

Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal)

VSVN008

Qualification Handbook

January 2019 Version 3.6

Contents

Section	Form	Page
1	Introduction	3
1.1	About VetSkill	3
1.2	Customer service statement	3
1.3	Centre support	4
2	Qualification information	5
2.1	Purpose	5
2.2	Overview	6
2.3	Qualification structure	6
2.4	Assessment methods	7
2.5	Entry requirements	10
2.6	Age restrictions	11
2.7	Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	11
2.8	Total Qualification Time (TQT)	11
2.9	Exemptions	11
2.10	Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)	11
2.11	Reasonable adjustments	12
2.12	Special considerations	12
2.13	Appeals	12
2.14	Re-sits	12
3	Centre requirements	12
3.1	Centre approval	12
3.2	Qualification approval	13
3.3	Training Practice approval	13
4	Registration and Certification	13
4.1	Registration	13
4.2	Certification	13
5	Delivering the qualification	13
5.1	Tutors/Delivery staff	13
5.2	Support materials	14
5.3	Sources of additional information	14
6	Assessment	14
6.1	Assessor	14
6.2	Internal Quality Assurers	15
6.3	Physical resources	15
6.4	Year 1 Practical Skills Assessment (Formative)	15
6.5	Continuing Professional Development (CPD)	15
6.6	External Quality Assurance	15
6.7	External Examiner	16
6.8	Confidentiality and privacy	16
6.9	Grading	16
7	Units	17

1. Introduction

1.1 About VetSkill

We are an awarding organisation, recognised by the Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation (Ofqual) and the Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (CCEA Regulation). Our aim is to be the leading awarding organisation within the veterinary and animal care sectors.

The majority of our qualifications are designed especially for the veterinary care sector, providing for veterinary related occupations such as veterinary nurses, care assistants, receptionists and practice managers. We offer a range of other qualifications which service a wider animal welfare related clientele.

We are committed to developing qualifications that support dynamic career development pathways for learners whilst meeting the changing needs of employers.

1.2 Customer service statement

The way in which our qualifications are delivered is key to the reputation of VetSkill and our centres. We will therefore support centres and learners in every possible way to help you meet our quality standards.

Communication

We will:

- be easy to contact during our office opening hours of 8.30am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday, excluding Bank Holidays. We will notify you 1 month in advance of any additional planned office closures
- answer queries courteously, promptly and knowledgeably
- acknowledge correspondence (letters and emails) within 2 working days of receipt
- respond to correspondence (letters and emails) within 10 working days of receipt
- respond to telephone queries within 2 working days of the receipt of your call
- answer detailed telephone enquiries within 5 working days
- ensure that our published information is accessible, easy to understand and up-to-date

Registration and certification of learners

We will:

- process learner registrations within 5 working days of receipt of a valid application
- issue multiple choice external examination results within 20 working days of a test date
- publish a result schedule for other types of external assessment
- issue qualification certificates within 7 working days of receipt of a valid claim

External Quality Assurance

We will allocate you a named Quality Visitor (QV) when you receive confirmation of qualification approval. Your Quality Visitor will:

- visit your centre at least once a year, and visit a sample of work placement locations where relevant to the qualifications you offer
- provide you with an annual visit plan detailing the visits and other quality assurance activities to be undertaken
- provide a minimum of 40 working days' notice in relation to routine quality visits

- provide you with immediate oral feedback, following each visit, along with the opportunity to discuss findings and possible actions
- ensure you receive a written report within 5 working days of the visit date

1.3 Centre support

We will support our centres and learners in every possible way to help you meet our quality standards.

We will:

- provide an informative and accessible website where you can find up-to-date information for learners and centres, and download publications free of charge
- offer free or at-cost networking and training events throughout the year
- provide exemplar examination and assignment materials
- send email bulletins and a regular newsletter
- support the development of new centres

Helping us to help you

We can support you more effectively if you:

- quote your centre number, and learner numbers where appropriate, on all correspondence with us
- refer to our publications and disseminate them to staff and learners promptly
- observe instructions, especially on application forms, e.g. registration and examination applications
- keep appointments with VetSkill representatives
- tell us promptly about any specific problems – by letter, email or telephone
- make the focus of your call clear when you contact us, e.g. registrations, centre visits, examinations etc., so that we can quickly direct you to the appropriate person

Appeals and complaints

We will make every effort to resolve concerns that you may have. All enquiries, complaints and appeals must be addressed to the Standards Manager.

The VetSkill enquiries and appeals procedure, in relation to assessment and quality assurance decisions, are set out within the VetSkill Centre Handbook. We make a charge for the consideration of appeals, which is fully refundable in successful cases.

For help or advice please contact the VetSkill Customer Service Team:

Vet Skill Ltd
 Unit 1 Headland House
 Chord Business Park
 London Road
 Godmanchester
 Cambridgeshire
 PE29 2BQ

Tel: 01480 278 580

Fax: 01480 278 581

Email: info@vetskill.com

Website: www.vetskill.com

2. Qualification information

2.1 Purpose

This qualification is intended to support learners studying to become a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Registered Veterinary Nurse. A requirement of the professional regulator (RCVS) is that student veterinary nurses must undertake substantial work-based training in approved training practices.

This qualification will support the training and education of veterinary nurses for entry onto the RCVS register. It will address the Day One Competences and Skills stipulated by the RCVS, as the professional body, for such qualifications.

The aim of this qualification is for learners to gain the practical competence and knowledge that is relevant to the role of a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

The qualification delivered to learners should cover a range of companion animals, and must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit, and Guinea Pig.

Embedded within this qualification is the content required for a student veterinary nurse to become a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) for Companion Animals. Assessment and achievement of SQP status can be undertaken in 2 ways:

1. Learners who successfully achieve units VN01 to VN05 (including learners who decide not to continue to study the VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) qualification, may elect to undertake assessment for SQP status at a VetSkill nationally approved examination site.
2. Learners who successfully achieve units VN01 to VN10, and pass specifically the 2 Licence to Practise OSCEs, incorporating the SQP practical skills requirements, will receive a VetSkill SQP Certificate of Registration and will be automatically entered onto the VetSkill Register of SQPs, as a C-SQP for Companion Animals.

VetSkill are authorised by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to maintain a register for SQPs to prescribe and supply POM-VPS and NFA-VPS veterinary medicines. Once a student veterinary nurse becomes an SQP, they will be required to meet VetSkill's SQP CPD requirements to remain on the SQP Register. More information can be found at www.vetskill.com/sqp

The supporting taught programme should include a balance of teaching and learning strategies, designed to help learners develop knowledge, understanding and effective practical skills.

This document contains the information that centres need to offer the following qualification:

2.2 Overview

Qualification title and level:	VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal)		
Subject area:	3.3 Animal Care and Veterinary Science		
VetSkill qualification number:	VSVN008	Qualification accreditation number:	603/3359/5
First registration date	27/06/2018		
Last registration date	30/06/2021		
Last certification date	31/07/2024		

2.3 Qualification structure

The VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) comprises of the following 10 mandatory units:

VetSkill unit No	Accredited No	Title	Level	Credit	GLH	TQT
VN01	A/617/1262	Professional Veterinary Nursing Responsibilities	3	20	50	200
VN02	F/617/1263	Diagnostic Principles	3	30	75	300
VN03	J/617/1264	Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 1	3	30	75	300
VN04	L/617/1265	Pharmacology and Dispensary Management	3	20	50	200
VN05	R/617/1266	Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 1	3	20	50	200
VN05 must include a minimum of 900 in practice hours.						900
VN06	Y/617/1267	Anaesthesia and Theatre Nursing Skills	3	30	75	300
VN07	D/617/1268	Life Stage Nursing Care and Support	3	30	75	300
VN08	H/617/1269	Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 2	3	20	50	200
VN09	Y/617/1270	Surgical Nursing and Patient Care	3	20	50	200

VN10	D/617/1271	Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 2	3	20	50	200	
VN10 must include a minimum of 900 in practice hours.						900	
				Total	240	600	4200

This qualification has a total qualification time of 4200 hours, consisting of 600 guided learning hours (GLH), that may be delivered by the centre on the following basis:

- 440 glh as direct delivery e.g. classroom
- 160 glh as either direct, e.g. classroom or in-direct delivery, e.g. e-learning

This qualification complies with the requirements of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Veterinary Nursing Registration Rules. Under schedule 1, section 2, students must complete the programme of veterinary nurse education at an approved centre, lasting at least 2990 hours, excluding annual leave and absence. The programme consists of 4200 hours of total qualification time, which includes undertaking a minimum of 1800 hours of training in a RCVS approved training practice. It is a RCVS requirement that learners receive three hours of tutelage per week with the assessor.

2.4 Assessment methods

For this qualification, learners will be required to compile a portfolio of evidence, write assignments/case studies, pass multiple choice online examinations, and undertake practical assessments.

VetSkill Unit No	Title	Unit level assessment (conducted by centre)		Qualification Summative Assessment (conducted by VetSkill)
		Assessment of K & U	Assessment of Skills	
VN01	Professional Veterinary Nursing Responsibilities	Assignment/ case study		Multiple choice online examination
VN02	Diagnostic Principles			Multiple choice online examination
VN03	Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 1			Multiple choice online examination
VN04	Pharmacology and Dispensary Management	Assignment/ case study		Multiple choice online examination
VN05	Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 1	Portfolio		
Centre led Practical Skills Assessment . Assessing a student's knowledge, practical skills and behaviours covered in units VN01 – VN05				
VN06	Anaesthesia and Theatre Nursing Skills			Multiple choice online examination

VN07	Life Stage Nursing Care and Support	Assignment/ case study		Multiple choice online examination
VN08	Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 2	Assignment/ case study		Multiple choice online examination
VN09	Surgical Nursing and Patient Care	Assignment/ case study		
VN10	Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 2	Portfolio		
VetSkill administered Licence to Practise Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) . Assessing a student's knowledge, practical skill and behaviour				

2.4.1 Portfolio of evidence

For each unit, practical tasks, and knowledge and understanding tasks, will be presented in the form of a portfolio of evidence of competence.

The VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) portfolio is internally assessed by the Centre and externally sampled by VetSkill appointed Quality Visitors.

Time constraints

All evidence must be generated and assessed within the learner's period of registration. Centres should advise learners of any internal timescales for the completion and marking of centre-based assessments.

Evidence requirements

Portfolio:	Assessing units: VN05 – All VN10 – All
Marked by:	Centre

Assignment/case study:	Assessing units: VN01 - 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 7.a, 7.b, 7.c, 7.d VN04 - 4.c, 4.d, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c, 5.d, 5.e, 5.f, 6.d, 7.a, 7.b, 7.c VN07 - 1.d, 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 2.d, 2.e, 4.a, 4.b, 4.c VN08 - 4.a, 4.b, 4.c, 4.d, 5.c, 5.d VN09 - 6.a, 6.b, 6.c, 6.d, 6.e,
Word count:	VN01 - 2000 VN04 - 2500 VN07 - 2500

	VN08 - 1200 VN09 - 1200
Marked by:	Centre

2.4.2 Multiple choice online examination (MCQ)

Multiple choice question examinations are set and marked by **VetSkill** that assesses the **knowledge** elements of the qualification:

MCQ test	<p>Examining units:</p> <p>VN01 - 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 4.a, 4.b, 5.a, 5.b, 5.c, 5.d, 5.e, 6.a, 6.b, 6.c, 6.d, 6.e</p> <p>VN02 - All</p> <p>VN03 - All</p> <p>VN04 - 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1.d, 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 2.d, 2.e, 3.a, 3.b, 4.a, 4.b, 6.a, 6.b, 6.c, 6.e, 6.f</p> <p>VN06 - All</p> <p>VN07 - 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1.e, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d</p> <p>VN08 - 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 1.d, 1.e, 2.a, 2.b, 2.c, 2.d, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 3.e, 3.f, 3.g, 5.a, 5.b, 5.e</p> <p>VN09 - 1.a, 1.b, 1.c, 2.a, 3.a, 3.b, 3.c, 3.d, 3.e, 4.a, 5.a</p>
Duration:	<p>VN01 - 60 minutes</p> <p>VN02 - 60 minutes</p> <p>VN03 - 45 minutes</p> <p>VN04 - 45 minutes</p> <p>VN06 - 60 minutes</p> <p>VN07 - 45 minutes</p> <p>VN08 & VN09 - 60 minutes</p>
Number of questions:	<p>VN01 - 60 questions</p> <p>VN02 - 60 questions</p> <p>VN03 - 45 questions</p> <p>VN04 - 45 questions</p> <p>VN06 - 60 questions</p> <p>VN07 - 45 questions</p> <p>VN08 & VN09 - 60 questions</p>
Exam Dates:	On-demand
Marked by:	VetSkill

2.4.3 Practical skills assessment (formative)

The practical skills assessment element is set by VetSkill and marked by the **centre**, it is made up of a series of tasks which assess the **skills** elements of the qualification.

