

# Working as a...

## Veterinary Nurse

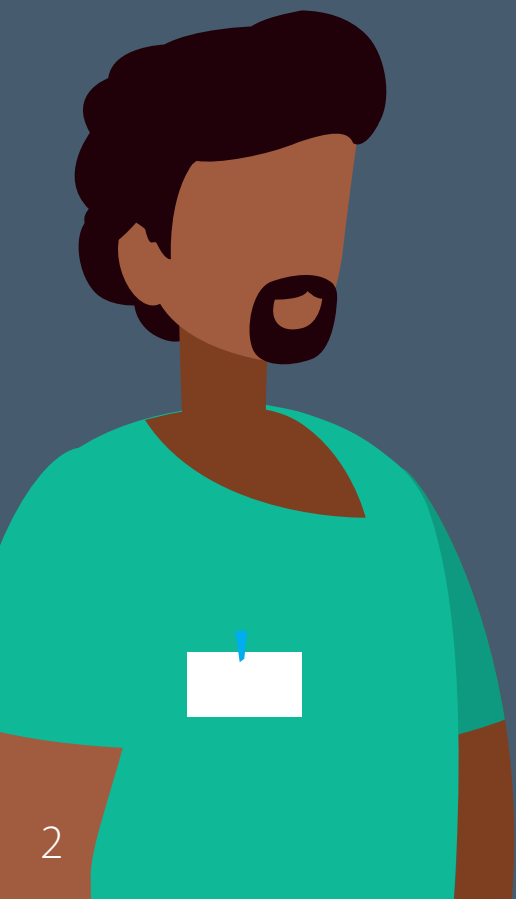
Careers  
Guide



# Contents



What do veterinary nurses do?.....	3
Is veterinary nursing for me?.....	4-5
Why Become a Veterinary Nurse.....	4
Personal Qualities and Skills.....	5
How do you become a veterinary nurse?.....	6-7
Qualifications and Training.....	6
Gaining Work Experience.....	7
Veterinary Nurse Training at CAW.....	8
Career Progression for Veterinary Nurses.....	9



## More about The College of Animal Welfare

The College of Animal Welfare was established in 1989 with the vision to use education to help tackle animal welfare issues. Today, the College is one of the largest veterinary nurse training providers in the UK.

# What do veterinary nurses do?



Veterinary nurses are vital to the running of a successful veterinary practice, and are responsible for working with veterinary surgeons to provide care and treatment to a variety of different animals such as dogs, cats and rabbits.

They perform a range of important duties such as...

Nursing sick animals

Taking bookings and completing paperwork

Running nurse clinics such as diet, worming and grooming consultations

Preparing animals for surgery

Monitoring anaesthetised animals

Advising owners on pet welfare

Preparing animals for surgery and performing minor surgical procedures

Taking x-rays and carrying out diagnostic tests

Answering phones and welcoming clients

And much more!



# Is veterinary nursing for me?



## Why become a Veterinary Nurse?

Veterinary nursing a natural choice for those with their heart set on working in the veterinary industry. Joining the profession offers many benefits:

### **Gain real job prospects**

Job prospects for registered veterinary nurses continue to remain high. What's more – salary expectations have increased significantly in recent years, the median salary package for qualified veterinary nurses is now £30,500 (SPVS Salaries Survey 2022/3).

### **Join a rewarding profession**

Veterinary nurses make a real difference to the lives of animals every single day. The sense of purpose that comes from nursing an ill animal back to health, makes veterinary nursing a rewarding and worthwhile career.

### **Benefit from varied career options**

Veterinary nurses have numerous professional opportunities. You could work in first opinion practice; move into referral practice or work in industries such as management, research, teaching or sales.

### **Gain the gift of life-long learning**

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a mandatory requirement for veterinary nurses, leaving plenty of opportunity to pursue professional interests and undertake specialist training in a range of topics, including the care of exotic pets, feline medicine, and dentistry.

# Personal Qualities and Skills

Good veterinary nurses are hard-working, passionate about animals and dedicated to their work. Take a look at some of the skills and qualities that make a good veterinary nurse:

## Passion for animal welfare

It goes without saying that working as a veterinary nurse is a great choice for those who are caring, giving and motivated to do the best for others.

