



The College of
Animal Welfare

Student Veterinary Nursing Congress

Monday 25 January 2027
9.30am - 4.30pm



FREE

 for all
SVNs 



Student Veterinary Nursing Congress Programme

9.15am - 9.30am	Online Registration
9.30am - 9.35am	Welcome from the Chair <i>Lauren Norton MScCAB BSc (Hons) RVN Cert VNECC FHEA</i>
9.35am - 10.20am	Anaesthetic Drugs: What to expect when they're on board <i>Courtney Scales DipVN NCert(Anaesth) PgCertVAA RVN</i> Although we use the same anaesthesia drugs on a daily basis, it is critical that we understand how they affect each individual patient. A multimodal and balanced approach to a patient's anaesthesia experience frequently includes the administration of more than one drug. They all produce different physiological effects, such as bradycardia, hypotension, muscle rigidity, and even excitement. All too often, an anaesthetic drug is "blamed" for a patient having an adverse anaesthetic event; however, the Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Small Animal Fatalities (CEPSAF; Brodbelt et al., 2008) identified no specific anaesthetic drug that increased morbidity or mortality. Understanding where and how these anaesthetic drugs work allows us to predict and troubleshoot any adverse effects they may have on the body.
10.20am - 10.25am	Comfort break
10.25am - 11.10am	CPR <i>Samantha Thompson RVN Grad Dip VN CertVN ECC RECOVER instructor</i> Following the introduction of the RECOVER Guidelines in 2012 and then again, the updated version in 2024 we now have evidence-based CPR guidelines for cats and dogs. What does that look like in practice though? This session will explore the key take homes from the latest guidelines. Covering the six different compression techniques for the various chest shapes we see and what makes good chest compressions. Clue, it's not breaking ribs! Ventilation rates and methods will also be discussed before looking at the RECOVER Algorithm and considering how that will guide the steps of CPR. With a focus on high-quality basic life support, knowing this is what's linked to better outcomes, before dipping our toe into advanced life support. Students have a key role to play in CPR and knowledge of the guidelines will help you deliver the best evidence-based care.
11.10am - 11.35am	Live Q&A Panel Present questions to the speakers
11.35am - 12.05pm	Morning Break and Exhibitor Promos
12.05pm - 12.50pm	Preparing for OSCEs...and beyond <i>Angela de-Zille RVN</i> For many student veterinary nurses, the OSCEs are one of the most daunting parts of training. Whilst the practical skills being assessed are familiar, the examination process is often unfamiliar and can feel overwhelming. This session takes delegates through the OSCE journey, explaining what to expect, how the examinations are structured, and how to prepare effectively. Drawing on my experience in clinical practice and veterinary education, I will share practical advice to help students approach their examinations with greater confidence. The session also explores the transition from Student Veterinary Nurse to Registered Veterinary Nurse, discussing the opportunities, responsibilities and professional growth that come with qualification. It aims to reduce uncertainty, build confidence and help ensure a successful transition into life as a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

12.50pm - 1.15pm	Live Q&A Present questions to the speakers
1.15pm - 2.05pm	Lunch break, Exhibitor Promos and Expo Booths
2.05pm - 2.55pm	Scale Up Your Skills - A nurse's guide to caring for hospitalised reptiles <i>Hayley Ayres Cert AVN (EZW) BSc (hons) Cert VN ECC APVNES RVN</i> Exotic animal care can be a daunting area of practice, particularly if the species in front of you is unusual and doesn't sit when asked... reptile care is vastly different than our traditional companion animal care, however with the right knowledge base and understanding, they can be very rewarding and fun cases to nurse. This session aims to dispel some common myths around reptile care, outline basic husbandry and hospitalisation, discuss blood sampling and fluid access points, suggest implementations that can be made to improve reptile welfare, and instil confidence in VNs to advocate for these amazing animals. Participants will leave being able to: 1. Outline basic husbandry requirements for reptiles in practice 2. Recognise species specific requirements 3. Describe the major blood sampling and fluid access points for reptiles 4. Provide husbandry and nutrition advice to reptile clients 5. Recognise the signs pain and limitations of pain scoring in reptile patients.
2.55pm - 3.00pm	Comfort break
3.00pm - 3.45pm	Utilising Skillsets <i>Macaulay Gatenby BSc (Hons) RVN APVN (Small Mammal) ISFM Cert FN</i> This presentation will help student veterinary nurses to gain a clearer understanding on how they can utilise their skillset and make the transition from SVN to RVN a smooth process. We will also look at the benefits of being a BVNA member or even being on the student council!
3.45pm - 4.10pm	Live Q&A Panel Present questions to the speakers
4.10pm - 4.15pm	Chairs Close
4.15pm-4.30pm	Event Close

How to book...

For details of prices and how to book your place, please visit our website
www.caw.ac.uk/events/student-veterinary-nursing-congress/



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Please note the organisers have the right to change the programme at short notice and without notice.