Practical Skills Assessment	Assessing RCVS Day One Skills from units VN01 – VN05
Number of tasks:	1 scenario which includes 6 tasks
Duration:	45 minutes
Exam Dates:	Set by centre
Marked by:	Centre

The **VetSkill** Licence to Practise Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) is made up of 12 stations, each lasting 8 minutes, including two minutes reading and preparation time, plus or minus 10%.

2.4.4 Practical skills assessment (Summative)

Practical Assessment	Assessing RCVS Day One Skills from units VN05 and VN10
Number of tasks:	12
Duration:	8 minutes each including two minutes reading and preparation time, plus or minus 10%
Exam Dates:	Pre-set exam dates
Marked by:	VetSkill

2.5 Entry requirements

Learners must have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A*-C (or 9-4), including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject, to register as a Student Veterinary Nurse on this programme. If you do not meet the GCSE requirement, there are alternative qualifications that may be acceptable. Level 2 Functional Skills in English and Maths are acceptable as an equivalent to GCSEs in English Language and Mathematics. For more information, please contact info@vetskill.com

2.5.1 International students

All foreign qualifications presented for entry must be officially translated into English with a notarised stamp.

International qualifications not taught and assessed in English may be acceptable, provided they are supported by proof of competence in the English Language by holding IELTS at a minimum score of 6.0 or recognised equivalent.

Please contact info@vetskill.com for advice.

It is for the centre to determine if an applicant meets these requirements, prior to the learner commencing the programme, through a process of initial assessment. It is the centre's responsibility to ensure that learners are in a realistic position to achieve the qualification within a reasonable time scale.

Access to this qualification is available to all learners who meet the entry requirements specified above and in accordance with the RCVS Disability Guidance on the Recruitment of Veterinary Nursing students.

The head of centre should ensure that all learners have access to the taught programme and assessment. Centres are required to actively check that equal opportunity policies are being adhered to.

Learners must, with reasonable adjustments, be able to achieve the full range of competences stipulated in the assessment criteria.

2.6 Age restrictions

This qualification is available to learners aged 16 years and over. VetSkill cannot accept any registrations for learners below 16 years.

2.7 Guided Learning Hours (GLH)

The guided learning hour's requirement for this qualification is 600 hours. It is a RCVS requirement that learners receive an additional three hours of tutelage per week with the assessor.

2.8 Total Qualification Time (TQT)

The expected number of hours required by a learner to complete this qualification is 4200 hours, which includes a minimum of 1800 hours undertaking practical training in an RCVS approved training practice.

2.9 Exemptions

No exemptions have been identified.

2.10 Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) recognises the contribution that a person's previous experience could contribute to a qualification. RPL may be permitted where the learner is an RCVS enrolled student veterinary nurse with more than 3 years' registration remaining.

Where a centre believes that a learner has previous experience that may be used towards the VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) qualification, they must complete VetSkills RPL form to clearly show how the learner's previous evidence has been mapped to the specific unit(s). This includes mapping the evidence against each of the relevant RCVS Day One Skills and Day One Competences.

The completed form(s) must be sent to VetSkill for approval.

2.11 Reasonable adjustments

Learners who are able to provide evidence of special assessment adjustments required (either educational or medical) will be catered for in accordance with the guidance provided in the *VetSkill Centre Handbook* and *Reasonable Adjustments Policy*.

2.12 Special consideration

Requests for special assessment consideration will be addressed in accordance with the guidance provided in the *VetSkill Centre Handbook* and *Special Consideration Policy*.

2.13 Appeals

Centres must have in place an auditable appeals procedure. If a learner is not satisfied with the conduct of an assessment, the head of centre should address the problem via the appeals procedure. If the learner remains dissatisfied with the outcome of his/her appeal, VetSkill will conduct a review of the process to ensure equitable management and outcome. All appeals must be clearly documented and made available to the Quality Visitor, or to VetSkill, if a review is requested.

Appeals in relation to VetSkill external examinations will be conducted in accordance with the *VetSkill Examination Enquiries & Appeals Policy*.

2.14 Re-sits

Learners may undertake a maximum of 3 re-sits for any single centre-based or VetSkill assessment.

Where a learner has undertaken 2 re-sits but has not achieved the required pass mark, centres are required to ensure that the learner undertakes a minimum of 3 months' relevant study before being enrolled for the 3rd and final permitted re-sit. Any learners undertaking re-sits must still be permitted to attend college and continue their studies. This will allow the learner to increase their knowledge, understanding and practical skills.

Learners who fail their 3rd re-sit are withdrawn from the qualification and may not re-apply for registration until a period of 6 months have lapsed from their date of withdrawal.

Guidance on the re-submission of assignments is detailed within each assignment pack.

3. Centre requirements

Centres offering this qualification must have approval from VetSkill.

3.1 Centre approval

New centres must apply for centre and qualification approval and will be subject to a site visit before approval can be granted.

Centres must meet the requirements of both VetSkill and the RCVS in order to be approved to deliver this qualification.

Upon gaining approval, the RCVS will contact the centre and provide them with a Centre Handbook. This will contain the Memorandum of Understanding between the centre and the RCVS, along with details about the enrolment of students, registration of newly qualified nurses, and the approval of Training Practices.

3.2 Qualification approval

Existing VetSkill approved centres must apply for specific approval to deliver the VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) qualification. Full details of the process for centre/qualification approval and the associated forms can be obtained from info@vetskill.com.

Centres applying for approval to deliver the VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) must have signed agreements in place with approved Training Practices to support the number of student veterinary nurses they will enrol.

3.3 Training Practice approval

Learners must undertake their practical training in an approved Training Practice.

Centres are required to have a contract in place with each affiliated Training Practice

VetSkill will carry out an annual quality-monitoring visit to each approved centre and its satellite centres.

VetSkill approved centres must undertake an annual audit of each affiliated Training Practice involving a site visit or virtual visit.

4. Registration and Certification

4.1 Registration

Learners must be registered for the qualification at the commencement of their course using the relevant application form available from VetSkill or by using the Web Portal online system.

Centres must ensure that learner official photo ID is also uploaded onto the system secured at the time of registration. This must be retained for audit by VetSkill Quality Visitors.

Tutors and assessors should ensure that learners registered onto the **VetSkill** Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) are using all assessment documentation for teaching and administration provided by VetSkill.

4.2 Certification

The award of full certificates (or unit certificates) will be provided to learners on receipt of a valid claim from the centre. Learners must have completed all units and passed all specified assessments in order to achieve the full qualification (or unit).

A Quality Visitor must sample completed portfolios and approve the centre to be able to claim certificates for successful learners.

5. Delivering the qualification

Centre staff may undertake more than one role, e.g. tutor and assessor or internal quality assurer, but cannot internally quality assure their own assessments.

5.1 Tutors/Delivery staff

Staff delivering this qualification must:

- hold at least a Level 3 qualification
- be technically competent in the area and subject for which they are delivering training
- have recent relevant experience in the specific area they will be delivering and assessing
- be occupationally knowledgeable in the area for which they are delivering training
- hold or be working towards a nationally recognised teaching or assessing qualification

5.2 Support materials

VetSkill provides the following publications and resources specifically for this qualification:

- Teaching and delivery support guide
- Assessment guide
- Sample multiple choice questions
- Assignment packs
- Learner Handbook

Year 1 Formative Practical Skills Assessment

- Practical Skills Assessment delivery guide
- Sample Practical Skills Assessment tasks
- Marking Criteria and mark sheets
- Equipment list

Licence to Practise OSCE's

- Sample OSCE tasks

5.3 Sources of additional information

Animal Welfare Act (England) 2006 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/45/contents>

Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1966/36>

RCVS <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/home/>

Veterinary Medicines Directorate <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/veterinary-medicines-directorate>

Institute for Apprenticeships <https://www.instituteforapprenticeships.org/>

6. Assessment

6.1 Assessors

Assessors must be occupationally competent in the area they are assessing and must be qualified to level 3 or above:

- they must have significant current experience of working in the industry at this level
- they should also hold A1 or D32/33 or TAQA qualification for assessors, or
- be working towards the current TAQA qualification for assessors, or
- hold grandfather rights approved by VetSkill

6.2 Internal quality assurers (IQAs)

Internal quality assurers/qualification co-ordinators must be occupationally competent and qualified to at least level 3 or above. IQAs:

- must have significant and current experience of working in the industry at this level
- should hold assessor qualifications, as above, and hold V1 or D34 or TAQA qualification for IQAs, or
- be working towards the current TAQA qualification for IQAs

6.3 Physical resources

This qualification requires learners to be in employment or volunteering in a role of a student veterinary nurse in an RCVS approved Training Practice in order to learn and demonstrate competence in the knowledge and practical skills required of this qualification, and complete the required 1800 hours of practical training.

6.4 Year 1 Practical Skills Assessment (Formative)

Centres are required to conduct the year one practical skills assessment and will need to appoint a team of centre assessors and an examiner.

Assessors must have the required subject knowledge and practical experience, as well as experience of conducting and assessing veterinary related practical examinations. They must be trained and standardised to assess learners to the examination standards required, under the VetSkill practical skills assessment requirements.

For each practical skills assessment event, the host centre will appoint an examiner to oversee and manage the running of the practical skills assessments. The centre's examiner must be experienced in conducting and assessing veterinary related practical examinations, and be the authoritative person to go to with queries.

Please refer to the Year 1 Practical Skills Formative Assessment guide for further information on delivering this assessment.

6.5 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Centres are expected to support their staff in ensuring that their knowledge of the occupational area and of best practice in delivery, mentoring, training, assessment, and internal quality assurance, remains current, and that it takes into account any national or legislative developments.

6.6 External quality assurance

Centres and their satellite sites will each be subject to a minimum of one external quality assurance visit annually by a VetSkill Quality Visitor. The frequency of visits and monitoring will be determined in accordance with VetSkill's risk policy. During visits, audits will take place on programme delivery and administrative systems, including the quality of record keeping, assessments, learner support and Training Practices where student veterinary nurses are undertaking their practical training.

Centres conducting examinations (MCQ, practical or written) may be subject to an exam monitoring visit by a Quality Visitor which may be scheduled with the centre or unannounced.

6.7 External Examiner

In accordance with RCVS requirements, an External Examiner is appointed by VetSkill to oversee VetSkill's Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal). The External Examiner will independently scrutinise all aspects of the qualification including delivery, assessment, marking, results, and pass rates.

6.8 Confidentiality and privacy

At all times, clients' rights to confidentiality, dignity and privacy must be maintained. All clients' records presented as learners' assessment evidence must be stored in the usual location within the workplace and referenced to the portfolio. Please refer to the General Data Protection Regulations.

6.9 Grading

The formative practical skills assessment can either be a pass or fail grade. The formative practical skills assessment is positioned at the end of year one and prior to the start of year two. Learners who fail the formative assessment will be provided with detailed feedback to help with areas of improvement but are still permitted to progress into year two.

The online multiple-choice question examinations and assignment/case studies are graded as either pass or distinction. In order to achieve a distinction overall, all online multiple choice question examinations (seven in total) and assignments (five in total) must be graded as a distinction.

The portfolio tasks, formative practical skills assessment and the VetSkill Licence to Practise Objective Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCEs) are graded as pass/fail only.

Online multiple-choice question examinations (Fail/Pass/Distinction)	Assignment/Case Studies (Fail/Pass/Distinction)	Portfolio (Fail/Pass)	Formative Practical Skills Assessment (Fail/Pass)	VetSkill Licence to Practise Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) (Fail/Pass)	Overall Grade (Fail/Pass/Distinction)
Fail	Fail	Fail	Pass/Fail	Fail	Fail
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Distinction	Pass	Pass/Fail	Pass	Distinction
Pass	Distinction	Pass	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass
Distinction	Pass	Pass	Pass/Fail	Pass	Pass
Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass/Fail	Fail	Fail
Distinction	Pass	Pass	Pass/Fail	Fail	Fail
Distinction	Distinction	Pass	Pass/Fail	Fail	Fail

7. Units – Year 1

Unit VN01 – Professional Veterinary Nursing Responsibilities

Unit Aim

This unit is intended to provide learners with the knowledge relating to health and safety within the veterinary practice, as well as legal and ethical duties and professional issues. This unit will prepare the learners for the professional veterinary nursing responsibilities that they are expected to comply with as student veterinary nurses and registered veterinary nurses, with direct links made to the RCVS Veterinary Nursing Code of Conduct throughout the unit.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

This unit is designed to develop the learner's understanding of professional practice.

