

# Veterinary Nursing

## Apprenticeship

### Level 3

An apprenticeship can be a smart, cost-effective way of taking on a new recruit to work in your veterinary practice, or to train up an existing member of staff.

This apprenticeship will prepare your trainee to become a professional Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). The trainee will learn how to assist veterinary surgeons during surgery, administer medicine, monitor anaesthetics, perform x-rays, care for inpatients, clean cages and kennels and infection control, as well as advise clients on pet care, take phone calls and make appointments.

At the end of their apprenticeship, your trainee will be able to work as a competent Registered Veterinary Nurse in your team and should be in a position to develop their career.

### Key Areas of Study

As part of the apprenticeship, your trainee will study for a City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

Your trainee will cover essential knowledge, skills and competencies in the diploma through a series of core units.

### Quick Information:

#### Modern Apprenticeships designed with employers

**Sector:**

Veterinary Nursing

**Who is it for?**

New recruits or existing staff

**Start date:**

September each year

**Level:**

Level 3

**Duration:**

Minimum 24 months

**How does it work?**

Delivered in your workplace with one day a week at College and tutor visits every 6 to 8 weeks

**Content:**

Practical key competence and knowledge to suit a veterinary organisation

**Assessment:**

Online assessments and a Nursing Progress Log (NPL) throughout the course with a practical examination at the end of the course

**Qualification:**

City & Guilds Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing



## Overview of the Diploma units

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- Understanding the operational requirements of a veterinary practice
- Comparative functional anatomy for veterinary nursing practice
- Professional relationships and communication for veterinary nursing practice
- Applied animal welfare, health and husbandry for veterinary nursing
- Infection control in veterinary practice
- Essentials of practical veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals
- Supporting the supply of veterinary medicines
- Veterinary nursing support of diagnostic imaging
- Veterinary nursing support for laboratory diagnostics
- Supporting veterinary operating theatre practice
- Understanding the essentials of veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals
- Principles of supporting veterinary anaesthesia
- Preparing for professional registration
- Principles of peri-operative veterinary nursing support for small animals
- Principles of veterinary nursing support for small animal patients
- Principles of small animal veterinary nursing emergency and critical care
- Practical monitoring of small animal veterinary anaesthesia
- Practical peri-operative veterinary nursing support for small animals
- Practical veterinary nursing support of small animal patients

## Training, Tutoring and Assessment

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The whole programme takes 24 months to complete with two distinct elements to the diploma; practical skills and knowledge. Your apprentice will mainly learn on the job, but the apprenticeship also includes 20% off-the-job training. Throughout each of the two years, your trainee will spend four days a week working with you on site developing their practical skills and the other one day a week in College learning the theory and developing their knowledge.

Theory and knowledge is assessed by online examinations, assignments and case studies. The practical aspect of the diploma is assessed using an online training tool called the Nursing Progress Log (NPL) to provide evidence of practical training and competency. To assist the trainee with this they will need a designated mentor (clinical coach) in the work place. At the end of the diploma, trainees complete a final practical examination (OSCEs).

We will support you and your trainee through regular one-to-one visits by a trained assessor every six to eight weeks. These visits will cover one-to-one support and individual learning, as well as observations to assess your trainee's competencies in the workplace and a review of their portfolio of evidence. We will also provide full training and ongoing support to mentors in practice.

## Apprentice Entry Requirements

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Apprentices will be required to have 5 x GCSEs with minimum Grades C / 4 (or equivalents), including English Language, Maths and Science, prior to being accepted onto this apprenticeship. In addition if they haven't done so already, apprentices must achieve Level 2 Functional Skills in English and Maths. We will provide any English and Maths tuition required. Experience in the industry would be beneficial but is not essential.

## Future/Other Opportunities

Higher Education courses are available such as the Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing and Degree (BSc). Many Registered Veterinary Nurses will go on to 'top-up' their qualifications.

There is also an array of post-qualification professional certificates in specialist areas that can be achieved once qualified such as Emergency & Critical Care, Exotics, Practice/Business Management, Hydrotherapy and Behaviour to name a few!

## More information

To find out more about the opportunities and financing of apprenticeships and to discuss your particular requirements, please email [employer@sheffcol.ac.uk](mailto:employer@sheffcol.ac.uk) or call **0114 260 2600** to speak to one of our friendly employer advisors.

## Why choose The Sheffield College?

As one of the region's largest providers of apprenticeships, The Sheffield College is more than just your local provider; we deliver the dedicated support you need to source, train and get the best out of your apprentice.

We have invested in our Animal Care staff and facilities, building up a strong reputation. We were the first college nationally to receive formal recognition from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). Our experienced tutors have relevant industry experience including work with the RSPCA, veterinary practices and environmental conservation organisations.

We appreciate how difficult and time consuming it can be to recruit staff. That's why, when you recruit an apprentice with us, our dedicated apprenticeship recruitment service, Job Connect, will advertise the vacancy, engage your candidates and even pre-screen them to make the process as easy as possible for you.

We help you get the best deal by finding the right funding and we handle the paperwork to make the process of arranging an apprenticeship training programme as smooth as possible. Our employer partnership team, apprenticeship tutors and assessment staff are experts, and we invest time and money in training and upskilling them regularly so their knowledge is up-to-date and to industry standard.

## Get In Touch

**Email:**

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**Call:**

0114 260 2600

**Twitter:**

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