



The College of  
Animal Welfare

**School of  
Veterinary  
Studies**  
Prospectus  
2024

# Welcome to The College of Animal Welfare



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# Who are we?

The College of Animal Welfare was established in 1989 by one of the leading animal welfare charities, Wood Green Animal Shelters in Cambridgeshire. The vision was to use education to help tackle animal welfare issues and the problem of unwanted and abandoned animals.

In 1996, the College, known at the time as the Wood Green College of Animal Welfare, became an independently managed, not-for-profit, organisation in its own right and changed its name to The College of Animal Welfare.

Today, we have college centres around the UK, as well as a distance learning school, and specialise in training in the land-based sector.

We strongly believe that education and training is the key to raising standards of animal welfare. To this end, we strive to create new and accessible opportunities for learning, and encourage employers and those working with animals to undertake appropriate levels of training and continue with lifelong learning and education.

# Our history

As the largest provider of veterinary nurse training in the UK, we can offer you the opportunity to study within a community of like-minded students and staff, who all share a common passion for animal welfare and a commitment to pushing forward what is already an exciting and rewarding profession.

The College has a well-earned reputation for excellence, delivering quality training and education, and has a history of being a pioneer with a number of unique achievements; the most notable are the creation of the first ever BSc (Hons) Veterinary Nursing programme in 1998 and the Level 2 Diploma for Veterinary Care Assistants programme in 2005.

To this day the College maintains strong links with the veterinary profession, particularly with Wood Green, Blue Cross, the Royal Society for the Protection of Cruelty to Animals, the Royal Veterinary College and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as well as numerous veterinary practices and animal related businesses.



**Register for  
an Open  
Day**

# Why The College of Animal Welfare?

## CARING

Over the years, we have developed teaching techniques and college systems to support you through your studies. We are here to help, we want you to succeed and we will do our utmost to help you achieve.

## EXPERIENCED

The lecturers delivering our veterinary nurse training have significant industry experience and knowledge under their belts and all share a common passion for pushing their profession forward.

## CONVENIENT

The easy, remote access to learning resources via our Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) means that learners get the best out of their studies with us, both in and outside of the college environment.

## INTERACTIVE

Our online course materials provide you with interactive, innovative ways of learning. In addition, you will benefit from FREE access to our extensive eLibrary.

“Apprentices develop substantial new knowledge and skills as a result of their training. They promptly apply their training in their job roles. They complete post-operation checks on pets after dental surgery. They know how to check vital signs, such as breathing, heart rate and temperature. As a result, they provide high-quality treatment for the animals in their care.”

“Apprentices and adult learners have good access to high-quality learning resources. An ambitious and engaging digital learning resource is well used by them to enhance and consolidate learning.”

### Ofsted 2022 Report

The College of Animal Welfare was graded ‘Good’ across the board following its most recent Ofsted inspection (2022)



# Our courses

## Veterinary Nursing

- Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing – Companion Animal Pathway (VetSkill)
- Level 3 Diploma in Equine Veterinary Nursing (VetSkill)
- Veterinary Nurse (Level 3) Apprenticeship – Companion Animal
- Veterinary Nurse (Level 3) Apprenticeship – Equine
- FdSc Veterinary Nursing (Royal Veterinary College)
- BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Top-Up Degree (Middlesex)
- BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year (Middlesex Uni) Huntingdon
- BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Degree (Middlesex Uni) London, Huntingdon or Leeds

See pages 10–27 for more details

Why not join us at one of our Open Days to discuss your options?

Read more on page 52

## Veterinary Care

- Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Care Support
- Veterinary Care Support: Level 2 Apprenticeship (Animal Care and Welfare Assistant)
- City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma for Veterinary Care Assistants
- City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Assisting Veterinary Surgeons in Monitoring of Animal Patients Under Anaesthesia and Sedation
- VetSkill Level 4 Certificate for Suitably Qualified Persons (SQP) – Companion Animal

See pages 28–37 for more details

## Veterinary Reception

- Level 2 Certificate for Veterinary Receptionists

See pages 38–41 for more details

Explore our  
veterinary  
courses



**“Providing innovative learning opportunities in pursuit of professional excellence”**



# Veterinary Nursing

Veterinary nursing is a natural choice for those with their minds set on working with animals. If you have a passion for animal welfare, then you are likely already familiar with the profession and the important role that veterinary nurses play in raising animal welfare standards.