This unit should be delivered to learners, covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

A multiple choice online examination (60 questions, 60 minutes) and an assignment/case study will be undertaken in order to achieve this unit.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 1.1 **Comply with Health and Safety requirements and local risk factors**
- 1.3 **Take appropriate action and report injury to self or others**
- 1.4 **Carry out a risk assessment for one area of the practice and instigate appropriate action**
- 1.5 **Comply with the requirements for reporting notifiable diseases and reportable diseases and injuries under RIDDOR**
- 2.1 **Communicate effectively using a variety of different methods**
- 2.2 **Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy**
- 2.3 **Access and store client and practice records according to practice policy and data protection laws**
- 2.4 **Admit patients**

- 2.6 Provide discharge information and guidance to owners**
- 2.7 Complete appropriate paperwork for referral and diagnostic services**
- 2.8 Practise evidence-based nursing**
- 2.9 Collaborate with inter-professional colleagues to improve professional practice and relationships**
- 2.10 Communicate effectively, expressing appropriate empathy and sympathy**

Unit VN01 – Professional Veterinary Nursing Responsibilities

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 20
 Guided Learning Hours: 50
 Total Unit Time 200

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Understand the use of animals in society	1.a	Know the role of animals in the UK to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Companion animals • Pets as therapy • Working animals • Breeding of animals 	11	
	1.b	Understand welfare legislation related to animal ownership and animal welfare, including pet passports and microchipping, Animal Welfare Act 2006, and welfare codes		
	1.c	Define responsible pet ownership, including responsible breeding, economics involved in pet ownership, animal hoarding, welfare cases and rehoming		
2. Know how to apply ethical principles to veterinary nursing	2.a	Identify ethical challenges that may occur in veterinary practice	2 and 11	2.9
	2.b	Identify personal and professional responsibilities in relation to ethical challenges and patient care issues		
	2.c	Explain professional reflection in relation to the role of the veterinary nurse		
	3.a	Recognise the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, in relation to veterinary nurses and student veterinary nurses, to include the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaning of Schedule 3 	1 and 2	2.2 and 2.3

3. Know the key elements of the legal framework for veterinary nursing practice		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope of veterinary nursing practise and licence to practise within the veterinary team 		
	3.b	Recognise the role of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) as the Regulatory Body, to include principles of professional registration and RCVS Code of Conduct. State the role of representative organisations and support networks		
	3.c	Identify common employment rights and responsibilities encountered in veterinary practice		
	3.d	Understand the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and your responsibilities as part of the veterinary team		
4. Know the accountability of veterinary nurses	4.a	Understand the roles of the Suitably Qualified Person (SQP), Student Veterinary Nurse (SVN), Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN), veterinary surgeon, nursing care assistants and lay persons	12 and 13	2.9
	4.b	Interpret the Day One Skills and Day One Competences, current veterinary nursing registration rules and Fitness to Practise		
5. Understand the legal and ethical duties to clients, colleagues and animals	5.a	Identify potential challenges that may lead to complaints, accusation of negligence, litigation or whistleblowing and the importance of communicating at all levels	4, 5 and 31	1.1, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5 2.2, 2.4, 2.7 and 2.10
	5.b	State the key health and safety legislation that applies in practice, and understand the need for risk assessments and how and when to report injuries or illnesses		
	5.c	Identify appropriate manual handling techniques		
	5.d	Define the principles of informed consent, to include client referrals/second opinions		
	5.e	State the appropriate reasons for euthanasia, and identify the support available for clients, owners and colleagues		
	6.a	Recognise the need for a practice team approach to inter-professional practice	3, 5 and 7	2.1 and 2.9

6. Understand the key principles of veterinary business	6.b	Define the principles of corporate practice, practice ownership, referral practice, public liability and other insurances, and the Practice Standards Scheme (PSS)		
	6.c	Define the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) Code of Practice and Suitably Qualified Persons (SQP) legislation		
	6.d	Define the use of ethical marketing and appropriate, professional and ethical use of social media, including General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		
	6.e	State the procedure for using common methods of communication in practice to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Telephone • Face-to-face • Insurance forms • Email • Written 		
7. Be able to describe the personal and professional role of the veterinary nurse	7.a	Summarise the need for personal growth, resilience, mindfulness, professional attitude and behaviour, to manage stress, compassion fatigue, and identify personal coping strategies	5, 6, 8, 9, 10 and 11	2.2, 2.4, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8 and 2.10
	7.b	Explain the relevance and importance of the application of evidence based veterinary nursing in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical governance • Nursing practise <p>Critically review and evaluate veterinary nursing literature and presentations, sourcing evidence and citing sources</p>		
	7.c	Explain the requirements to produce accurate clinical and client records and reports, including admission and discharge of patients, preventative medical advice, nursing consultations, pet identity paperwork, and insurance claims in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)		

	7.d	Summarise methods of dealing with clients in a range of circumstances, including times of grief and loss		
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Unit VN02 – Diagnostic Principles

Unit Aim

This unit enables learners to develop an understanding of the key principles of imaging and laboratory techniques to support the veterinary surgeon in making diagnoses.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

This unit relies on the application of anatomy and physiology theory to underpin the learner's understanding of the principles covered by the unit.

This unit should be delivered to learners, covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will pass a multiple choice online examination (60 questions, 60 minutes) in order to achieve this unit.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 1.2 Follow Standard Operating Procedures and manufacturer guidelines when using equipment and materials**
- 2.2 Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy**
- 2.7 Complete appropriate paperwork for referral and diagnostic services**
- 5.1 Discuss with the veterinary surgeon and prepare for an appropriate sampling strategy**
- 5.2 Take appropriate samples**
- 5.3 Carry out haematological analysis**
- 5.4 Carry out urinalysis**
- 5.5 Carry out faecal analysis**
- 5.6 Carry out skin and hair analysis**
- 5.7 Use a microscope**

- 5.8 Prepare samples for external analysis**
- 5.9 Record laboratory test results and communicate accurately to the appropriate clinician**
- 6.1 Prepare and use radiography equipment to produce a diagnostic image**
- 6.2 Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) and radiation monitoring equipment in accordance with practice local rules**
- 6.3 Position a patient to obtain a diagnostic image of the area of interest**
- 6.4 Process images according to practice procedure**
- 6.5 Record exposures and results of images according to practice procedure**
- 6.6 Prepare and support animals during endoscopy investigation**
- 6.7 Prepare and support animals during ultrasound investigation**
- 8.3 Dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous waste safely and correctly according to current legislation**

Unit VN02 – Diagnostic Principles

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 30
 Guided Learning Hours: 75
 Total Unit Time 300

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Understand the Health and Safety requirements for operating diagnostic imaging equipment in a veterinary practice	1.a	State the safety requirements for using diagnostic imaging equipment in veterinary practice, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ionising Radiation Regulations (2017) 		1.2 and 6.2
2. Know the principles of radiography	2.a	Identify the properties and effects of radiation, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Function of equipment, including tube head • Primary beam and scatter • Absorption by different materials/tissues • Effects of kV and mA 	20	6.1
	2.b	State types of image that can be produced using X-rays and Computer Tomography (CT)		
	2.c	State the design features of an X-ray room		
	2.d	State how to calculate exposure factors		

3. Know the principles of diagnostic imaging techniques, to include ultrasound examination, magnetic resonance imaging, and endoscopy	3.a	Define the use of imaging to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ultrasound • Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) • Computed Tomography (CT) • Scintigraphy • Endoscopy Identify the associated risks with these techniques	20	6.6 and 6.7
4. Know anatomical and physiological terminology and anatomical landmarks in live animals that are relevant to veterinary practise and diagnostic imaging	4.a	Define the use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • directional terms • joint and limb movement • anatomical boundaries of body cavities 		
	4.b	State relevant anatomical landmarks, including points of venous and arterial access		
	4.c	State the structure and function of the musculoskeletal system		
5. Know how to prepare animals for radiographs	5.a	State methods of patient restraint for radiographic examination	20	6.3
	5.b	Identify the standard radiographic positions and the use of positioning aids, to include collimation and centring, including views of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limbs • Head • Spine • Abdomen • Thorax 		
	5.c	State how to prepare an X-ray cassette and grid for use		

6. Understand image processing, recording exposures and results	6.a	Define the principles of digital and analogue radiography, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Correct submission details • Reasons for poor image quality 	20	2.2, 6.4 and 6.5
	6.b	State the advantages and limitations of digital radiography		
	6.c	State how to evaluate the diagnostic quality of a radiograph		
	6.d	Identify the requirements for effective recording and storage of diagnostic results		
7. Understand the safe use of the laboratory	7.a	State the requirements for the safe use of laboratory equipment, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation and maintenance • Calibration and quality control in relation to microscopes, analysers, centrifuge, refractometer	4	1.2, 5.1 and 8.3
	7.b	State Health and Safety practises in the veterinary laboratory		
	7.c	Define how to dispose of surplus pathological material and reagents safely		
8. Know how to identify samples under microscopic examination	8.a	State basic cell structure and tissue structure and appearance in relation to microscopic examination including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Urine • Bacterial • Fungi and yeast • Tissue types 		5.7
	8.b	State how to identify common endoparasites and common ectoparasites		

9. Know how to collect and prepare specimens for examination and transportation	9.a	State how to prepare the equipment and materials required for sample collection, preservation and transport, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Urine • Faeces • Skin • Hair • Tissue • Joint fluid/Cerebral Spinal Fluid (CSF) 	18	5.2 and 5.8
	9.b	State how to prepare animals for the collection of samples, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Urine • Faeces • Skin • Hair 		
	9.c	Define effective and safe sampling techniques, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Urine • Faeces • Skin • Hair 		
	9.d	State the requirements for the safe transport of specimens to include packaging and labelling		
	9.e	State how to store specimens safely and effectively prior to despatch		
10. Know how to test pathological specimens	10.a	State how to use commercial test kits effectively		5.9
	10.b	State how to carry out common test techniques, to include:		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Microscopy • Packed Cell Volume (PCV) • Blood smear • Urine Test strips • Use of refractometer – Specific Gravity (SG) • Glucose 		
	10.c	State how to record and report accurate and effective test results		
11. Know common laboratory techniques and how to record laboratory test results	11.a	Define procedures for taking appropriate samples	6, 18 and 19	2.7, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6 and 5.9
	11.b	Define haematological analysis		
	11.c	Define urinalysis		
	11.d	Define faecal analysis		
	11.e	Define analysis on hair and skin samples		
	11.f	State how to prepare samples for external analysis		
	11.g	State how to record laboratory test results accurately to the appropriate clinician		
	11.h	State the limitations of the test results and identify the significance of spurious results		

Unit VN03 – Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 1

Unit Aim

This unit provides learners with the theoretical underpinning knowledge relating to the care of patients in the veterinary environment.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

Throughout this unit, learners will develop their understanding of anatomy and physiology relevant to the patients in their care. Learners will develop the necessary knowledge to provide first aid to animals in an emergency situation.

