



The College of  
Animal Welfare



# The New

Veterinary Nursing Apprenticeship Standard

# INTRODUCTION TO APPRENTICESHIP STANDARDS

Do you know your frameworks from your standards? With so many changes it's easy to be confused by what apprenticeships are available! Here is a brief guide to help you on your way to becoming apprenticeship savvy.

**Apprenticeship frameworks are being replaced by apprenticeship standards.**

## WHY?

In 2012 a review was commissioned and the outcome was that many employers felt existing frameworks were not fit for industry needs.

As a result employer-led groups, called Trailblazers, were formed to decide what the new apprenticeships should contain, how much it should cost to undertake and how it will be assessed.

## WHERE ARE WE NOW?

The Veterinary Nursing Trailblazer group have created a new apprenticeship standard for Veterinary Nursing which the Institute for Apprenticeships have confirmed will be replacing the existing framework from September 2018.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

In summary:

- » The government funding for apprenticeships has changed
- » The apprentice has specific knowledge, skills and behaviours that they need to be able to demonstrate to complete the apprenticeship
- » An 'End Point Assessment' needs to be undertaken for the apprenticeship to be achieved

# WHO CAN UNDERTAKE THE VN APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD?

Anyone aged 16 or over can complete the apprenticeship providing they meet the following criteria:

- » Live in England and spend at least 50% of their working time in England
- » Have lived within the EU for at least the last 3 years
- » Not already undertaken a similar course at Level 3 or above
- » Not already receiving government funding for an alternative qualification
- » Be employed within a recognised Training Practice

Additional entry requirements also apply. Five GCSEs including maths, English and Science at grade C/4 or above or equivalent are needed.

## APPRENTICESHIP QUICK FACTS



An apprentice must be paid at least the minimum starting wage for an apprentice (£3.70/hour as of April 2018)



The employer pays for the apprenticeship and cannot ask for the apprentice to contribute



20% of an apprentice's paid hours must be spent on off-the-job training



The VN Apprenticeship Standard is expected to take 30 – 36 months to complete

# HOW MUCH WILL IT COST?

With the new VN Apprenticeship Standard comes changes in funding.

The Institute for Apprenticeships have set fees at £15,000 but the amount you pay depends on the size of your organisation.

## NON-LEVY EMPLOYER

“AN EMPLOYER WITH A PAYROLL BILL OF LESS THAN £3 MILLION.”

A 10% contribution is required.

Total cost of the VN apprenticeship is £1,500. This is payable as follows:

- » Year 1 £750
- » Year 2 £750

## LEVY PAYING EMPLOYER

“AN EMPLOYER WITH A PAYROLL BILL OF OVER £3 MILLION”

The full £15,000 is payable from levy funds via the Digital Account Service (DAS).

## WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- RCVS Student VN Registration
- Awarding Body Registration Fee
- Awarding Body Exam Fee (First attempt)
- End Point Assessment first attempt (includes professional discussion and OSCEs)
- Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing qualification
- Veterinary Nursing Apprenticeship Standard Certificate

# WHAT IS REQUIRED?

For the VN Apprenticeship Standard each apprentice is required to display the necessary knowledge, skills and behaviours to become a successful veterinary nurse. These are measured throughout the qualification as detailed below.



## **Knowledge**

This is the information, technical knowledge, and 'know-how' that the individual needs to have and to understand in order to successfully carry out their duties



## **Skills**

The apprentice veterinary nurse will be trained to the standard of the RCVS Day One Skills and Competences for veterinary nurses.



## **Behaviours**

It is necessary to abide by the RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses and work within legal and ethical limits. Behaviour must demonstrate accountability, responsibility and a commitment to self-improvement.



# WHAT ELSE IS INVOLVED WITH THE VN APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD?

## Initial process

- » CAW application system
- » RCVS Student Enrolment

## On-Programme Training & Assessment:

- » Written course assignments
- » Course examinations
- » Day one skills and competences assessment
- » Completion of Level 3 Veterinary Nursing Diploma course
- » Level 2 Functional Skills in English and Maths unless exempt
- » Confirmation of RCVS hours to be met before moving through the gateway

## Gateway to End Point Assessment

- » Employer End Point Assessment Organisation (EPAO) and CAW agree the apprentice VN meets the required standard

## End Point Assessment

- » Professional discussion
- » OSCEs

**Qualified Veterinary Nurse ready to apply for RCVS VN Registration!**

# WHERE CAN THE APPRENTICESHIP STANDARD BE STUDIED?

	Day Release			Block Release	
	January	April	September	January	September
Potters Bar	●	●	●		
Huntingdon	●	●	●	●	
Leeds	●	●	●		
Edinburgh					●

\* Please note apprentices attending the Edinburgh centre must be resident in England and spend at least 50% of their employment in England.





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## POTTERS BAR

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