

A Career as a Veterinary Nurse: Is it for you?

The College of Animal Welfare

Additional Q&As

I notice from the video that students seem older. Would you advise being older before starting the course?

Any age, but you have to have experience in a Vet Practice (min of 4 weeks).

Also, is there work experience in the animal hospital on site?

No, at Leeds it's a separate company but now closed.

Is the online Level 2 course a mandatory pre-requisite to entry onto Level 3?

The L2 VCA course is an alternative for those who don't have a GCSE in science

Please can you repeat the 6 education centres for HE education?

FE – Leeds, Wigan, NL, HH, Edi and Satellite centers (Wear and Sollihull)

HE – Leeds, HH, NL/Hendon

Do you have advice on how to get a job/volunteer role in an organisation without any experience (i.e. to enable you to start studying)?

Write letters, email, call in and request work experience.

Are there other options to be a vet nurse?

You must complete a licence to practise qualification. The RCVS website lists quals available.

Are there options to become an exotic vet too, working with lizards and birds?

Vets can do top up/certificates to go off and specialise in areas.

Would you be able to do a diploma and then progress in to being a veterinary surgeon?

Depends on your UCAS points and other qualifications but potentially yes. You would need to check with the Vet School,

Is there a shortage of vet nurses and vets in UK?

Yes.

Is there any difference to what I gain from taking the level 3 diploma to the Bsc course?

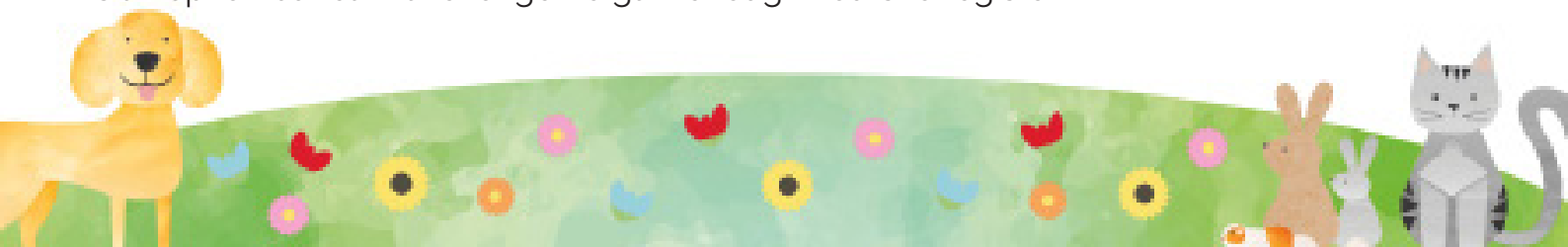
Success completion of either course allows registration with the RCVS, however the degree can be used towards other options.

Are there any courses to move from a Level 2 to Level 3 Veterinary Nursing qualification? Also, can you do an apprenticeship following a Level 2 qualification?

Yes.

How physical is the day to day veterinary nursing role? (ie would those with disabilities be able to do it- obviously depending on the disability), and can the studying/placements also be done part time?

It is a very physical role (lifting, moving, standing). I would recommend trying the role out as a work experience to see if can do the role. Part time hours can be discussed at interview, this is an option but can take longer to gain enough hours to register.



Marine Mammal Rescue in Britain

British Divers Marine Life Rescue

Additional Q&As

Can you go into a career in conservation without prior qualifications?

