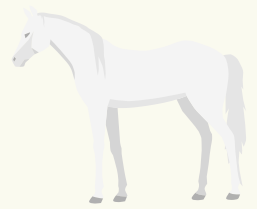
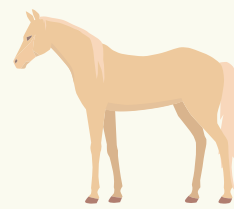
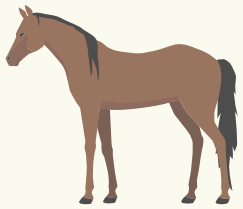


# Working as an...

## Equine Veterinary Nurse



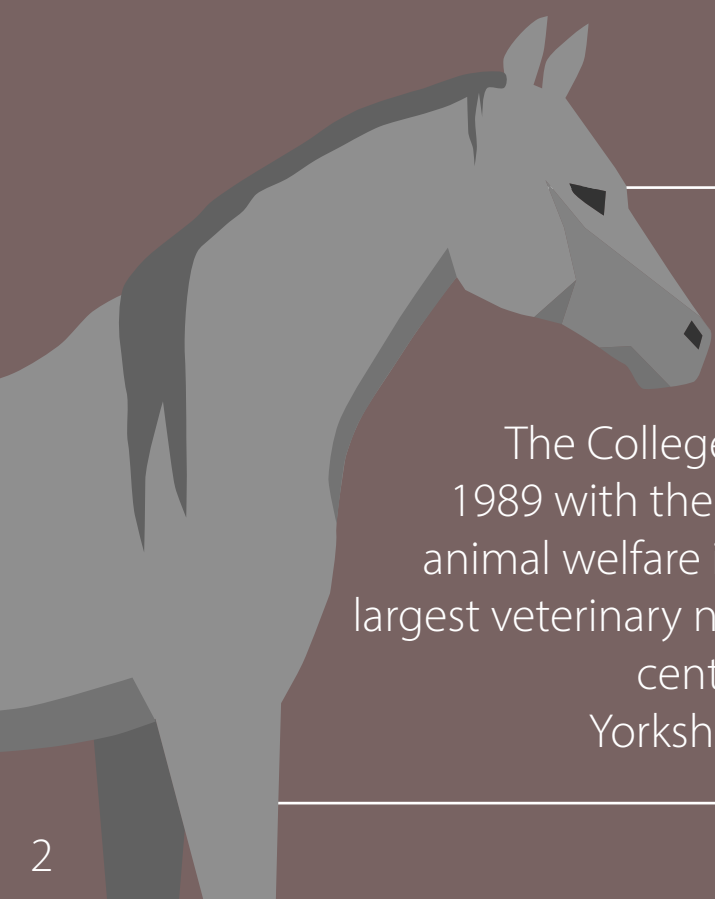
Careers  
Guide



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## More about The College of Animal Welfare

The College of Animal Welfare was established in 1989 with the vision to use education to help tackle animal welfare issues. Today, the College is one of the largest veterinary nurse training providers in the UK, with centres in Cambridgeshire, North London, Yorkshire, Greater Manchester and Scotland.

# What do Equine Veterinary Nurses do?



Equine veterinary nurses are vital to the running of a successful equine veterinary practice, and are responsible for working with veterinary surgeons to provide care and treatment to horses.

They perform a range of important duties such as...

Preparing horses for surgery

Taking bookings and completing paperwork

Advising owners on horse welfare

Cleaning and preparing the theatre and surgical instruments

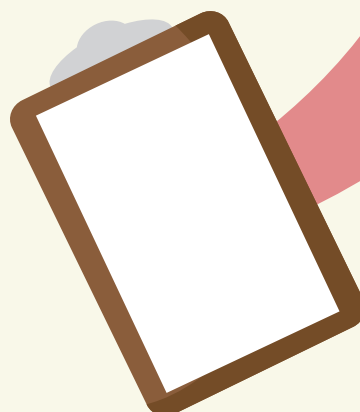
Dressing wounds

Nursing sick horses and administering medication under veterinary supervision

Taking x-rays and carrying out diagnostic tests

Answering phones and welcoming clients

And much more!



# Is Equine Veterinary Nursing for me?



## Why become an Equine Veterinary Nurse?

Equine veterinary nursing a natural choice for those with their heart set on work with horses. Joining the profession offers many benefits:

### **Gain real job prospects**

Job prospects for registered veterinary nurses continue to remain high. What's more – salary expectations have increased significantly in recent years, the median salary package for qualified veterinary nurses is now £30,500 (SPVS Salaries Survey 2022/3).

### **Join a rewarding profession**

Equine Veterinary Nurses make a real difference to the lives of horses every single day. The sense of purpose that comes from nursing an ill horse back to health, makes equine veterinary nursing a rewarding and worthwhile career.

### **Benefit from varied career options**

Equine veterinary nurses have numerous professional opportunities. You could work in first opinion practice; move into referral practice or work in industries such as management, research, teaching or sales.

