

# Veterinary Nursing: Is it for you?

## The College of Animal Welfare

### Answered on video

- How many exams do you typically take in a diploma?
- Does CAW veterinary courses cover exotics as well?
- How can you convert a diploma into a degree?

### Additional Q&As

#### Is there an age maximum for taking the apprenticeship?

There is no upper age limit for becoming an apprentice. All students are welcome!

#### Would you try to secure a position at a Veterinary practice before applying to this course or could you apply first and use that as evidence for applying for a position at the Vets?

You could do either. If you don't have a paid position for the diploma you can apply for the block release course.

#### Does it matter what area of the country you are for training?

No, but you need to consider travel to college when the centres re-open post COVID-19 pandemic.

#### Can I apply to the Wigan CAW to train as a veterinary nurse from leaving school at age 16? To secure a place at your college do I have to have sourced my own placement beforehand?

You would need to source your own employment in a veterinary practice before applying for the course at aged 16. You can find further advice and guidance about this [on our website](#).

#### I've seen a L2 Vet Nursing Assistant Diploma Course, Ofqual regulated. Is this course recognised by veterinary practices?

Is this the course we offer? CAW courses are recognised by the practice. Be careful when looking online as there are lots of other non-recognised animal care and first aid courses.

#### Can you choose to train anywhere in the UK or do you need to live near the university or college?

You can train anywhere in the UK, however be aware you will need to travel to college for learning post COVID-19.

#### I am doing a 1 year animal management HNC. For the next stage I need to have an income, but I'm finding it hard to find a placement for hands on experience. Can you give me some advice?

You can read our advice and guidance for finding work experience or employment in a veterinary practice [on our website](#). If you can't find vet practice experience, look at other animal care environments and collect lots of evidence and references.

#### Hi there, finding work experience and placements in the current climate of Covid-19 is proving to be quite difficult. I've managed to volunteer with a couple charities, alongside responsibilities at a stables. Is there any advice you can give me regarding finding work experience and strengthening applications?

You can read our advice and guidance for finding work experience or employment in a veterinary practice [on our website](#). If you can't find vet practice experience, look at other animal care environments and collect lots of evidence and references.

#### Do I need a job/ apprenticeship in a vets to do the course?

You can either join as an employed, apprenticeship or placement student.

**Is it possible to train as a veterinary nurse and have an income? I'd like to train but have bills to pay! Can you come straight from school?**

You would need to find an employer who would take you on as an apprentice, as you need to be in full time education. Lots of our students start off by going to an animal care college that offer full time courses and then applying for VN training.

**Are there any centres (or places running similar courses/apprenticeships) in the South West?**

We would recommend researching this online to find a college near you.

**I'll finish school when I'm 16, is there any way to do it before I'm 17 or do you have to be 17.**

You can undertake the course at 16 provided it is part of an apprenticeship, so you would need to find an apprenticeship position before applying.

**How would you go about finding volunteer work?**

You can read our advice and guidance for finding work experience or employment in a veterinary practice [on our website](#). Email, ring, send letters and call in to speak to the head veterinary nurse. If you can't find vet practice experience, look at other animal care environments and collect lots of evidence and references.

**Do you have any tips or resources for getting a placement for the VCA course, given current pandemic, please?**

You can read our advice and guidance for finding work experience or employment in a veterinary practice [on our website](#). Keep trying and don't give up! Email, ring, send letters and call in to speak to the head veterinary nurse. If you can't find vet practice experience, consider other options such as animal care roles and collect lots of evidence and references.

**If you complete the CAW course for veterinary nursing, can you further use that to work with exotic animals?**

Yes, lots of other CPD courses on exotics. The [Mdx BSc degree programme](#) has an option of exotics.

**Do you know when the Solihull centre will offer apprenticeships?**

Please keep an eye on our website and social media for the latest updates regarding apprenticeships at our Solihull centre. You can also [sign up for email updates here](#).

**How do you suggest a person wanting clinical experience for uni finds it?**

You can read our advice and guidance for finding work experience or employment in a veterinary practice [on our website](#). If you can't find vet practice experience, look at other animal care environments and collect lots of evidence and references.