This unit should be delivered to learners, covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will pass a multiple choice online examination (45 questions, 45 minutes) in order to achieve this unit.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 1.1 **Comply with Health and Safety requirements and local risk factors**
- 1.2 **Follow Standard Operating Procedures and manufacturer guidelines when using equipment and materials**
- 1.3 **Take appropriate action and report injury to self or others**
- 2.2 **Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy**
- 2.4 **Admit patients**
- 2.6 **Provide discharge information and guidance to owners**
- 2.8 **Practise evidence-based nursing**
- 2.9 **Collaborate with inter-professional colleagues to improve professional practice and relationships**
- 3.1 **Evaluate behavioural and environmental factors when approaching and handling animals**

- 3.2 Transport animals using approved manual handling and lifting procedures**
- 3.3 Select and wear appropriate personal protective equipment**
- 3.4 Demonstrate techniques for approaching and catching animals**
- 3.5 Lead and move animals using the most appropriate equipment for the species**
- 3.6 Use appropriate restraint methods suitable for the patient and situation with due consideration for animal welfare**
- 4.1 Use an appropriate model of care to deliver the nursing process and create care plans for a range of disorders and diseases**
- 4.2 Carry out a nursing assessment, ascertaining information about the patient's normal routine**
- 4.3 Perform a clinical examination and record findings**
- 4.4 Provide husbandry to animals within a veterinary setting; accommodation, nutrition and excretions**
- 4.5 Groom and bathe patients according to their needs**
- 4.6 Assess, monitor, manage and report the status of wounds**
- 4.7 Apply dressings appropriate to type of wound**
- 4.8 Apply bandages appropriate to species and condition**
- 4.9 Administer medicines prescribed by the veterinary surgeon in accordance with instructions from the manufacturer**
- 4.14 Administer first aid for a range of situations within the limits of law and the expertise of the student**
- 4.15 Assist with a range of emergency care techniques**
- 8.1 Recognise clinical signs of common notifiable and zoonotic diseases and undertake strategies to prevent spread and infection**
- 8.2 Formulate and implement an appropriate infection control strategy according to practice protocol**
- 8.3 Dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous waste safely and correctly according to current legislation**

8.4 Ensure appropriate hygiene skills are followed before and after handling animals and equipment

8.5 Carry out effective barrier nursing

Unit VN03 – Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 1

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 30
 Guided Learning Hours: 75
 Total Unit Time 300

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Understand how to handle and restrain patients for a range of procedures	1.a	State how to evaluate the behaviour in a range of species, taking into consideration different life stages and conditions	14	2.6, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6 and 4.9
	1.b	State how to evaluate patient wellbeing and identify signs of stress and distress		
	1.c	Identify the equipment and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) required to approach, catch, handle, lift, move and transport the range of patients		
	1.d	Identify appropriate commonly used restraint methods for examination and sample collection		
	1.e	Define techniques for administering medicines to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral • Rectal • Topical • Parenteral • Sites commonly used for injection 		
2. Know anatomical and physiological terminology and anatomical landmarks that are relevant to veterinary nursing care and in relation to patient restraint and	2.a	Identify relevant anatomical landmarks, including musculoskeletal features, to include breed conformation differentials		
	2.b	State the structure and function of the musculoskeletal system		
	2.c	Identify common sites for administration of medication to include:		

administration of medication		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intravenous (IV) – Saphenous, Jugular, Cephalic, Marginal ear vein (rabbit) • Intramuscular (IM) – Quadriceps, Lumbar • Intraperitoneal (IP) • Subcutaneous (Sub/cut or S/C) 		
3. Know how to plan nursing care for a range of hospitalised patients	3.a	State how to make a nursing assessment on a range of patients	11, 15 and 16	2.2, 2.4, 2.8, 2.9, 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
	3.b	Define the use of planning nursing care: to include, the nursing process, nursing frameworks, nursing models, nursing theories, range of care plans and care bundles		
	3.c	State the process of making a nursing decision, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission checklists • Gathering information from the client • Client preferences • Monitoring patients 		
	3.d	Recognise clinical and behavioural indicators of a change in condition, to include responses to shock, infection, pain and stress		
	3.e	Define how to undertake a clinical examination of patients, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History taking • Normal and abnormal findings, including levels of consciousness • Normal and abnormal excretions • Reporting findings • Temperature Pulse Respiration (TPR)/Capillary Refill Time (CRT)/Weight • Mobility 		
	3.f	Identify the importance of recording and reporting findings to veterinary surgeon and colleagues, and know how to do this		
	3.g	State the basic anatomy and function of the:		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulatory system (to include lymphatic vessels, tissues and fluid) • Respiratory system (to include the process of respiration) • Urinary system • Special senses • Skin, hair and associated glands • Reproductive system • Nervous system (to include structure of a neuron, the process of neurotransmission, location of peripheral nerves) <p>Taking into consideration age related changes for all of the above</p>		
4. Understand the need for patient primary nutritional assessments	4.a	State the parts and functions of the digestive tract and the process of digestion	15 and 16	4.4
	4.b	State the primary nutritional needs and the roles of essential nutrients for the range of patients at different life stages		
	4.c	State the process of bone development in relation to nutrition		
	4.d	State the process required to identify the need for dietary management of in-patients, to include body scoring		
5. Understand the principles of animal husbandry	5.a	State the “five welfare needs” that underpin the concept of animal welfare	16	4.4 and 4.5
	5.b	Identify current legislation and Codes of Practice in place to protect the welfare of animals		
	5.c	<p>Define the importance of key factors in maintaining animal health and welfare, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Feeding • Exercise • Grooming, bathing and claw care • Dental hygiene • Vaccination • Parasite control 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Companionship 		
	5.d	<p>State reproductive anatomy and physiology in the male and female, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Breeding cycles Natural mating Artificial Insemination (AI) Embryo Transfer (ET) 		
6. Understand the process of wound healing and management	6.a	State the process of cell division, basic cell structure and physiology	15 and 24	2.6, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8
	6.b	Define the process of wound healing		
	6.c	List the factors that impact on wound healing		
	6.d	<p>State the principles of wound management for a range of wounds, including surgical wounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wound assessment Care of chronic and infected wounds <p>Supporting client compliance (concordance)</p>		
	6.e	State the importance of recording and reporting findings to veterinary surgeon and colleagues		
	6.f	Define how to summarise and appraise a range of common dressing materials and bandages		
	6.g	State how to apply sterile dressings to wounds		
7. Know the principles of First Aid in relation to a veterinary practice	7.a	<p>Define how to prepare and assist with injuries and first aid emergencies inside and outside the practice, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scope of first aid 	17	4.14 and 4.15

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of case Safe methods of movement 		
	7.b	Define the process of triaging a patient in an emergency, preparing to admit an emergency case, and preparing the appropriate equipment and resources		
	7.c	State how to use oxygen therapy in emergency situations		
	7.d	Define the types of haemorrhage and the methods to assist in the arrest of haemorrhage		
	7.e	<p>Identify the first aid treatment requirements for a range of emergency care situations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Burns and scalds Fractures and dislocation Haemorrhage Compromised airway Ingestion of poisons Anaphylactic reaction Collapse Unconsciousness 		
8. Understand the types of infection and infection control in veterinary practice	8.a	Identify the major groups of disease producing infectious agents	4 and 21	1.1, 1.2, 1.5, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4 and 8.5
	8.b	Identify the risks of zoonosis, including clinical signs and notifiable diseases		
	8.c	State the implications of antibiotic resistance and protocols to reduce incidences		
	8.d	<p>Define the transmission of microorganisms and the ways in which the body's systems protect against disease, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immunology and the immune system 		

	8.e	<p>Define the principles of disinfection, sterilisation, antisepsis and asepsis, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Choice • Dilution rates • Health and Safety precautions 		
	8.f	<p>State the strategies used in veterinary practice to minimise the risk of the spread of disease, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barrier nursing 		
	8.g	<p>Define the role of the veterinary nurse in maintaining, assessing, and recording clinical cleanliness, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical audits • Assessing, maintaining and raising standards • Dealing with adverse events • Staff training and Continued Professional Development (CPD) 		
	8.h	<p>Define the safe principles of waste handling and the disposal of contaminated materials, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equipment • Consumables • Identification of hazardous and non-hazardous waste (including cytotoxic) • Cadavers • Tissue • Blood • Urine • Faeces 		
	8.i	<p>State the importance of personal hygiene and barrier nursing, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dress code 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective hand hygiene, including: antiseptic washes, alcohol gels and World Health Organisation (WHO) hand washing method• Effective use and disposal of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)		
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Unit VN04 – Pharmacology and Dispensary Management

Unit Aim

This unit is intended to develop an understanding of basic pharmacological principles and their application to safe patient care.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

This unit is designed to provide learners with grounding in basic veterinary pharmacy and the prescription, storage, supply and dispensing of medicines to standards required of a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP).

This unit should be delivered to learners covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will write an assignment/case study, and pass a multiple choice online examination (45 questions, 45 minutes) in order to achieve this unit.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 2.6 Provide discharge information and guidance to owners**
- 4.10 Monitor for adverse medication reactions and alert veterinary surgeon**
- 7.1 Ensure safe handling and management of pharmaceuticals in accordance with legislation**
- 7.2 Interpret prescriptions and prepare medicines for dispensing**
- 7.3 Maintain appropriate records**

Unit VN04 – Pharmacology and Dispensary Management

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 20
 Guided Learning Hours: 50
 Total Unit Time 200

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Understand the legal requirements of storing and supplying veterinary medicines	1.a	State the legal requirements in relation to veterinary medicines, the impact of the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the most current Veterinary Medicines Regulations	22	7.1 and 7.3
	1.b	Define the law in relation to veterinary prescribing, and the prescribing cascade system		
	1.c	Identify the legal categories of veterinary medicines		
	1.d	Identify the storage requirements and basic dispensary management and essential record keeping		
2. Know how to correctly dispense veterinary medicines	2.a	Identify the requirements for a legal veterinary prescription and relevant authorisation processes	23	7.2
	2.b	Identify the basic pharmaceutical groups of medicines commonly used in veterinary practice		
	2.c	Define packaging and labelling procedures for veterinary medicines		
	2.d	State the correct method to calculate and dispense appropriate quantities of veterinary medicines		
	2.e	State the information, instructions and administration techniques that should be provided to a client regarding the dispensing of a prescribed medicine		

3. Understand the normal form and function of body systems	3.a	Describe the structure and function of the gastro-intestinal tract and liver, and explain the process of excretion and absorption		
	3.b	State the structure and functions of the kidney in maintaining blood pressure and homeostasis and excretion		
4. Understand the principles of pharmacodynamics	4.a	State the patient factors that influence duration and action of medicines	4 and 24	4.10
	4.b	State how to interpret information from pharmaceutical data sheets, in relation to common veterinary drugs, to include an understanding of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action • Excretion • Side effects and Contraindications • Health and safety in handling • Nursing implications 		
	4.c	Summarise the procedure for reporting adverse reactions		
	4.d	Explain the term antibiotic resistance and describe the actions that veterinary nurses can take to reduce the risk		
5. Understand the role and remit of the Suitably Qualified Person (SQP)	5.a	Define the role of the Suitably Qualified Person (SQP), SQP nomination, and the categories under which SQPs may work	23	2.6, 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3
	5.b	Summarise the responsibilities of the veterinary nurse, as an SQP, to their clients, animals under their care, and the veterinary nursing profession, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring competence of the recipient and their intended use • Providing advice on warnings, contraindications and safe administration • Supply of correct specified product • Supply to correct named person on prescription • Appropriate checks 	VMD Code of Practice	VMD Code of Practice

	5.c	Explain the scope and role of the veterinary nurse and the action to take when work falls outside of the SQP remit		
	5.d	Recognise Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements as an SQP and maintenance of SQP registration		
	5.e	Describe the procedure for supplying medicines prescribed by another Registered Qualified Person (RQP)/SQP and delegated non-SQPs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within same premises • Within different premises 		
	5.f	Differentiate between the responsibility of acting under the direction of a veterinary surgeon and acting under own authority as an SQP		
6. Know how to interpret prescriptions and prepare medicines for dispensing	6.a	State how to prepare and dispense: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral preparations • Topical preparations • Parenteral preparations • Rectal preparations 	4	7.2
	6.b	State how to ensure the safe handling of pharmaceuticals		
	6.c	State how to dispose of excess medication and contaminated equipment correctly and safely		
	6.d	Describe how to record the administration of medicines, and monitor and record the effect on the patient		
	6.e	State how to report pharmacovigilance issues		
	6.f	Define the commonly used abbreviations and terms used in pharmacology		

7. Be able to summarise requirements for safe and effective supply of Veterinary Medicinal Products (VMPs)	7.a	Explain the act of prescribing medications and the factors to be considered when prescribing VMPs		2.6, 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3
	7.b	Describe the information required from a client to inform decision making when supplying VMPs		
	7.c	Describe safe supply of VMPs and explain advice on safe handling and administration		

Unit VN05 – Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 1

Unit Aim

This unit is intended to develop competence at the standards required of the RCVS Day One Skills.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

Learners will be trained in RCVS approved Training Practices to the standards required of the RCVS Day One Skills and Competences.

This unit should be delivered to learners covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will compile a portfolio of evidence confirming competence at the standards required by the RCVS.