Veterinary nurses are vital to the running of a successful veterinary practice, and are responsible for working with veterinary surgeons to provide care and treatment to a variety of different animals such as dogs, cats and rabbits.

The sense of purpose that comes from nursing an ill animal back to health, and the long-lasting friendships fostered whilst working as part of a close knit team, make becoming a veterinary nurse a worthwhile ambition.

**Explore our  
veterinary  
nursing  
courses**



# Why veterinary nursing?

## Gain real job prospects

Job prospects for registered veterinary nurses continue to remain high in veterinary practice and in related industries.

Salary prospects have improved significantly in recent years, the median salary package for qualified veterinary nurses is now £30,500 (SPVS Salaries Survey 2022/3).

## Life-long learning

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) is a mandatory requirement for Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs), with 15 hours per year being required by the RCVS.

This gives those working in the profession the gift of life-long learning and education.

## Varied career options

Upon completion of formal studies, veterinary nurses have numerous professional opportunities.

You could remain in first opinion practice; move into referral practice and specialise in a particular area, train as an equine veterinary nurse, or find work in related industries such as management, research, teaching, sales or rehabilitation with further training.

## Rewarding profession

The sense of purpose that comes from nursing an ill, abandoned or stray animal back to health, makes veterinary nursing a rewarding and worthwhile career.

## LEARN MORE AT CAREERS WITH ANIMALS DAY

Find out more on page 52

“ Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life. ”

– Confucius



# Gaining employment or work experience in a veterinary practice

Finding a job or doing voluntary work in a veterinary practice will help you decide whether a career working with animals is for you.

What's more - it can help you achieve the entry requirements needed to enrol onto training and education programmes, paving the way to future employment.



## Check online job boards

Job boards such as the The College of Animal Welfare job board, Vet Times Jobs, Indeed or Animal Jobs Direct regularly list advertisements from veterinary organisations.



## Contact animal organisations directly

Consider contacting organisations directly to introduce yourself and enquire about any work placement or employment opportunities.



## Look on veterinary organisation websites and social media

Many veterinary organisations post their latest opportunities on their website and social media.



## Ensure your CV is up-to-date

Keeping your CV up to-date means you'll be able to apply for positions as soon as they become available. Make sure your CV contains any relevant experience or hobbies that you may have.



## Attend open days

Careers events such as our **Careers With Animals Day** provide you with a perfect opportunity to explore careers in the industry and gain advice from industry professionals.



# Our Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing Diploma

This qualification will allow you to apply for professional registration as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

## Key Facts

- ✓ Day release delivery
- ✓ Pay monthly options
- ✓ Employed or non-employed options
- ✓ Virtual blended or centre attended

## Assessment

You will undertake a variety of assessments including online examinations, assignments and case studies. You will also complete an online Nursing Progress Log (NPL). At the end of year two there is a formative practical assessment. Final practical examinations (OSCEs) are undertaken on successful completion of all other assessments at the end of your programme.

## Entry requirements

You must have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or 9-4), including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject.

## Course content

Over the course of the qualification you will study 9 units:

- » Professional Veterinary Nursing Responsibilities
- » Diagnostic Principles
- » Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 1 and 2
- » Pharmacology and Dispensary Management
- » Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills
- » Anaesthesia and Theatre Nursing Skills
- » Life Stage and Medical Nursing Care Support
- » Surgical Nursing and Patient Care

Embedded within this qualification is the content required for you to become a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) for companion animals, allowing you to prescribe and/or supply certain veterinary medicinal products.