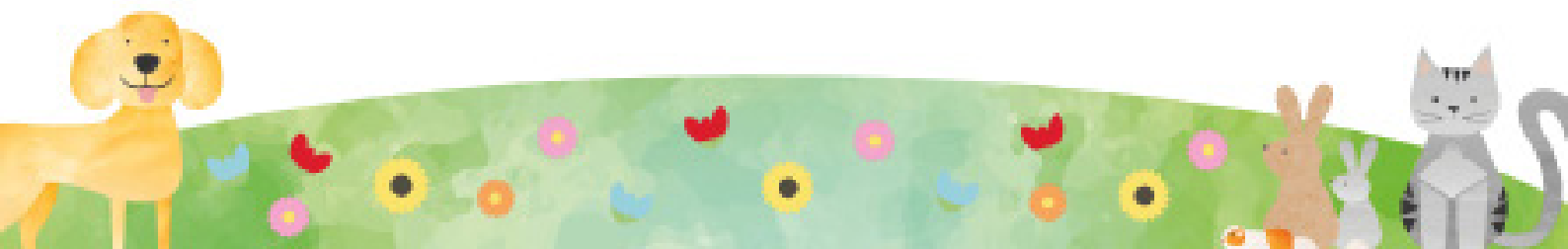
It's possible but could be harder. I know some people who have gotten into it just through volunteering at one place regularly and then getting a job there that can lead on to other opportunities later on when they have gained a good amount of experience.

What age do you have to be?

The minimum age for the BDMLR Marine Mammal Medic course is 18.

What qualifications do you need to volunteer?

No qualifications are needed to undertake the BDMLR Marine Mammal Medic course, we have volunteers from all kinds of backgrounds, levels of experience and knowledge - all we are looking for are people aged over 18 who have a keen interest and motivation for getting involved with some hands on conservation and rescue work with marine mammals and we'll teach you the rest!



Working in a Veterinary Practice is it for me?

Cromwell Vets

Additional Q&As

What qualifications are needed to become a veterinary care assistant and is there a way of getting these qualifications through distance learning as a mature student? Do you always have to gain the qualifications by working in a registered training surgery?

You do not require a formal qualification to be a VCA/PCA, on the job training would be given and there are formal qualifications you can gain, but these do require time within a veterinary practice as far as I am aware.

How much do vet nurses earn compared to vets?

As a Veterinary Nurse the salary is less in comparison to a Vet surgeon, this does reflect the time spent studying for the qualifications, nurses 2-3 years, vets 4-5 yrs. However as a Vet nurse you can go into other roles where the salary is more i.e. management/lecturing.

Would you be able to be an RVN and then progress further in to being a vet?

Yes – I know of a couple of RVN's who have completed their nurse training then applied for vet school.

Is it possible for some vet nurses to not take part in all types of work? e.g. do everything apart from theatre?

Once trained this may be possible depending on the practice you work for, in referral centres this is certainly normal and you specialise as a nurse in a particular field.

Are RVNs expected to carry out euthanasia?

RVN's do not carry out euthanasia's this is the Vet who does this, however RVN's do sometimes have to assist in this.

What GCSEs do you have to do to be able to be an equestrian veterinarian?

You will need A-Levels to become a vet, depending on the university will depend which ones and what grades are needed. I would recommend going to the university you are aiming to study at, or visit RCVS website for this information.

What type of A-levels in science specifically would you need for a veterinary nurse? (biology, chemistry or physics?)

You do not need a-levels to start RVN training, you require 5 GCSE's which are C or above, which include maths, English and science.

What education do you need to be a dispensary assistant?

You do not require a formal qualification to start with. A practice may choose to put you on the AMTRA SQP (Suitable qualified person) training.

Do you need to have a chemistry a level to do veterinary science at uni?

I don't know – would need to check with university

Can doing a vet apprenticeship be overwhelming?

Yes, becoming a vet or vet nurse is hard work but the reward of the qualification is worth it.

Is there a job shortage for vets or RVNs?

Yes.