Learners will also undertake a formative practical skills assessment under examination conditions, after which they receive feedback from the centre. Learners who successfully achieve units VN01 to VN05, by achieving a pass mark in the associated examinations and assignments, including learners who decide not to continue to study the VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Companion Animal) qualification in year 2, may elect to undertake assessment for C-SQP status at a VetSkill nationally approved examination site.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 1.1 Comply with Health and Safety requirements and local risk factors**
- 1.2 Follow Standard Operating Procedures and manufacturer guidelines when using equipment and materials**
- 1.3 Take appropriate action and report injury to self and others**
- 1.4 Carry out a risk assessment for one area of the practice and instigate appropriate action**
- 1.5 Comply with the requirements for reporting notifiable diseases and reportable diseases and injuries under RIDDOR**
- 2.1 Communicate effectively using a variety of different methods**

- 2.2 Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy**
- 2.3 Access and store client and practice records according to practice policy and data protection laws**
- 2.4 Admit patients**
- 2.6 Provide discharge information and guidance to owners**
- 2.7 Complete appropriate paperwork for referral and diagnostic services**
- 3.1 Evaluate behavioural and environmental factors when approaching and handling animals**
- 3.2 Transport animals using approved manual handling and lifting procedures**
- 3.3 Select and wear appropriate personal protective equipment**
- 3.4 Demonstrate techniques for approaching and catching animals**
- 3.5 Lead and move animals using the most appropriate equipment for the species**
- 3.6 Use appropriate restraint methods suitable for the patient and situation with due consideration for animal welfare**
- 4.1 Use an appropriate model of care to deliver the nursing process, and create care plans for a range of disorders and diseases**
- 4.2 Carry out a nursing assessment ascertaining information about the patient's normal routine**
- 4.3 Perform a clinical examination and record findings**
- 4.4 Provide husbandry to animals within a veterinary setting: accommodation, nutrition and excretions**
- 4.5 Groom and bathe patients according to their needs**
- 4.6 Assess, monitor, manage and report the status of wound**
- 4.7 Apply dressings appropriate to type of wound**
- 4.8 Apply bandages appropriate to species and condition**

- 4.9 Administer medicines prescribed by the veterinary surgeon in accordance with instructions from the manufacturer**
- 4.10 Monitor for adverse medication reactions and alert veterinary surgeon**
- 4.14 Administer first aid for a range of situations within the limits of law and the expertise of the student**
- 4.15 Assist with a range of emergency care techniques**
- 5.1 Discuss with the veterinary surgeon and prepare for an appropriate sampling strategy**
- 5.2 Take appropriate samples**
- 5.3 Carry out haematological analysis**
- 5.4 Carry out urinalysis**
- 5.5 Carry out faecal analysis**
- 5.6 Carry out skin and hair analysis**
- 5.7 Use a microscope**
- 5.8 Prepare samples for external analysis**
- 5.9 Record laboratory test results and communicate accurately to the appropriate clinician**
- 6.1 Prepare and use radiography equipment to produce diagnostic image**
- 6.2 Use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and radiation monitoring equipment, in accordance with practice local rule**
- 6.3 Position a patient to obtain a diagnostic image of the area of interest**
- 6.4 Process images according to practice procedure**
- 6.5 Record exposures and results of images according to practice procedure**
- 6.6 Prepare and support animals during endoscopy investigation**

- 6.7 Prepare and support animals during ultrasound investigation**
- 7.1 Ensure safe handling and management of pharmaceuticals in accordance with legislation**
- 7.2 Interpret prescriptions and prepare medicines for dispensing**
- 7.3 Maintain appropriate records**
- 8.1 Recognise clinical signs of common notifiable and zoonotic diseases, and undertake strategies to prevent spread and infection**
- 8.2 Formulate and implement an appropriate infection control strategy, according to practice protocol**
- 8.3 Dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous waste safely and correctly, according to current legislation**
- 8.4 Ensure appropriate hygiene skills are followed before and after handling animals and equipment**
- 8.5 Carry out effective barrier nursing**

Unit VN05 – Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 1

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 20
 Guided Learning Hours: 50
 Total Unit Time 200

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Skills
1. Be able to comply with Health & Safety requirements and local risk factors, and carry out risk assessments in suitable areas of the practice, instigating appropriate action	1.a	Carry out risk assessments in a range of areas and situations within the veterinary practice, record findings, and report to appropriate colleague or instigate appropriate action	1.1 and 1.4
2. Be able to follow standard operating procedures and manufacturer guidelines	2.a	Follow practice standard operating procedures for a range of nursing activities in a range of situations	1.2
	2.b	Follow manufacturer guidelines for a range of equipment	1.2
	2.c	Review, reflect on, audit and evaluate existing standard operational procedures	1.1, 1.2 and 1.4
3. Be able to take appropriate action and report injury to self or others	3.a	Complete an appropriate accident report form	1.3
	3.b	Comply with the requirements for reporting notifiable diseases and reportable diseases and injuries under RIDDOR	1.5
4. Be able to communicate effectively using a variety of different methods	4.a	Demonstrate suitable communication with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clients • Work colleagues • Veterinary professionals 	2.1

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public 	
	4.b	<p>Demonstrate suitable use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Written communication Social media Verbal communication Non-verbal communication Newsletters 	2.1
5. Be able to create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy	5.a	<p>Create records according to practice policy, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient records and reports Laboratory reports Admission and consent forms Client home care plans and instructions 	2.2
	5.b	Access and store client and practice records according to practice policy and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	2.3
	5.c	Identify the range of materials needed to support a veterinary practice, to include consumables, sterile supplies, pharmaceuticals, food	
6. Be able to admit patients	6.a	Use an assessment protocol to examine an animal in relation to admission	2.4
	6.b	<p>Respond appropriately to the economic status of clients and to client requests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insurance Fee estimates Charity referrals 	2.4
	6.c	Obtain written and verbal informed consent	2.4

	6.d	<p>Complete appropriate paperwork for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical histories • Referrals • Second opinions • Laboratory samples • Hereditary tests 	2.7
<p>7. Be able to evaluate behavioural and environmental factors when approaching and handling animals and demonstrate techniques to approach, catch, lead, move and transport animals</p>	7.a	Demonstrate how to recognise and minimise fear and distress when approaching and handling animals	3.1
	7.b	Demonstrate how to move and handle a range of animals and equipment safely, identifying risk factors, and using approved manual handling and lifting procedures	3.2 and 3.4
	7.c	Demonstrate approaching, moving and transporting patients suffering from a range of conditions	3.2 and 3.4
	7.d	Demonstrate the correct use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) when handling animals	3.3
	7.e	Demonstrate correct techniques for catching, holding and restraining cats, dogs, rabbits and guinea pigs	3.6
	7.f	Demonstrate how to lead and move animals using the most appropriate equipment for the species	3.5
<p>8. Be able to use appropriate restraint methods suitable for the patient and situation, with due consideration for animal welfare</p>	8.a	<p>Demonstrate how to restrain patients for a range of procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical examination • Sample collection • Administration of medicines • Introduction of appropriate airway management device 	3.6

	8.b	Demonstrate methods to maintain patient's emotional homeostasis and wellbeing, recognise signs of stress and distress and act accordingly when restraining an animal	3.6
9. Be able to use an appropriate model of care to deliver the nursing process and create care plans for a range of disorders and diseases	9.a	Demonstrate veterinary nursing problem solving when delivering nursing care to a range of patients using a reflective approach	4.1, 4.2 and 4.3
	9.b	Demonstrate the use of care plans and care bundles to inform delivery of nursing care across a range of veterinary conditions, to include medically and surgically related problems	4.1
	9.c	Recognise and report clinical and behavioural indicators of a change in condition, to include responses to shock, infection, pain and stress	4.1 and 4.2
	9.d	Report on patients and nursing activities in order to inform the review of care plans	4.1
	9.e	Demonstrate the use of care plans and care bundles for successful handover of patients	4.1
10. Be able to carry out a nursing assessment ascertaining information about the patient's normal routine	10.a	Provide an appropriate nursing environment, taking into account the patient's species, age condition and normal routines	4.2
	10.b	Ascertain the patient's normal routine, including information on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food and fluid intake • Urination and defaecation • Behaviour - response to pain, strangers, commands • Mobility • Sleep and rest 	4.2
	10.c	Demonstrate methods of maintaining personal hygiene levels when undertaking a nursing assessment on a patient	4.2
11. Be able to perform a clinical examination and record findings	11.a	Identify relevant anatomical landmarks, including musculoskeletal features, points of venous and arterial access and external genitalia	4.3

	11.b	<p>Perform a clinical examination and record all findings, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature Pulse Respiration (TPR) • Weight • Capillary Refill Time (CRT) • Mucous membranes 	4.3
12. Be able to provide husbandry to animals within a veterinary setting; accommodation, nutrition and excretions	12.a	<p>Clean, prepare and maintain accommodation for in-patients, to include consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Differing species requirements • Nature of clinical condition • Differing life stages 	4.4
	12.b	<p>Prepare appropriate food and fluids for patients, considering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking a nutritional assessment following WSAVA guidelines • Medical dietary requirements • Type and size of animal • Known likes, dislikes and normal feeding regimes 	4.4
	12.c	Monitor and record fluid and dietary intake	4.4
	12.d	Demonstrate appropriate methods of handling and disposing of soiled and infected material	4.4
13. Be able to groom and bathe patients according to their needs	13.a	<p>Demonstrate maintenance of hygiene for individual patients, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grooming and bathing • Cleansing of orifices 	4.5
	13.b	<p>Use strategies to address the psychological needs of in-patients, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment • Grooming and touch 	4.2, 4.4 and 4.5

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addressing stress, boredom 	
14. Be able to undertake effective wound management	14.a	<p>Demonstrate effective wound management techniques, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accurate assessment Management of wounds Monitoring wound status Reporting wound status Client education 	2.6 and 4.6
	14.b	<p>Demonstrate the application of dressings and bandages appropriate to the species, condition, and type of wound, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irrigation Taking swabs for bacteriology Use of aseptic technique Preparation of materials Application of suitable wound dressing Application of safe and effective retention bandages Strategies to prevent patient interference with dressings and bandages 	4.7 and 4.8
15. Be able to ensure safe handling and management of pharmaceuticals in accordance with legislation	15.a	<p>Demonstrate how to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Store Handle Dispose <p>of medicines in line with legislative guidance and specific requirements found in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC), and with reference to their drug category, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled Drugs (CD) Cytotoxic/cytostatic Hormone medicines requiring special handling and disposal 	7.1

16. Be able to interpret prescriptions and prepare medicines for dispensing	16.a	Demonstrate how to calculate drug dosages and confirm with colleague	7.2
	16.b	Demonstrate how to package and label medicines in accordance with legal requirements	7.2
	16.c	Demonstrate how to select and prepare a suitable pharmacological product in accordance with legal requirements	SQP
	16.d	Demonstrate how to write a prescription in accordance with legal requirements	SQP
17. Be able to administer medicines prescribed by the veterinary surgeon in accordance with instructions from the manufacturer, and maintain appropriate records	17.a	Interpret veterinary prescriptions and prepare medications for administration, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral preparations • Rectal preparations • Topical medicines • Medicines for injection, including subcutaneous, intramuscular, intravenous and intraperitoneal 	4.9
	17.b	Administer medicines, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral • Topical • Parenteral 	4.9
	17.c	Dispose of used equipment and surplus medication appropriately and safely	4.9
	17.d	Demonstrate how to dispense medicines safely and effectively, to include correct prescription, and safe handling of medicines	7.2
	17.e	Demonstrate to clients suitable techniques for administering medicine, to include instruction, demonstration and written guidance	4.9
	17.f	Record the administration of medicines and monitor for adverse medication reactions and alert veterinary surgeon	4.10

	17.g	Demonstrate maintenance of appropriate dispensing records, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlled Drugs (CD) Medicine records 	7.3
18. Be able to administer first aid for a range of situations within the limits of law and the expertise of the student and assist with a range of emergency care techniques	18.a	Record information to be given to a veterinary surgeon regarding a treated first aid casualty	4.14
	18.b	Demonstrate the principles of first aid management and treatment, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety of self and others Models of casualty assessment Safe methods of movement 	4.14
	18.c	Demonstrate first aid treatment techniques, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unconsciousness Compromised airway (including Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)) Haemorrhage Fractures Burns Ingestion of poison 	4.14
	18.d	Explain the concept of triage and identify situations that constitute emergencies, to include communication with client, lay persons	4.15
	18.e	Demonstrate how to prepare for the admission of an emergency case, to include consulting room, equipment, consumables and operating theatre	4.15
	18.f	Prepare, audit and replace the contents and maintenance of an emergency “crash box” or trolley	4.15
	18.g	Support the veterinary surgeon during resuscitation and stabilisation procedures	4.15
19. Be able to discuss with the veterinary surgeon and prepare an appropriate sampling strategy	19.a	Demonstrate how to carry out common test techniques, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Microscopy Packed Cell Volume (PCV) 	5.1