## Good team player

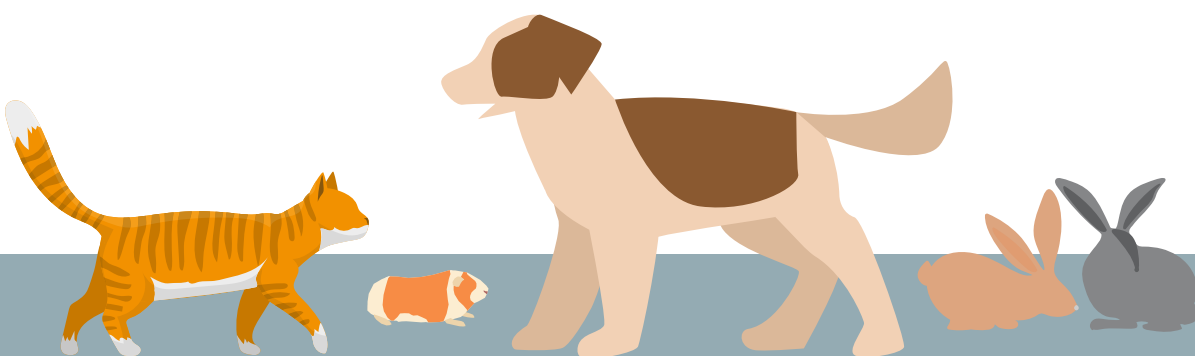
Veterinary nurses are often required to work together to complete certain tasks, therefore it's important that you're able to get along with and help others.

## Committed to ongoing learning

As continuing professional development (CPD) is a professional requirement for veterinary nurses, you should be passionate about learning new skills and undertaking regular training. We offer a range of CPD courses for VNs, available to view at: [cpd.caw.ac.uk](http://cpd.caw.ac.uk)

## Resilience

You should have the confidence to work with little supervision and have the skills to cope with the physical and emotional demands of the job.



# How do you become a Veterinary Nurse?



## Qualifications and Training

In order to become a veterinary nurse, you'll need to complete a veterinary nursing qualification approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

There are two types of training:

### Further Education

Veterinary Nursing Diploma  
or Apprenticeship

### Higher Education

Veterinary Nursing  
BSc (Hons) or FdSc degree

Entry requirements will vary by programme and provider. As a minimum, you'll usually need to:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Hold 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 (or A\* to C) including English, Maths and a Science Subject
- For entry onto a **degree-level** course, typically you will also need three A-Levels (or equivalent)

Work experience in a veterinary practice is desirable, but not essential.

A list of approved training providers can be found on the RCVS website.



*View pages 8 for more details about training at CAW.*



# How to Gain Work Experience or Employment in a Veterinary Practice

You'll usually need to gain work experience or employment in a veterinary practice before training as a veterinary nurse.

Take a look at our top tips and advice:



**Check online job boards** for student veterinary nurse positions, including Indeed, the CAW Jobs Board, Vet Times Jobs or Animal Jobs Direct.



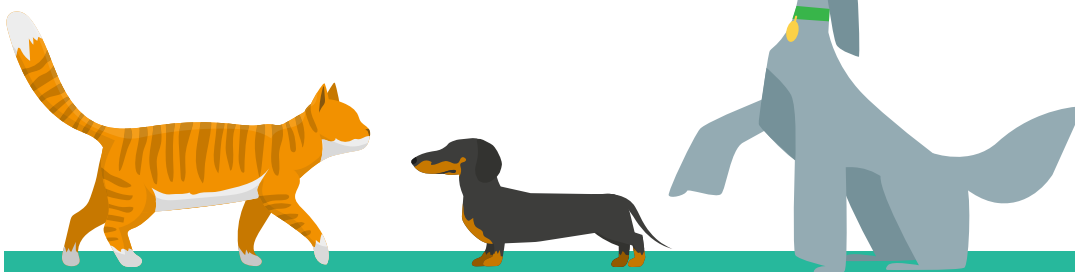
**Follow local veterinary colleges and veterinary practices on social media** to be the first to see any new vacancies posted.



