www.rcvs.org.uk/about-us/the-role-of-the-rcvs/>

### Entry Requirements

Statutory requirement - 5 GCSEs to include Maths, English and Science of grade C and above or equivalent.

### Duration

The duration of the apprenticeship is based on a skills analysis and development opportunities within the business. The typical duration for this apprenticeship is 30-36 months, however this would be reduced where an apprentice holds previous experience or a Level 2 Apprenticeship.

## Apprenticeship Content

### Knowledge

#### **Legislative compliance and regulatory requirements:**

- The RCVS Day One Competences for Veterinary Nurses
- The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and its associated guidance
- Organisational requirements and legislation related to a veterinary business and animal welfare
- The aims of effective health and safety within a veterinary practice

#### **Comparative functional anatomy for veterinary nursing practice:**

- Anatomy and physiology in relation to veterinary nursing practice
- Normal form and function of body systems in a range of species
- The relationship between normal form and function and the effects of disorder in disease processes and the consequent nursing requirements of sick animals



### **Infection control in veterinary practice:**

- The role of infection in animal and human health
- The principles of disease transmission in veterinary practice
- The principles of disinfection and sterilisation
- How to maintain personal hygiene especially in relation to cross-infection
- The principles of infection monitoring and control

### **Materials, equipment and resources:**

- Correct usage, handling, storage, maintenance and disposal materials, equipment, instruments and veterinary pharmaceuticals
- The principles of record keeping

### **Veterinary Nursing Care:**

- The principles of medical veterinary nursing and support
- The principles of surgical veterinary nursing and support including anaesthesia
- The principles of pharmacology and administration of medication

### **Emergency and critical care:**

- The principles of first aid
- The principles of nursing support and the triage, stabilisation and treatment of emergency patients
- Nursing requirements of critically ill or injured animals
- Intensive nursing care techniques and requirements for a range of species

### **Diagnostic techniques for veterinary nurses:**

- The principles of radiography and imaging techniques
- How to take and process radiographs
- How to handle and store diagnostic images
- The function and use of laboratory equipment
- How to collect, prepare and test pathological samples
- How to prepare specimens for transportation

### **Communication:**

- The principles and methods of effective communication and their effect on client care
- Factors affecting working relationships with clients and within the veterinary team

### **Self-Management:**

- The principles relating to evidence based approaches to learning
- Personal and professional limitations
- How to seek and use feedback and advice

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## **Skills**

### **Legislation affecting practice:**

- Work within the requirements of the health and safety legislation
- Work within the requirements of the data protection legislation
- Follow relevant operating procedures and manufacturers guidelines when using equipment, materials and pharmaceutical products

### **Communication:**

- Communicate effectively, appropriately and accurately using a variety of methods.



- Conduct nursing clinics

**Clinical Skills:**

- Prepare and maintain all areas of the veterinary practice at all times
- Prepare records, equipment and resources
- Work in a safe and effective manner
- Manage and perform effective infection control procedures
- Provide nursing support as required
- Prepare, use, maintain, store and dispose equipment, pharmaceuticals and materials appropriately

**Self-management:**

- Manage own performance and development
- Take measures to improve performance and competence
- Engage in continued professional and personal development
- Use professional standards of practice to self-assess performance

**Professionalism:**

- Practise in accordance with the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct

**Behaviours**

- Work within legal and ethical limits
- Accountability
- Responsibility
- Self-improvement

**Qualifications**

On successful completion of the End Point Assessment the learner will be awarded the RCVS – accredited Licence to Practise Veterinary Nursing qualification at Level 3.

**Employer Involvement**

Your employer must enable you to spend a minimum of 20% of your usual work hours undertaking off-job learning. This is defined as learning which is undertaken outside of the normal day-to-day working environment and leads towards the achievement of the apprenticeship. This can include training that is delivered at your normal place of work but must not be delivered as part of your normal working duties, and must be directly relevant to the apprenticeship standard.

Off-job learning could include the following:

- Teaching of theory such as lectures, role playing, simulation exercises, online learning or manufacturer training
- Practical training such as shadowing experienced staff or mentoring, industry visits and attendance at competitions
- Study support and time spent writing assessments/assignments

Your employer must commit to supporting you in the workplace, participating in progress review meetings, providing use of ICT facilities so you can access your e-portfolio and agreeing/ensuring



your readiness for the End Point Assessment. They may be required to provide further supporting evidence/endorsements about your performance, which form part of the End Point Assessment. Further details of the End Point Assessment will be made available to you during your induction.

## **Funding**

The way Apprenticeships are funded has changed – employers now pay for apprenticeship training, where fees are applicable. We will discuss this with your employer when we complete a set-up with them.

The fees charged for the apprenticeship include any awarding body registration costs, all on-programme teaching, assessment and support delivered by the college, support materials, access to college facilities such as the Learning Resource Centre, Student Moodle, and access to wider college student support services where required.

Employers must pay apprentices at least the minimum rate set out by current National Minimum Wage Legislation. This includes payment for all off-job learning and any associated costs such as travel and accommodation.

Information about the National Minimum Wage can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/national-minimum-wage-rates>

## **College Input**

We will support you through regular Apprenticeship Progress Review meetings with you and your manager, providing well planned theory and practical delivery by a day-release model, giving you access to a range of learning materials and tutor support as required. This could be at either the York or Gateshead college sites.

On starting your apprenticeship, you will have be registered as a Student Veterinary Nurse with the RCVS. You will receive a copy of both the college and RCVS codes of conduct and expected to abide by both throughout the apprenticeship. On completion of all aspects of the training, you will be eligible to enter the register of Veterinary Nurses and call yourself a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

## **How to Apply**

Applications should be made using the college application form or via the college website. This form can be found at: <https://www.askham-bryan.ac.uk/application/register>. Upon receipt of your application you will have an interview with the Course Manager.

## **Further information is available at:**

<https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/apprenticeship-standards/veterinary-nurse/>

Or, for more information, contact the College Course Manager on:

### **York**

Emily MacVarish: **01904 772277 ext 1133**

[emily.macvarish@askham-bryan.ac.uk](mailto:emily.macvarish@askham-bryan.ac.uk)

### **Gateshead**

Gail Glenwright: **0191 4911275**

[gail.glenwright@askham-bryan.ac.uk](mailto:gail.glenwright@askham-bryan.ac.uk)