### **Gain the gift of life-long learning**

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a mandatory requirement for equine veterinary nurses, leaving plenty of opportunity to pursue professional interests and undertake specialist training in a range of topics.

# Personal Qualities and Skills

Good equine veterinary nurses are hard-working, passionate about animals and dedicated to their work. Take a look at some of the skills and qualities that make a good veterinary nurse:

## Passion for horse welfare

It goes without saying that working as a veterinary nurse is a great choice for those who are caring, giving and motivated to do the best for others.

## Good team player

Equine veterinary nurses are often required to work together to complete certain tasks, therefore it's important that you're able to get along with and help others.

## Committed to ongoing learning

As continuing professional development (CPD) is a professional requirement for veterinary nurses, you should be passionate about learning new skills and undertaking regular training. We offer a range of CPD courses for VNs, available to view at: [cpd.caw.ac.uk](http://cpd.caw.ac.uk)

## Resilience

You should have the confidence to work with little supervision and have the skills to cope with the physical and emotional demands of the job.



# How do you become an Equine Veterinary Nurse?



## Qualifications and Training

In order to become an equine veterinary nurse, you'll need to complete a veterinary nursing qualification approved by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

There are two types of training:

### Further Education

Equine Veterinary Nursing  
Diploma or Apprenticeship

### Higher Education

FdSc or Bsc (Hons) Equine  
Veterinary Nursing Science

Entry requirements will vary by programme and provider.  
As a minimum, you'll usually need to:

- Be at least 16 years of age
- Hold 5 GCSEs at grades 9-4 (or A\* to C) including English, Maths and a Science Subject
- Gain relevant work experience or employment in an equine veterinary practice

A list of approved training providers  
can be found on the RCVS website.



*View page 7 for more details about training at CAW.*



# Level 3 Diploma in Equine Veterinary Nursing

Study in  
Cambridgeshire,  
West Sussex or  
Staffordshire

Studying with  
the UK's largest  
Vet Nurse  
training  
provider

## Entry requirements



- At least 16 years of age
- A minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or 9-4), including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject
- Employed in an RCVS approved equine or mixed (small animal and equine) Training Practice (TP) or Auxiliary Training Practice (aTP)

Contact us for further details on international or alternative qualifications.

## Delivery and course details

## Course attendance

Day release via Virtual Blended Delivery Classrooms. The majority of the theory element of the programme is delivered in virtual lecture format using our virtual delivery platform that allows you to engage with tutors and your peers in real time either from home or from work.

All virtual classroom sessions are recorded and are available to view after the event for consolidation of learning and revision purposes. Online exams are available via a remote invigilation platform as well as by physically attending one of our main centres. Practical training sessions are held in-centre in the college environment; you will attend your chosen centre for practical training days (approximately 10) throughout your programme.

## Course content

The qualification consists of a number of core units which cover the following subjects:

- Professional Equine Veterinary Nursing Responsibilities
- Diagnostic Principles
- Equine Veterinary Nursing Care Principles
- Supply of Veterinary Medicines
- Practical Equine Veterinary Nursing Skills
- Equine Anaesthesia
- Equine Theatre Nursing Skills
- Life Stage and Medical Nursing Care and Support
- Surgical Nursing and Patient Care

## Course details

**Study locations:** Huntingdon, Horsham or Lichfield

**Intakes:** For more details on start dates please visit [www.caw.ac.uk/vn](http://www.caw.ac.uk/vn)

**Length of study:** Those undertaking the course via the non apprenticeship route will complete a 30 months programme of study. Completion via the apprenticeship route is typically achieved within 30 – 36 months.



# How to Gain Work Experience or Employment in an Equine Veterinary Practice

You'll usually need to gain work experience or employment in an equine veterinary practice before training as a veterinary nurse.

## Take a look at our top tips and advice:



**Check online job boards** for student veterinary nurse positions, including Indeed, the CAW Jobs Board, Vet Times Jobs or Animal Jobs Direct.



**Follow veterinary colleges and practices on social media** to be the first to see any new vacancies posted.



**Contact your local veterinary practices directly** to ask for a work placement or enquire about employment opportunities.



**Attend relevant open evenings and career days** such as our *Careers With Animals Day* to discuss your career plans with local colleges and practices.



Please do not be put off from applying for a training programme if you do not have years of work experience. Good veterinary nurses come from all walks of life, with varying amounts of prior experience and applications will be judged on their own merit.





# Career Progression for Equine Veterinary Nurses



Career opportunities for qualified equine veterinary nurses are varied and wide-ranging...

Work as a **sales representative** for veterinary suppliers

Train to become a **veterinary physiotherapist** or **hydrotherapist**

Become a **Head Veterinary Nurse** or **practice manager**

Teach VN students in **education roles** such as **lecturing**

**Academic research roles**

Work in a **first opinion veterinary practice, referral practice** or **veterinary hospital**

Study additional qualifications or **pursue specialist training**

**Volunteer** or **work abroad**


**And much more!**



Huntingdon \* Leeds \* North London \* Edinburgh \* Wigan

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