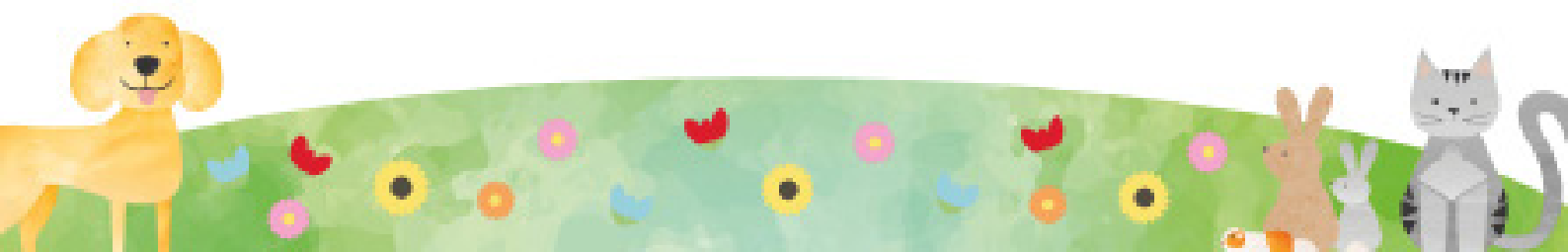


Dog Grooming for a Living

CAW Grooming School

Can you do a level 2 and then get a job and then they pay for you to do the level 3?

Yes you can if you can find an employer willing to pay for the course for you and train you to the required standard.

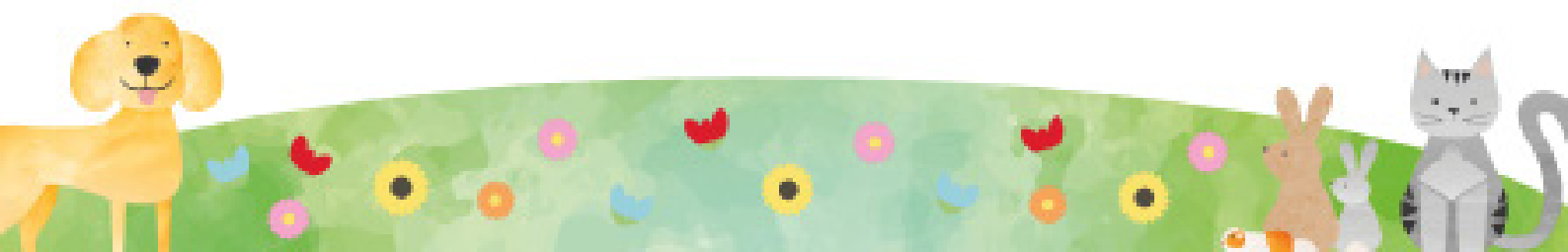


Work-based Animal and Horse Care: Learning on the job

The College of Animal Welfare

For the Q&As please can you advise the college course route I'd need to take to become a detection dog handler? Thanks. I live near an airport so drug detection dog career is looking good for me, ie., border force area. I also have an agricultural course near by so Animal Management courses are available there. Wonder if I'll need to attend a police related course too? Please advise. Thanks.

You will need a job carrying out these activities to be able to enrol on an apprenticeship or a main aim course – the job always comes first with work-based learning – once that is secure the course, hours needed to work, how you will be supported in that career can then be discussed.



Getting Into Veterinary Medicine

The Royal Veterinary College (RVC)

If I take a zoology university course could I still attend the RVC?

We offer a Graduate Accelerated Veterinary Medicine course (4 years) which students can apply to if they are predicted and achieve at least an upper second class (2:1) honours degree in an appropriate biological science subject such as Zoology (in addition to GCSE requirements). One thing to note is that currently UK students entering via this route have to pay their tuition fees (£9,250 per year) as they do not receive a student tuition fee loan from Student Finance England; so there are larger financial pressures with this route [longer/more investment = 7 years and 7 years of fees, self funding likely for the final 4 years]. For further information please visit: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/support-for-students/getting-support/advice-centre/money-matters#panel-studying-veterinary-medicine-as-a-second-degree>

Can you recommend a Uni in Liverpool to do this course?

The only university in Liverpool which offers Veterinary Medicine is the University of Liverpool

Does the RVC appreciate EPQ's?