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood smear • Test strips • Use of analyser • Use of refractometer – Specific Gravity (SG) 	
	19.b	<p>Discuss and prepare an appropriate sampling strategy, to include the following samples and preparations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Urine • Faeces • Skin/hair • Tissue biopsies • Correct Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) • Clipping and preparing sample site • Preparing patient • Preparing equipment • Calibrating equipment 	5.1 and 5.2
	19.c	<p>Demonstrate effective and safe sampling techniques, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urine • Faeces • Blood • Hair pluck and skin • Bacterial swabs 	5.2
	19.d	<p>Carry out haematological analysis, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biochemistry • Haematology • Packed Cell Volume (PCV) • Blood smear 	5.3

	19.e	Demonstrate urinalysis on an appropriate sample, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific Gravity (SG) • Sediment analysis 	5.4
	19.f	Demonstrate faecal analysis, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gross visual analysis • Microscopic analysis • Quantitative examination 	5.5
	19.g	Demonstrate skin and hair analysis, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hair pluck • Tape strips • Coat brushings 	5.6
20. Be able to use a microscope	20.a	Demonstrate using a microscope, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use under low magnification • Use under high magnification • Use of oil immersion • Recording the Vernier scale readings 	5.7
	20.b	Identify basic cell structure, and tissue structure and appearance, in relation to microscopic examination, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blood • Urine • Bacterial • Fungi and yeast • Tissue types 	
	20.c	Identify common endoparasites and common ectoparasites	

21. Be able to prepare samples for external analysis, record laboratory results, and communicate accurately to appropriate veterinary colleague	21.a	Demonstrate how to store specimens safely and effectively prior to despatch	
	21.b	Demonstrate how to prepare samples for external analysis, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accurate completion of documentation • Correct packaging • Correct labelling • Correct preservation • Correct storage (see 19.c) 	5.8
	21.c	Demonstrate accurate and effective reporting of test results	5.9
22. Be able to prepare and use radiography equipment to produce a diagnostic image	22.a	Demonstrate how to set up a case for exposure, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification, collimation and centring • Placement of cassette and grid 	6.1
	22.b	Demonstrate use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and radiation monitoring equipment in accordance with practice local rules	6.2
	22.c	Demonstrate how to position a patient to obtain a diagnostic image of the area of interest, using standard radiographic positions and the use of positioning aids, to include views (appropriate to species) of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limbs • Head • Spine • Abdomen • Thorax 	6.3
	22.d	Process images according to practice procedure	6.4
	22.e	Record exposures and results of images according to practice procedure and demonstrate how to appraise the quality of the radiographic image	6.5

23. Be able to prepare and support a range of patients during diagnostic investigations	23.a	Prepare and support animals during endoscopic investigation	6.6
	23.b	Prepare and support animals during ultrasound investigation	6.7
24. Be able to formulate and implement an appropriate infection control strategy according to practice protocol	24.a	Recognise the clinical signs of common notifiable and zoonotic diseases, and undertake strategies to prevent spread of infection	8.1
	24.b	Apply principles of effective clinical cleaning, to include consulting rooms, kennel accommodation, laboratory, operating theatre	8.1 and 8.2
	24.c	Prepare, clean and maintain patient accommodation, wearing appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), and using appropriate cleaning and disinfectant solutions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward accommodation • Isolation accommodation • Examination rooms • Preparation area • Operating theatre 	8.2
	24.d	Demonstrate periodic deep cleaning of patient accommodation and after infected cases	8.2
25. Be able to dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous waste safely and correctly according to current legislation	25.a	Apply safe principles of waste handling and disposal in relation to contaminated materials, to include blood, urine, faeces, tissue, cadavers	8.3
	25.b	Demonstrate appropriate use of disposable protective clothing, to include gloves and aprons	8.4
	25.c	Demonstrate disposal of suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	8.4
26. Be able to ensure appropriate hygiene skills are followed before and after handling animals and equipment	26.a	Demonstrate effective hand hygiene, to include antiseptic washes and alcohol gels, and demonstrate World Health Organisation (WHO) hand washing method	8.4

27. Be able to carry out effective barrier nursing	27.a	Prepare isolation accommodation for an admission	8.5
	27.b	Demonstrate precautions initiated to limit the transfer of microorganisms, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective hand hygiene • Protective clothing • Recognising and managing fomites • Restricting access to isolation accommodation 	8.5
	27.c	Demonstrate the nursing requirements for isolated patients, to include reduction of stress, company, environmental enrichment	4.4 and 8.5
	27.d	Clean isolation accommodation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily cleaning regime • Terminal disinfection 	8.5

Unit VN06 – Anaesthesia and Theatre Nursing Skills

Unit Aim

This unit is intended to develop an understanding of the principles of anaesthesia and theatre practice.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

This unit is designed to provide learners with grounding in anaesthesia and theatre practice.

This unit should be delivered to learners covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will pass a multiple choice online examination (60 questions, 60 minutes) in order to achieve this unit.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 2.1 Communicate effectively using a variety of different methods**
- 2.2 Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy**
- 2.3 Access and store client and practice records according to practice policy and data protection laws**
- 9.1 Check and clean surgical instruments**
- 9.2 Prepare package and monitor the sterilisation of instruments and materials**
- 9.3 Prepare the theatre for use based on equipment and procedure**
- 9.4 Position patients appropriately on the operating table in accordance with the planned procedure, taking into account patient condition**
- 9.6 Assist as circulating nurse**
- 9.7 Prepare hands and arms using appropriate method**
- 9.8 Prepare for surgical assistance, wearing appropriate attire**

- 9.9 Put on surgical gloves (open gloving method) in an aseptic manner**
- 9.10 Maintain sterility of self and others during procedures**
- 9.12 Monitor and record materials during surgery**
- 9.13 Handle and pass instruments and equipment aseptically during surgery**
- 10.1 Assess the patient's anaesthetic risks**
- 10.2 Prepare for anaesthesia**
- 10.3 Prepare patients for anaesthesia**
- 10.4 Maintain and monitor the patient during the anaesthetic process**
- 10.5 Complete anaesthetic monitoring records**
- 10.6 Supervise recovery from anaesthesia**

Units Year 2

Unit VN06 – Anaesthesia and Theatre Nursing Skills

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 30
 Guided Learning Hours: 75
 Total Unit Time 300

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Understand the principles of instrument care and sterilisation	1.a	Define the care and regular checks to be made on common groups of instruments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care and storage • Materials used • Damage identification • Safe handling 	25 and 26	9.1 and 9.2
	1.b	Identify methods available to clean instruments effectively		
	1.c	State methods available to pack and label items for sterilisation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drapes and gowns • Surgical sets • Single instruments 		
	1.d	State the process and effectiveness of sterilisation using: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moist heat • Dry heat • Gas sterilisation • Gamma radiation • Cold chemical sterilisation 		

	1.e	Recognise the health and safety risks associated with the different methods of sterilisation		
	1.f	Define the use and maintenance of an autoclave		
	1.g	Identify methods of monitoring sterilisation processes		
2. Understand the management, handling and use of instruments during surgery	2.a	Identify commonly used instruments found in basic surgical sets and describe their use, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General surgical • Orthopaedic • Dental • Method of placing a suitable, specific instrument set out for use in the operating theatre 	27	9.6, 9.12 and 9.13
	2.b	Identify commonly used wound closure materials and state their properties and use, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suture materials • Glue • Staples 		
	2.c	State the safe methods of handling and passing a range of instruments, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bladed instruments • Mounted needles/needle holder 		
	2.d	State safe post-operative management of kits		
	2.e	State how to open and pass sterile materials correctly to a scrubbed nurse or surgeon and onto a sterile field		
	3.a	State routine cleaning protocols for theatre, including regular deep clean processes	26	

3. Know theatre preparation and protocol	3.b	<p>State the cleaning and maintenance protocols for a range of theatre equipment, and their use, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clippers • Lighting • Operating table and positioning aids • Hoists and stretchers • Diathermy • Suction 		9.3, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9 and 9.10
	3.c	Define the principles and practicalities of planning an operating list		
	3.d	<p>State how to behave appropriately in an operating theatre to ensure patient and staff safety, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal hygiene • Communication and movement around the theatre • Roles of the surgical team 		
	3.e	<p>State effective hand hygiene, including the use of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand washing/World Health Organisation (WHO) hand washing techniques • Surgical scrub • Alcohol gel 		
	3.f	<p>Recognise and define the use of operating theatre wear, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile gowns • Sterile gloves • Caps and masks • Scrubs • Operating footwear 		

4. Know the principles of anaesthesia and the function of anaesthetic drugs	4.a	Define the functions of the autonomic and somatic systems, and the Central Nervous System (CNS)	28	10.2
	4.b	Define the different forms of anaesthesia, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedation • General anaesthesia • Local anaesthesia • Intravenous regional anaesthesia 		
	4.c	State the function of key groups of anaesthetic drugs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sedatives • Intravenous drugs • Intramuscular drugs • Volatile anaesthetics and gaseous agents • Analgesics • Muscle relaxants • Pre-operative analgesia 		
	4.d	State the effects of general anaesthesia on an animal's physiology, including the impact on the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory system • Nervous system • Cardiovascular system and the difference the animal's life-stage can make to its ability to cope		
	4.e	Define the stages, planes and levels of anaesthesia, and the concept of balanced anaesthesia		
	4.f	State how to use circuit factors to calculate fresh gas flow rates for patients		

5. Know the function of a range of anaesthetic equipment	5.a	Define the function of an anaesthetic machine and state the maintenance of key parts of an anaesthetic machine	28	10.2
	5.b	State the use of re-breathing and non-rebreathing anaesthetic circuits		
	5.c	Identify suitable airway management devices available, and know how to prepare these for use		
	5.d	State the care and the use of monitoring equipment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulse oximeter • Capnograph • Electrocardiogram (ECG) • Ventilator • Blood pressure monitors • Oesophageal stethoscope 		
	5.e	State the safety checks necessary for anaesthetic equipment, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airway monitoring devices • Circuits • Anaesthetic machines • Pollution control systems 		
	5.f	State the use of pollution controls systems		
6. Know how to prepare a patient for anaesthesia and induction	6.a	State how to prepare patients for general anaesthesia, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-anaesthetic checks and assessment of patient risk • Fasting as appropriate 	28 and 29	9.4, 10.1, 10.2 and 10.3
	6.b	State the induction of general anaesthesia in patients, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premedication • Restraint and positioning of patient 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective intubation 		
	6.c	<p>State the preparation of materials and equipment and the support required for induction of the patient, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumables • Drugs • Intravenous (IV) fluids • Laryngoscopes • Airway management devices • Monitoring equipment 		
7. Understand the principles of anaesthetic monitoring	7.a	State the legal responsibilities for the induction, maintenance and recording of anaesthesia	29 and 30	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 10.4, 10.5 and 10.6
	7.b	<p>State the observations and recordings to be made on the anaesthetised patient, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature Pulse Respiration (TPR) • Muscle tone • Level of consciousness 		
	7.c	<p>Define the observations to be made during anaesthesia, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circuits and endotracheal tube/airway breathing device • Monitoring equipment • Gases and volatile agents • Ventilators 		
	7.d	<p>State the positioning, monitoring and supervision of the recovering patient, post anaesthesia, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extubation • Temperature Pulse Respiration (TPR) 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observations to be recorded and reported to veterinary surgeon 		
	7.e	<p>State the record keeping necessary during:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Admission for anaesthesia • Premedication • Induction • Anaesthesia • Recovery 		
8. Know how to recognise and respond to anaesthetic emergencies	8.a	<p>Define how to recognise an anaesthetic emergency, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory obstruction • Respiratory arrest • Cardiac arrest • Equipment failure 	29	10.4
	8.b	<p>State the protocols for the management of an anaesthetic emergency, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airway management • Utilisation of emergency drugs • Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR)/Intermittent Positive Pressure Ventilation (IPPV) 		

Unit VN07 – Life Stage Nursing Care and Support

Unit Aim

This unit provides an understanding of the body's responses to disease, trauma and pathological change.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

This unit is designed to provide learners with grounding in pathology, nursing care of medical conditions, reproduction and breeding, and client and patient support for palliative care and euthanasia. This includes an understanding of the processes of bereavement.