[View full course details](#)



## Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing – Companion Animal Pathway (VetSkill)

30–36 months

Run on a day basis, the programme can be undertaken via blended virtual learning or centre attendance.

Students who are already employed in a veterinary practice looking to undertake this qualification must be at least 16 years of age, be working in an RCVS approved TP or aTP and have the full support of the practice to support them through the qualification.

Non-employed students must be a minimum of 18 years of age on the 1st of the month in which the course starts. Please note non-employed students who are 16 years of age or over and hold the Level 2 Diploma for Veterinary Care Assistants, the VetSkill Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Care Support or the Veterinary Care Support (Level 2 Apprenticeship) qualification are welcome to apply. You will also need to have completed a minimum of two weeks' work experience in a veterinary environment within the last 12 months (preferably within a small animal first opinion veterinary practice) and be able to provide a satisfactory reference from a veterinary surgeon or RVN supporting your suitability for veterinary nurse training.

# Our Equine Veterinary Nursing Diploma

Study our equine veterinary nursing diploma and once you have successfully completed this course apply for professional registration as a Registered Veterinary Nurse with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

## Key Facts

- ✓ Virtual theory sessions
- ✓ Pay monthly options
- ✓ Choice of 3 centres
- ✓ Practical training sessions

## Assessment

Assessments include online examinations, assignments, case studies and formal practical assessments. You will also complete an online Nursing Progress Log (NPL) over the course of your training. Final practical examinations (OSCEs) are undertaken at the end of your programme.

## Entry requirements

You must have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or 9-4), including English Language, Mathematics and a Science. Students must be at least 16 years of age and employed in an equine or mixed (small animal and equine) veterinary practice approved by the RCVS as a Training Practice (TP) or Auxiliary Training Practice (aTP).

## Course content

The qualification consists of a number of core units:

- » 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

**If you do not meet these requirements, there are alternative qualifications that may be acceptable. Visit our website for more information.**

## Level 3 Diploma in Equine Veterinary Nursing (VetSkill)

30 months

Day release via Virtual Blended Delivery Classrooms. The majority of the theory element of the programme is delivered in virtual lecture format 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.

**View full course details**



# Our Apprenticeship in Companion Animal Veterinary Nursing

## Key Facts

- ✓ Study across England
- ✓ Practical training
- ✓ 6 hrs OTJ training per week
- ✓ Classroom based or blended

## Assessment

Assessments including online examinations, assignments, case studies, Nursing Progress Log, practical assessment, and an End Point Assessment (EPA) including OSCE's and a Professional Discussion.

If you are required to undertake Functional Skills Level 2 in English and Maths, these are assessed via online examinations and practical assessments.

## Entry requirements

You must have a minimum of five GCSEs at grade C or above (4-9), including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject, and be living and working in England in an RCVS approved Training Practice (TP or aTP) earning at least the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices.

## Course content

Over the course of the qualification you will study 9 units:

- » Professional Veterinary Nursing Responsibilities
- » Diagnostic Principles
- » Principles of Veterinary Nursing Care 1 and 2
- » Pharmacology and Dispensary Management
- » Practical Veterinary Nursing Skills
- » Anaesthesia and Theatre Nursing Skills
- » Life Stage and Medical Nursing Care Support
- » Surgical Nursing and Patient Care

Embedded within this qualification is the content required for you to become a Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) for companion animals. You also will undertake Functional Skills Level 2 in English and Maths unless exempt.

**If you do not meet these requirements, there are alternative qualifications that may be acceptable. Visit our website for more information.**



## Veterinary Nurse (Level 3) Apprenticeship – Companion Animal

30–36 months

As a veterinary nurse apprentice, you will be employed in a veterinary practice, earning a wage, and gaining vital practical skills and experience. This small animal qualification will cover the following species – Cats, Dogs, Rabbits and Guinea Pigs. You will study on a day release basis and have access to your course materials via our online Virtual Learning Environment (VLE).

On completion of your apprenticeship you will be eligible to apply to join the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' (RCVS) Register of Veterinary Nurses and use the post nominal term, RVN. Entry on the register allows you to legally practice as a veterinary nurse under the direction of a veterinary surgeon.