**Contact your local veterinary practices directly** to ask for a work placement or enquire about employment opportunities.



**Attend relevant open evenings and career days** such as our *Careers With Animals Day* to discuss your career plans with local colleges and practices.



Gaining work experience in a veterinary practice before applying for a course is an excellent way to gain insight into the role of a veterinary nurse and confirm that it's the right career path for you. Experience is desirable and can strengthen your application, however it is not an essential requirement.



# Veterinary Nursing Qualifications at The College of Animal Welfare



We offer a range of veterinary nursing qualifications, from Further Education (Level 3 Diploma) through to Higher Education (FdSc and BSc Honours).

All of our programmes will allow you to apply for professional registration as a Registered Veterinary Nurse with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

## Further Education

- Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal)
- Veterinary Nurse Level 3 Apprenticeship - Companion Animal

## Higher Education

- BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing (Middlesex University)
- BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year (Middlesex University)

As the largest provider of veterinary nurse training in the UK, we can offer you the opportunity to train as a veterinary nurse by joining a community of like-minded students who all share a passion for animals and a desire to join an exciting and rewarding profession.

Visit [www.caw.ac.uk/vn](http://www.caw.ac.uk/vn) for more details about our courses.



# Career Progression for Veterinary Nurses



Career opportunities for qualified veterinary nurses are varied and wide-ranging...

Work as a **sales representative** for veterinary suppliers

Train to become a **veterinary physiotherapist** or **hydrotherapist**

Become a **Head Veterinary Nurse** or **practice manager**

Teach VN students in **education roles** such as **lecturing**

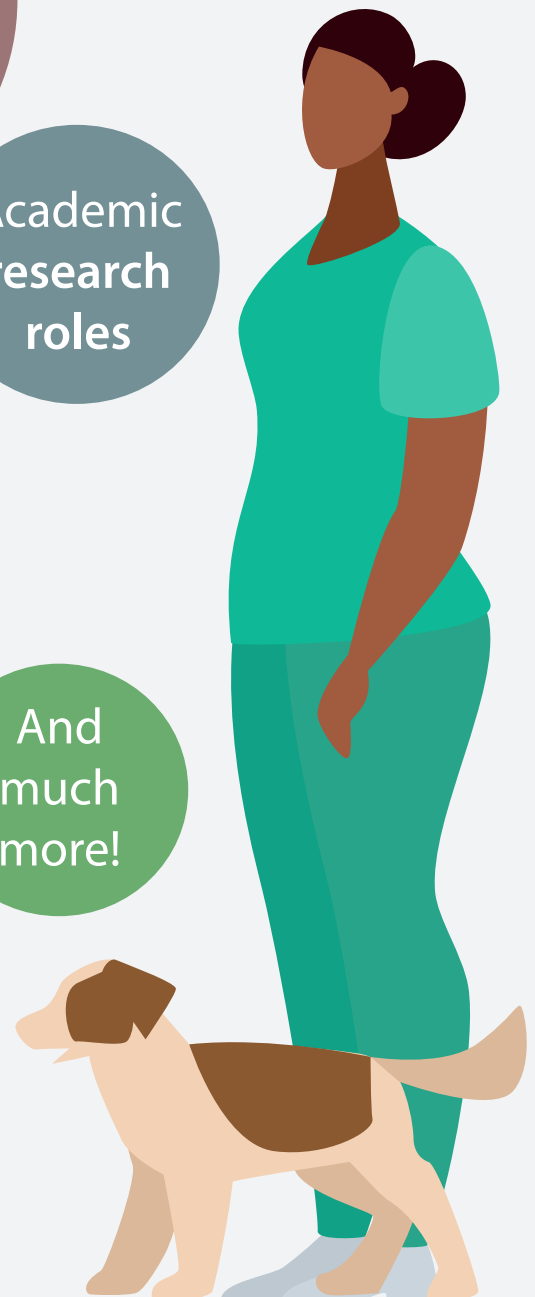
Work in a **first opinion veterinary practice**, **referral practice** or **veterinary hospital**

**Academic research roles**

Study **additional qualifications** or **pursue specialist training** in areas such as **dentistry** or **feline medicine**

**Volunteer** or **work abroad**

**And much more!**



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