Anything done inside or outside of the curriculum is appreciated by the RVC at application, however, we focus mainly on how you apply the knowledge that you've gained. As such we would not fast track students with an EPQ, however, the benefit of studying this could be it provides an applicant with more insight into the profession which they apply to their application.

Would I be considered for this course if I already have a degree (unrelated subject)?

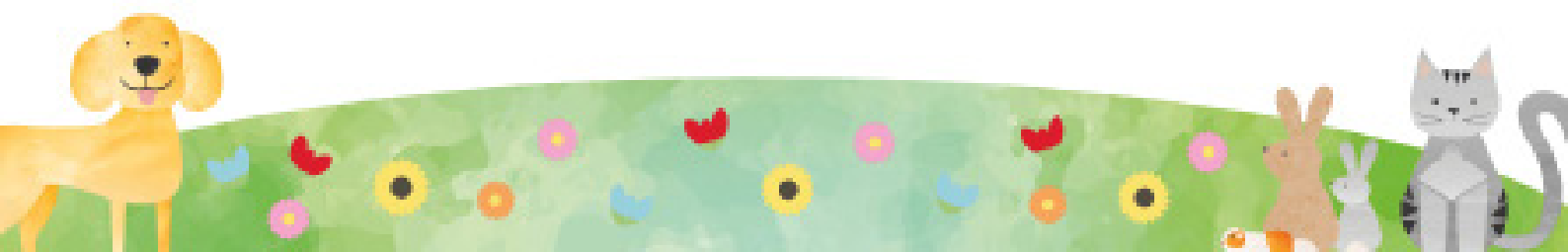
We consider all students who apply to the RVC, however, we would encourage checking eligibility against our typical entry requirements: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/bachelor-of-veterinary-medicine#tab-entry-requirements>. So in answer to your question; if you don't have a science degree we would look to see whether you have our required GCSE and Level 3 qualifications e.g. A-Levels. It would also depend upon when you were last within relevant education. To see whether you would be likely to be successful please email admissions@rvc.ac.uk with all of your qualifications to date.

In regards to work experience - is a mix of Virtual and live work experience okay? (COVID makes life difficult?)

All of our 70 hrs [clinical] and 70 hours [animal handling] = 140 hours needs to be in person and completed within 18 months of 15 October.

How much would it be to do a fully Vet course?

Tuition for home students is £9,250 per year not including accommodation and living costs.



Working at Dogs Trust

Dogs Trust Dog School

Additional Q&As

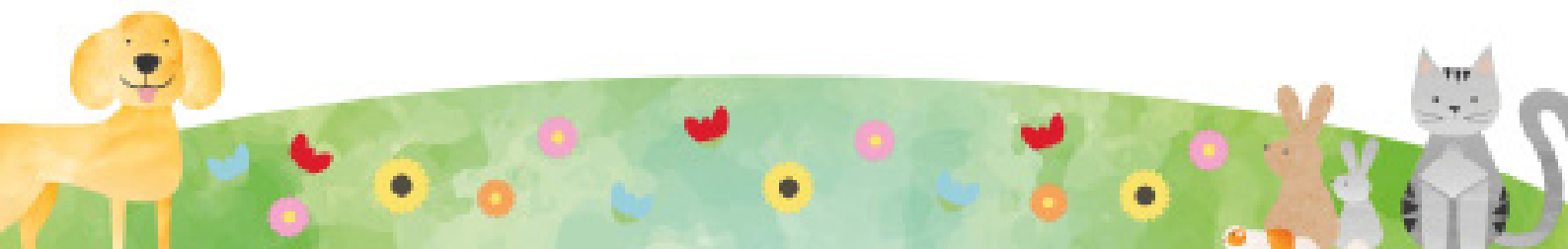
I had two Canine Carer interviews with Dogs Trust last year but didn't get the jobs. When I requested feedback I received no response. What is the best way to gain a job with DT? Volunteering opportunities are thin on the ground!