**View full course details**



# Our Apprenticeship in Equine Veterinary Nursing

## Key Facts

- ✓ Choice of 3 centres
- ✓ Practical training
- ✓ 6 hrs OTJ training per week
- ✓ Virtual theory sessions

## Entry requirements

You must have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C (or 9-4), including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject. If you do not meet these requirements, there are alternative qualifications that may be acceptable. You will need to be living and working in England in an equine or mixed (equine and small animal) RCVS approved Training Practice (TP or aTP) earning at least the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices.

## Assessment

Assessments will include examinations assignments/case studies, Nursing Progress Log, practical assessments, and the End Point Assessment (EPA). The EPA consists of a Professional Discussion and an equine OSCE. Functional Skills will be assessed via online examinations and practical assessments if required.

## Course content

The qualification consists of a number of core units:

- » 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

The VetSkill Level 3 Diploma in Equine Veterinary Nursing will be gained alongside the apprenticeship qualification. You will undertake Functional Skills Level 2 English and Maths unless exempt.

**If you do not meet these requirements, there are alternative qualifications that may be acceptable. Visit our website for more information.**



## Veterinary Nurse (Level 3) Apprenticeship - Equine

30-36 months

As an apprentice veterinary nurse undergoing the equine pathway, you will be employed in an equine or mixed (equine and small animal) veterinary practice, earning a wage, and gaining vital practical skills and experience.

As part of this apprenticeship you will also receive the Level 3 Diploma in Equine Veterinary Nursing qualification and be eligible to apply for professional registration with the RCVS.

[View full course details](#)



# Our FdSc Veterinary Nursing Programme

## Key Facts

- ✓ Full time course
- ✓ Practical training
- ✓ 3 year duration
- ✓ Based at the RVC London

## Entry requirements

Application rates for this course are high, and offers for a place are competitive. A list of acceptable entry requirements (both academic and work experience) can be found on the Royal Veterinary College's website.

## Assessment

In order to complete the foundation degree, you will be required to pass all of the University's practical and written assessments and examinations.

**The full course content breakdown can be found on our website.**

## Course content

Throughout the course you will undertake a number of units:

- » Professional Development and Clinical Skills 1
- » Clinical Nursing Practice 1 & 2
- » Veterinary Nursing Applied Science 1 & 2
- » Professional Development and Clinical Skills 2
- » Emergency, Critical Care Nursing and Anaesthesia
- » Diagnostic Techniques
- » Professional Development and Clinical Skills 3
- » Applied Nursing Care
- » Professional Practice

Clinical practice is a significant element of the course, and will be experienced in between your theory blocks. Your placements will be arranged for you in RCVS approved Training Practices by The College of Animal Welfare's placement liaison team. You will have the opportunity to train at a range of veterinary practices, including the Royal Veterinary College's own world-leading hospitals, giving you hands-on experience and a real insight into the day-to-day role of a vet nurse.



## FdSc Veterinary Nursing (Royal Veterinary College)

3 years full time

This three year, full time, programme - delivered and awarded by the Royal Veterinary College (University of London) in partnership with The College of Animal Welfare - allows graduates to apply to join the RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses. It provides the unique opportunity to study veterinary nursing at the UK's oldest veterinary school, and to be taught by world renowned clinicians.

Graduates of the Royal Veterinary College's Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing are able to apply to join the RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses. Following the submission of the registration form and fee, successful applicants will then be entitled to call themselves a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) and use the post nominal term, RVN, after their name.

**View full course details**



# Our BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Programme

## Key Facts

- ✓ Study in the UK
- ✓ Gain a degree
- ✓ Various pathways
- ✓ Application via UCAS

## Entry requirements

Entry requirements can be found on our website. Top Up Degree applications are conducted via Middlesex University. All degree applications are conducted externally through UCAS.

## Course content

An overview of course content and delivery can be found by visiting the course information page.