This unit should be delivered to learners covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will write an assignment/case study, and pass a multiple choice online examination (45 questions, 45 minutes) in order to achieve this unit.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 2.5 Conduct effective nursing consultations**
- 2.10 Communicate effectively, expressing appropriate empathy and sympathy**

Unit VN07 – Life Stage Nursing Care and Support

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 30
 Guided Learning Hours: 75
 Total Unit Time 300

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Know pathological changes to the normal functions of the patients	1.a	Define the function of the endocrine system and its control of body systems	11	
	1.b	State the pathology of a range of common medical disorders on body systems, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulatory • Respiratory • Urinary • Endocrine • Neurological and Sensory • Digestive • Reproductive • Musculoskeletal 		
	1.c	State the impact of the following on the patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced mobility • Abnormal behaviour • Sensory impairment • Metabolic disturbance • Impaired nutrition 		
	1.d	Recognise abnormal diagnostic test results, summarise the significance and impact of the results on the nursing of patients		

	1.e	<p>Define the nursing care required by patients suffering from a range of common medical disorders that affect body systems, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Circulatory • Respiratory • Urinary • Endocrine • Neurological and Sensory • Digestive • Reproductive • Musculoskeletal 		
<p>2. Understand the patient and the client support required for palliative care, and care of the patient with life limiting conditions</p>	2.a	<p>Identify factors that will affect the home care management of the patient:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient condition • Home circumstances • Early discharge • Verbal and written guidelines • Demonstration of medication • Applicable home care techniques 	11	2.5
	2.b	Describe suitable protocols to support owner concordance in home care management of medical patients		
	2.c	Explain the value of nursing clinics to follow up and monitor medical patients		
	2.d	Describe the long-term nursing care of the chronic medical patient and the importance of the veterinary team approach		
	2.e	Summarise the team approach to effective nursing clinics and the role of the veterinary nurse in consultations		
	3.a	State the key principles of inherited genetic disorders and knowledge of current relevant health schemes	11	

3. Understand the reproduction and breeding of animals	3.b	State the normal breeding cycle, and possible associated complications, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pseudocyesis • Pyometra 		
	3.c	Define intra-partum care, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparations • Normal labour • Normal parturition • Complications that may occur • Post-partum care 		
	3.d	Define the care and specific nursing considerations of neonates, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normal growth and development • Abnormalities • Hand rearing 		
4. Know how to support clients and colleagues through grief and loss	4.a	Summarise the psychological impact of loss and grieving on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The client • The veterinary team • Other animals 	31	2.10
	4.b	Describe the role of the veterinary nurse in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating with the client • Communicating bad news • Maintaining a sensitive, professional approach • Discussing the services available to assist clients and colleagues • Recognising clients from different cultures and communities 		
	4.c	Evaluate the national services available to assist clients to cope with loss		

Unit VN08 – Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 2

Unit Aim

This unit builds on the knowledge gained in unit VN03 – Nursing Care 1, providing learners with the theoretical underpinning knowledge relating to the care of patients in a veterinary environment.

On completion of this unit, the learner will be able to understand the requirements needed to perform a range of complex nursing procedures.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

The learner will understand the principles of fluid therapy, pain assessment, preventative care and physical therapy techniques.

This unit should be delivered to learners covering a range of companion animals, which must include Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will write an assignment/case study, and pass a single multiple choice online examination (60 questions, 60 minutes), which is a combined exam covering units VN08 and VN09.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 2.5 Conduct effective nursing consultations**
- 4.2 Carry out a nursing assessment, ascertaining information about the patient's normal routine**
- 4.3 Perform a clinical examination and record findings**
- 4.4 Provide husbandry to animals within a veterinary setting; accommodation, nutrition and excretions**
- 4.11 Provide fluid therapy to in-patients**
- 4.12 Assess pain and alert the veterinary surgeon**
- 4.13 Perform basic physical therapy techniques to aid mobilisation**

Unit VN08 – Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 2

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 20
 Guided Learning Hours: 50
 Total Unit Time 200

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Understand the need for nutritional assessments and assisted feeding of ill or post-operative patients	1.a	State the effects of common illness and injury on nutritional requirements	15	4.4
	1.b	State the preparation of appropriate food, following a nutritional assessment of the patient needs, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range of species and life stages • Normal feeding requirements and regimes • Medical or surgical dietary requirements • Nutritional additives 		
	1.c	State the methods and reasons of assisted feeding, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand feeding • Tube feeding • Strategies to reduce risk of food aversion 		
	1.d	State suitable methods of monitoring and recording food and fluid intake, considering the patient's condition		
	1.e	State the requirements of a suitable home care nutritional support plan for ill or post-operative patients		
2. Understand patient's individual fluid requirements	2.a	State how to calculate patient fluid requirements, following a hydration assessment, for a range of species	15	4.11
	2.b	State normal fluid compartments in the body, and the roles of electrolytes		

	2.c	<p>Define the use of fluid therapy, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of hydration status • Routes for fluid therapy, including intra-osseous • Available fluids • Catheter placement and care • Monitoring and recording observations of patients receiving Intravenous Fluid Therapy (IVFT) • Risks associated with fluid therapy • Reasons for fluid therapy 		
	2.d	<p>Define the use of blood transfusions in veterinary practice, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indications • Choice of suitable donor • Preparation of the donor and collection of blood • Monitoring patients receiving blood transfusions • Signs of transfusion reaction 		
3. Understand the need for pain assessment	3.a	State how and when to carry out a clinical examination and nursing assessment to identify pain in animals	30	4.2, 4.3 and 4.12
	3.b	State how to recognise signs of pain, stress and anxiety in animals		
	3.c	State the requirements for using a pain scoring assessment system		
	3.d	Identify patient pain relief methods, following a pain assessment		
	3.e	State the nursing management of patients requiring treatment for pain		
	3.f	State patient pain relief and pain management using drug therapy		
	3.g	Define the procedures for monitoring and recording pain management		

4. Understand physical therapy techniques	4.a	Describe the needs of patients with compromised mobility, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning • Bedding requirements and suitability • Physical therapy and massage, including thoracic percussion, Passive Range of Movement (PROM) and stretching • Assisted mobility • Bladder management 	15	4.13
	4.b	Summarise the psychological needs of hospitalised patients, and describe methods to support these, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental enrichment, e.g. mental stimulation • Tactile therapy • Stress management, e.g. pheromone therapy 		
	4.c	Explain the use of rehabilitation care plans		
	4.d	Describe the use of therapeutic exercise strategies for in-patients and in-home care plans		
5. Understand preventative health care	5.a	Define routine vaccination protocols, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diseases commonly vaccinated against • Timing of vaccinations • Role of the immune system 	32	2.5
	5.b	State the reasons for, and methods of achieving, parasite control		
	5.c	Explain microchipping requirements and benefits, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current legislation • Standards and types of chip available • Risks involved 		

	5.d	<p>Describe the role of nurse clinics in practice, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of clinics • Understanding the use of models for consultations, e.g. Calgary-Cambridge model • Commercial value of nurse clinics to practice • Identifying patients that require referral to veterinary surgeon 		
	5.e	<p>Identify the benefits and risks associated with neutering, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When to neuter • Types of neutering procedure • Other options for breeding control 		

Unit VN09 – Surgical Nursing and Patient Care

Unit Aim

This unit aims to build upon the knowledge gained from Nursing Care 1 and Nursing Care 2. Learners will gain specialised knowledge in surgical nursing.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

The learner will understand the principles of nursing pre-operative, peri-operative, post-operative, and the context of the surgical patient.

This unit should be delivered to learners covering a range of companion animals, which must include the Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will write an assignment/case study, and pass a single multiple choice online examination (60 questions, 60 minutes), which is a combined exam covering units VN08 and VN09.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 2.1 Communicate effectively using a variety of different methods**
- 2.2 Create accurate and legible written communications according to practice policy**
- 2.3 Access and store client and practice records according to practice policy and data protection laws**
- 2.4 Admit patients**
- 2.5 Conduct effective nursing consultations**
- 2.6 Provide discharge information and guidance to owners**
- 9.4 Position patients appropriately on the operating table, in accordance with the planned procedure, taking into account patient condition**
- 9.5 Prepare the surgical site appropriately for the procedure, in accordance with veterinary surgeon's preference**
- 9.6 Assist as circulating nurse**

9.11 Assist with draping patient maintaining sterility

Unit VN09 – Surgical Nursing and Patient Care

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 20
 Guided Learning Hours: 50
 Total Unit Time 200

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Competences	RCVS Day One Skills
1. Understand the requirements of preparing a patient for surgery	1.a	State the information required from the owner at admission for surgery, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of withdrawal period of food and fluids • Contact details • Informed consent • Signature • Animal’s normal routine 	5, 6 and 26	2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 9.4, 9.5 and 9.11
	1.b	State the information required by the owner at admission for surgery, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explanation of surgical procedure • Fee estimate • Follow up communications • Progress expectations • Surgical and anaesthetic risks 		
	1.c	State patient preparation, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient bathing • Clipping • Site identification • Patient positioning • Skin scrub • Final skin preparation • Draping 		

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of extremity bandages (if applicable) 		
2. Know peri-operative nursing requirements	2.a	<p>State the reason for monitoring and accurately recording:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient urine output • Blood loss • Consumables used during surgery • Surgical checklists • Updates to patient records 		9.6
3. Know post-operative nursing requirements	3.a	<p>State the process and requirements of the nursing handover from operating theatre team, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of surgical procedure • Significance of the anaesthetic/medications administered • Immediate observations at handover • After care instructions 		
	3.b	<p>State the requirement of immediate post-operative observations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vital signs • General demeanour • Urine output • Faecal output 		
	3.c	State the principles, and effective management of, post-operative pain		
	3.d	State the physiology, signs and immediate management requirements of post-operative shock		
	3.e	Define the management of non-routine surgical wounds, to include management of wound drains		

4. Know the nursing care required for the post-surgical convalescent patient	4.a	State the key post-operative nursing requirements for the convalescing patient		
5. Understand the specific nursing needs for patients pre- and post-operatively, following specific procedures	5.a	State specific nursing considerations for patients undergoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor surgery • Elective surgery • Abdominal surgery • Orthopaedic surgery • Ophthalmic surgery 	15	
6. Understand home care and home convalescence of the surgical patient	6.a	Describe the considerations to make when planning the discharge of the surgical patient, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient condition • Home circumstances • Early discharge • Verbal and written guidelines • Demonstration of medication • On-going treatments/physiotherapy needed 	5	2.1, 2.5 and 2.6
	6.b	Explain the preparation and implementation of a successful home care plan, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral and written guidance • Advice on when to contact the surgery and out of hours support 		
	6.c	Discuss the requirements for a successful discharge handover of a surgical patient to owner, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suitable time and location • Demonstration of administration of medication and/or other practical techniques 		

	6.d	Describe the need for long term hospitalisation of surgical patients, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patients unfit to return to home environment • Patients requiring re-admittance after post-operative check • Need for referral to veterinary surgeon for re-admission 		
	6.e	Explain the role of the veterinary nurse in post-operative checks and removal of sutures		

Unit VN10 – Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 2

Unit Aim

Building on the competence gained in unit VN05 – Practical Nursing Skills 1, learners will further develop their competence at the standards required of the RCVS.

Guidance on delivery and assessment

Delivery

Learners will be trained in RCVS approved Training Practices to the standards required of the RCVS Day One Skills and Competences.

This unit should be delivered to learners covering a range of companion animals, which must include Cat, Dog, Rabbit and Guinea Pig.

Assessment

Learners will write an assignment/case study and compile a portfolio of evidence confirming competence at the standard required by the RCVS.

Learners will be assessed by a VetSkill Licence to Practise OSCE containing 12 stations, each one 8 minutes long including two minutes reading and preparation time, plus or minus 10%.