Canine Carer roles require great communication and team work skills as well as basic knowledge of behaviour and handling of dogs. Our Canine Carer roles are often sort after so keep an eye on our job site for new vacancies: <https://careers.dogstrust.org.uk/vacancies/>

We also have volunteer opportunities available. Have a look at what's on offer: <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering/vacancies/> Here at Dog School, our volunteers are invaluable assets to our team. Try contacting your local Dog School to enquire about vacancies within your area.

How can you start to work as a Dog School Coach and at what age?

Dog School Coach is an entry level position and we welcome applications from all backgrounds. You can apply through our vacancies page: <https://careers.dogstrust.org.uk/vacancies/> Any Coach roles currently open will be posted on here. We take applicants from 18 years old.



Joining the Reserve Army as a Dog Handler

1st Military Working Dog Regiment

Additional Q&As

Do you have to do basic training?

Yes, whichever branch of the reserve army you join, you will have to do Basic Training. This consists of: 1 x Weekend, 1 x week (This can also be done over 4 consecutive weekends, so over 8 weeks in total!) and 1 x 16 days. Between each phase, you will also have online learning to do, mostly at your convenience although several lessons are Zoom Meetings. You have one year to complete all that, although it is possible to take longer, you will just need to do a 'Refresher' Course. Once you complete your Basic Training you are a 'Trained Soldier' and able to complete your Trade training Course, which in our case is a 16 Day Basic Protection Dog Handlers Course.

Is it your own dog that is trained or are you given a trained one?

For your Basic Dog Handlers Course you will be given a trained dog who already knows the ropes and basically teaches you! When you attend Training Weekends and they include 'Dog Work' you will be assigned a Trained MWD (Military Working Dog) from one of the Regular Squadrons, and will borrow that dog for the weekend. We do not have our own dogs in the Squadron, due to them needing 24hr care, so we 'borrow' them from the regular Squadrons when needed.

Do you train dogs or just handle them?

Your role will be as Dog Handler, but the more weekends that you attend and the more you get 'Hands on' with the dogs, you will pick up dog training tips and skills. You will not become the next Cesar Milan!

Do you get a dog that only you handle or do you get a different dog every day?

Protection Dogs can be Dual Handled (Two Handlers) so you may have to share one at times, dependent on how many the Squadron can get for that particular weekend, as the dogs that we borrow are already assigned to an individual from the Regular Squadrons, they are 'their' dogs! You may get a different dog each time, but this is more beneficial, because you will then experience different characters and traits.

Does the dog become yours that you work with?

Only for that period, as explained in previous answers, we only borrow the dogs for the time that you will need it.

What is the salary range for the specialised dog handlers vs the protection dog handlers?

The pay does not differ with regards to which type of Dog you handle, only on what Rank you hold. Rank is gained through time served and how good you are.

Can I train my dog to go in to the army? I feel like my dog would be really good in the army or police. Is it a particular breed that the army have?

No, but you can donate your dog to the Army. Any training that it has may help, as long as you have trained it to our standards and methods. We use German / Belgian / Czech Shepherds, Dutch Herders primarily for Protection, and Springer Spaniels, Labs, Border Collies, Pointers and similar 'Gaming' breeds for search work, roughly between 1 and 3 years old, male and female.

If you have eczema can you still join if it isn't bad?

This is a grey area. If you suffer badly from it and your medical records state this, then you will struggle, however, if you barely suffer and it rarely flares up, always try.

Would asthma be a condition not considered or just eczema?

As it currently stands, you need to be 7 years clear from having suffered from asthma, however, these are always taken on an individual basis, so again, like the previous answer, try, and always fight your case.

Would you get a blue light card like the police, hospital workers etc?

Your Military ID Card is the same, and you can apply for a Forces Discount Card, which I think is currently £5, these will entitle you to thousands of discounts, from takeaways to cars and holidays.

Do you need a c+ in any GCSE like Maths, Science and English?

No formal qualifications are needed to currently join the Reserves.