Achieving a degree could help you stand out when applying for leadership and specialised opportunities in practice.

## Assessment

Assessment consists of a variety of methods including written examinations, coursework, practical assessments, presentations and assignments. Assessment methods for each programme can be found on our website.

[Explore our Top-Up Degree programme](#)

[Explore our BSc Honours with Foundation Year programme](#)

[Explore our BSc Honours Degree programme](#)



## BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Top-Up Degree (Middlesex University)

2 years FT / 4 years PT

Perfect for diploma level veterinary nurses looking to 'top up' their qualification to a BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing degree.

## BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing with Foundation Year (Middlesex University) Huntingdon

5 years

This programme offers an alternative entry pathway onto the BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing programme for those who do not meet the necessary entry requirements.



## BSc Honours Veterinary Nursing Degree (Middlesex University) London, Huntingdon or Leeds

4 years FT

Jointly developed by Middlesex University and The College of Animal Welfare.



# Veterinary Care

Veterinary care assistants are important members of today's modern veterinary team; working alongside veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses to provide vital nursing care.

Working as a veterinary care assistant is an ideal choice for those who are passionate about animals and good with people, as supporting the veterinary team can involve a significant amount of client care in addition to the hands on nursing of animals.

As a veterinary care professional no two days would be the same, and the rewards that come from helping an animal back to health and working as part of a dedicated team make the job extremely worthwhile.

**Explore our**  
**veterinary**  
**care**  
**courses**



# Our Veterinary Care Qualifications

Veterinary care assistants are important members of today's modern veterinary team. They work alongside veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses to provide vital nursing care, ensuring that the well-being of small animal patients is paramount.

## Key Facts

- ✓ DL Tutor support
- ✓ No college attendance
- ✓ Practical training
- ✓ Start at any time

## Entry requirements

There are no formal academic entry requirements, however you must be competent in reading, writing and speaking the English language as all course materials and assessments are delivered in English.

You must be volunteering or employed within a clinical role in a veterinary practice for a minimum of 10 hours per week for the full duration of your course. You may be asked to provide a reference from a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse supporting your application and confirming you have completed a minimum of three months of regular employed or voluntary work prior to starting the programme. You require a dedicated mentor agreed within your practice.

## Course content

These courses cover the key skills and knowledge needed to provide a good level of support to the veterinary team, covering subjects such as:

- » Legislation and Safe Working Practices
- » Animal Health and Welfare
- » Animal Environment and Accommodation
- » Introduction to Patient Care
- » Introduction to Animal Anatomy and Physiology
- » Veterinary Care Support
- » Principles and Practices of Administrative Duties

Further details about course content can be found on our website.

## Assessment

Assessment varies across the two courses, including methods such as: a portfolio of evidence, written and practical assignments and online multi choice question tests.



## Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Care Support

12 months

This qualification is designed for those working in a veterinary care support role. During the programme you will learn the relevant practical skills and underpinning knowledge needed to provide a good level of support to the veterinary nurses and veterinary surgeon.

## City & Guilds Level 2 Diploma for Veterinary Care Assistants

12 - 18 months

This online, distance learning course is ideal for those working or volunteering in a veterinary environment assisting veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses with the care of small animal patients.



[Explore our veterinary care courses](#)





# Our Veterinary Care Apprenticeship

As a veterinary care apprentice you will work in a veterinary environment providing supportive care to small animal patients and supporting the veterinary team. You will gain practical on-the-job skills whilst studying for your apprenticeship via online distance learning.

## Key Facts

- ✓ Start at any time
- ✓ No college attendance
- ✓ 6 hrs OTJ training per week
- ✓ Web based tutor support

## Entry requirements

There are no formal academic entry requirements. However, you will need to be living and working in England within a clinical role in a veterinary environment and earning at least the National Minimum Wage for Apprentices.