RCVS Day One Skills

On completion of this unit, learners will have covered the theoretical knowledge necessary to have developed the following Day One Skills:

- 2.5 Conduct effective nursing consultations**
- 2.6 Provide discharge information and guidance to owners**
- 2.8 Practise evidence-based nursing**
- 2.9 Collaborate with inter-professional colleagues to improve professional practice and relationships**
- 2.10 Communicate effectively, expressing appropriate empathy and sympathy**
- 3.2 Transport animals using approved manual handling and lifting procedures**
- 4.1 Use an appropriate model of care to deliver the nursing process, and create care plans for a range of disorders and diseases**
- 4.2 Carry out a nursing assessment ascertaining information about the patient's normal routine**

- 4.3 Perform a clinical examination and record findings**
- 4.4 Provide husbandry to animals within a veterinary setting; accommodation, nutrition and excretions**
- 4.11 Provide fluid therapy to in-patients**
- 4.12 Assess pain and alert the veterinary surgeon**
- 4.13 Perform basic physical therapy techniques to aid mobilisation**
- 9.1 Check and clean surgical instruments**
- 9.2 Prepare, package and monitor sterilisation of instruments and materials**
- 9.3 Prepare the theatre for use based on equipment and procedure**
- 9.4 Position patients appropriately on the operating table, in accordance with the planned procedure, taking into account patient condition**
- 9.5 Prepare the surgical site appropriately for the procedure, in accordance with veterinary surgeon's preference**
- 9.6 Assist as circulating nurse**
- 9.7 Prepare hands and arms using appropriate method**
- 9.8 Prepare for surgical assistance, wearing appropriate attire**
- 9.9 Put on surgical gloves (open gloving method) in an aseptic manner to assist with sterile procedures**
- 9.10 Maintain sterility of self and others during procedures**
- 9.11 Assist with draping patient, maintaining sterility**
- 9.12 Monitor and record materials during surgery**
- 9.13 Handle and pass instruments and equipment aseptically during surgery**
- 10.1 Assess the patient's anaesthetic risks**
- 10.2 Prepare for anaesthesia**
- 10.3 Prepare patients for anaesthesia**

- 10.4 Maintain and monitor the patient during the anaesthetic process**
- 10.5 Complete anaesthetic monitoring records**
- 10.6 Supervise recovery from anaesthesia**

Unit VN10 – Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills 2

Unit level: 3
 Unit credit: 20
 Guided Learning Hours: 50
 Total Unit Time 200

Learning Outcome – <i>The learner will:</i>	Assessment Criteria – <i>The learner can:</i>		RCVS Day One Skills
1. Be able to conduct effective nursing consultations	1.a	Conduct effective consultations, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History taking • Appropriate examination • Identifying cases for veterinary referral • Application of treatments • Communication with clients • Record-keeping • General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 	2.5
	1.b	Identify suitable candidates for a nursing clinic in consultation with the veterinary surgeon	
	1.c	Demonstrate application of treatments and preventative health care medicine	
	1.d	Demonstrate microchip implantation	
2. Be able to provide discharge information and guidance to owners	2.a	Demonstrate effective communication, including oral and written guidance, and teaching of practical techniques, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advising clients on safe and correct routes of administration, and possible side effects of medications • Demonstrating safe medication administration techniques to clients • Advising clients on storage and disposal of medication • Wound care advice • Bandage care advice 	2.6

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrating patient massage/physical therapy techniques 	
3. Be able to practise evidence-based nursing	3.a	Complete an appropriate literature appraisal, to include discussion of findings with practice team	2.8
	3.b	Reflect on nursing skills and outcomes, using appropriate literature to support recommended changes	
4. Be able to collaborate with inter-professional colleagues to improve professional practice and relationships	4.a	Demonstrate the requirements for handover from the operating theatre and between shifts, to include surgical procedure, anaesthetic, observations at handover and treatment	2.8 and 2.9
	4.b	Demonstrate effective communication with the veterinary team in relation to the evaluation and review of nursing care	
	4.c	Demonstrate working as part of the veterinary team to undertake clinical audits	
	4.d	Demonstrate the ability to assess and reflect upon clinical audits and ethical findings	
	4.e	Use appropriate literature to support improved nursing care and resolve conflicts	
5. Be able to communicate effectively, expressing appropriate empathy and sympathy	5.a	Demonstrate effective professional support for the bereaved owner, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preparation for loss Support through euthanasia process Follow up support for a bereaved owner 	2.10
6. Be able to create care plans for a range of disorders and diseases	6.a	Plan, implement and evaluate care plans to address core nursing requirements during post-operative convalescence, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fluid and nutrition Elimination Mobility, exercise Pain relief, alleviation of stress Wound management 	2.6, 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3

	6.b	Deliver species-specific peri-operative nursing care to patients, including cats, dogs, rabbits or guinea pigs, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minor surgery • Abdominal procedures • Orthopaedic procedures 	
	6.c	Demonstrate effective care planning for discharge, to include condition of the patient and home circumstances	
	6.d	Apply appropriate models or frameworks to assess animals, plan, implement and evaluate nursing care (to include the nursing process, nursing frameworks, nursing models, nursing theories, range of care plans and care bundles)	
7. Be able to provide fluid therapy to in-patients	7.a	Demonstrate selection and preparation of appropriate fluids and equipment following veterinary surgeon instructions	4.11
	7.b	Demonstrate the safe and effective introduction of a peripheral intravenous catheter	
	7.c	Demonstrate suitable intravenous catheter management	
	7.d	Calculate amount and rate of fluid administration to a range of patients	
	7.e	Maintain and record fluid intake, to include intravenous fluids and oral intake	
8. Be able to assess pain and alert the veterinary surgeon	8.a	Carry out either a clinical examination or nursing assessment on an in-patient to assess for pain	4.2 and 4.12
	8.b	Recognise the signs of pain, stress and anxiety and take appropriate measures to reduce these, to include positioning, environment and analgesics	
	8.c	Assess score and evaluate pain for in-patients using a validated system, and alert the veterinary surgeon where the evaluation indicates that further patient pain management is required	
	9.a	Provide care for patients with compromised mobility, to include:	4.13

9. Be able to perform basic physical therapy techniques to aid mobilisation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning and changes of position • Bedding requirements • Physical therapy techniques 	
	9.b	<p>Demonstrate physical therapy techniques, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active chest physiotherapy (coupage) • Passive limb exercises • Active exercise • Massage 	
10. Be able to identify, check, clean, prepare, package and monitor the sterilisation of instruments and materials	10.a	<p>Identify commonly used instruments and explain their use, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General surgical • Dental • Orthopaedic 	9.1 and 9.2
	10.b	<p>Demonstrate how to clean instruments effectively, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manual cleaning • Ultrasonic cleaning 	
	10.c	Identify damage to surgical instruments and equipment and demonstrate methods of reporting damage	
	10.d	<p>Demonstrate how to pack and monitor items for sterilisation, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Single instruments • Instrument sets • Drapes and gowns 	
11. Be able to prepare the theatre for use based on equipment and procedure	11.a	<p>Demonstrate the safe use and care for key operating theatre equipment, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting • Adjustable table and positioning aids • Diathermy 	9.3

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suction 	
	11.b	Identify and prepare types of wound closure material, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutures • Staples • Glue • Butterfly dressings 	
12. Be able to prepare a patient appropriately for their planned procedure	12.a	Prepare a patient for surgery: clipping and skin preparation, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care and use of clippers • Identification of site • First skin scrub • Foot bandage and tourniquet 	9.4 and 9.5
	12.b	Prepare an animal in the operating theatre, to include positioning and final skin preparation in line with veterinary surgeons requirements	
13. Be able to provide post-operative wound care	13.a	Demonstrate care for surgical wounds, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Observation • Management of wound drains • Dressing and bandages • Removal of drains, closures • Preventing interference 	9.5
14. Be able to assist as circulating nurse	14.a	Open and pass sterile materials directly to scrubbed personnel	9.6
	14.b	Prepare ancillary equipment and powered equipment	
	14.c	Monitor and accurately record: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient urine output • Blood loss • Consumables used during surgery 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical checklists • Updates to patient records 	
15. Be able to prepare for surgical assistance, and maintain sterility of self and others during procedures	15.a	Demonstrate effective hand-hygiene, to include hand-washing, use of antiseptic gels and surgical “scrubbing”	9.7, 9.8, 9.9 and 9.10
	15.b	Prepare and wear operating theatre clothing, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Scrubs” and footwear • Caps and masks • Sterile gowns • Sterile gloves 	
	15.c	Demonstrate closed gloving method in an aseptic manner to assist with surgery	
	15.d	Demonstrate open gloving method in an aseptic manner to assist with sterile procedures	
	15.e	Demonstrate how to assist a surgeon to don sterile clothing and gloves	
16. Be able to assist with draping patient maintaining sterility	16.a	Demonstrate how to choose an appropriate drape for patient and procedure	9.11
	16.b	Demonstrate how to assist with draping a patient, ensuring that sterility is maintained	
17. Be able to monitor and record materials during surgery	17.a	Monitor and record the use of instruments and swabs, to include timing and recording of instrument and swab counts	9.12
	17.b	Demonstrate accurate use of surgical checklists	
18. Be able to handle and pass instruments and equipment aseptically during surgery	18.a	Open and pass sterile materials correctly, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handing to a scrubbed operator • Onto a sterile field 	9.13
	18.b	Demonstrate safe techniques for handling and passing instruments, which may include:	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passing bladed items • Mounting needles • Demounting blades 	
19. Be able to assess the patient's anaesthetic risks	19.a	Admit animals for surgery, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handover from owner • Checking consent • Recording contact details • Create nursing record 	10.1
	19.b	Demonstrate use of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Society of Anaesthesiologists (ASA) guidelines • Behaviour assessment • Temperament assessment to assess patient anaesthetic risks 	
20. Be able to prepare equipment for anaesthesia	20.a	Demonstrate the set-up and checks required of anaesthetic equipment, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate fresh gas flow rate according to species, weight and circuit factor • Appropriate airway management devices • Anaesthetic circuits • Anaesthetic machines • Pollution control systems • Monitoring equipment 	10.2
	20.b	Prepare materials and equipment needed for induction of anaesthesia, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumables • Drugs and Intravenous fluids • Laryngoscope • Endotracheal tubes/airway breathing device, laryngeal masks 	
	21.a	Administer prescribed pre-medicants, and assess patient response	

21. Be able to prepare patients for anaesthesia	21.b	Support the anaesthetist during anaesthetic induction, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restraint and positioning of the animal • Supply and management of equipment 	3.2 and 10.3
	21.c	Introduce airway management device, check position and secure	
	21.d	Transfer an anaesthetised animal safely into the operating theatre	
22. Be able to maintain and monitor the patient during the anaesthetic process and complete anaesthetic monitoring records	22.a	Observe and monitor an anaesthetised animal, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature, central and peripheral pulse, respiration • Level of consciousness and depth of anaesthesia • Muscle relaxation 	10.4 and 10.5
	22.b	Observe, monitor and record, as appropriate, the equipment used during an anaesthetic, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gases and volatile agents • Circuits and airway management device • Monitoring equipment 	
	22.c	Adjust anaesthetic agents accurately according to veterinary surgeon directions	
	22.d	Interpret and report observations to directing veterinary surgeon	
	22.e	Calculate and administer inhalation anaesthetic under veterinary surgeon direction	
	22.f	Record observations and make appropriate and accurate reports to the responsible veterinary surgeon	
	22.g	Record post-operative observations, to include vital signs, pain, urine output, wound appearance and drainage, and respond appropriately	

23. Be able to supervise recovery from anaesthesia	23.a	Prepare a suitable nursing environment for a post-operative patient, taking into account species, condition and procedure	4.4 and 10.6
	23.b	Position and monitor a patient during anaesthetic recovery, to include safe disconnection from anaesthetic equipment and extubation	
	23.c	Demonstrate the use of accurate recovery records	
	23.d	Communicate post-operative recovery and/or anaesthetic recovery progress to the supervising veterinary surgeon	
24. Be able to provide husbandry to ill or post-operative patients within a veterinary setting	24.a	Carry out a nutritional assessment of the patient's needs	4.4
	24.b	Calculate and prepare the appropriate food, following the nutritional assessment, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical or surgical dietary requirements • Nutritional additives 	
	24.c	Demonstrate the assisted feeding of a patient, to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand feeding • Tube feeding 	
	24.d	Monitor and record food and fluid intake, considering the patient's condition	
	24.e	Prepare a suitable home care nutritional support plan for the patient	