## Assessment

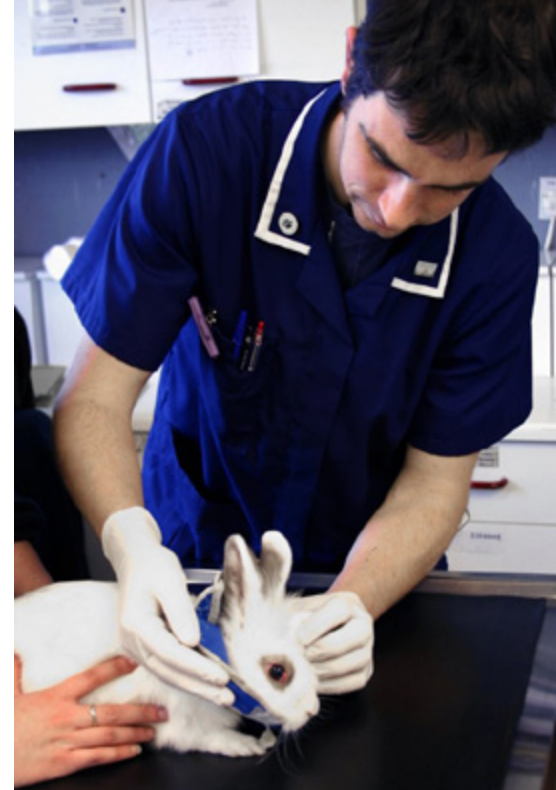
Methods include: a portfolio of evidence and an End Point Assessment consisting of a practical assessment and professional discussion. You will undertake Functional Skills Level 1 and 2 in English and Maths unless exempt.

## Course content

The apprenticeships cover key skills, knowledge and behaviours needed to thrive in a veterinary support role, such as:

- » UK and EU Animal related legislation
- » Basic Anatomy and Physiology
- » The behaviours of the animal, applicable to species and how it impacts care and welfare
- » The Importance of human and animal bond
- » Maintain hygiene, bio security procedures and infection controls
- » Respond to animal first aid, urgent, ongoing and preventive care requirements
- » Safe working, work ethic, responsibility, team work, communication and professionalism.

See pages 14–15 for tips on gaining employment in a veterinary practice.



## Veterinary Care Support: Level 2 Apprenticeship (Animal Care and Welfare Assistant)

12 – 18 months

Veterinary Care Support (VCS) professionals are essential members of today's modern veterinary practice, working alongside veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses to provide vital nursing care to small animal patients. A hugely varied role, there are no days the same.

You will be employed in a veterinary practice gaining vital practical skills and experience, and earning a wage alongside studying your formal apprenticeship qualification.

[View full course details](#)



# Qualifications for Assisting with Monitoring of Companion Animal Patients

## Key Facts

- ✓ Start at any time
- ✓ No college attendance
- ✓ Study in the UK or overseas
- ✓ Distance learning tutor support

## Entry requirements

There are no formal academic entry requirements. However, your application must be endorsed by your Practice Principal – who must be a veterinary surgeon (MRCVS). You must be employed, or volunteering, in a veterinary practice and have been in such a position for a minimum of six months prior to starting the course.

## Assessment

You will be required to complete a series of case studies, keep an online log of your work (a minimum of 200 hours of anaesthetic monitoring), and pass an online multiple choice examination by attending an exam centre.

## Course content

Over the course of the qualification you will study:

- » The preparation for, and induction of, veterinary sedation and anaesthesia
- » The principles of sedation and anaesthesia in animals
- » How to safely assist in the provision of veterinary sedation and anaesthesia procedures under direct supervision of a veterinary surgeon
- » Preparing and care of equipment used for veterinary sedation and anaesthesia under the supervision of a veterinary surgeon
- » The principles of the identification of, and possible responses to, anaesthetic complications and emergencies

**You can view the full course content on our website.**



## City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Assisting Veterinary Surgeons in the Monitoring of Animal Patients Under Anaesthesia and Sedation

**12 months**

Developed in partnership with Lantra and with support from the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS), this City & Guilds qualification is ideal for lay staff or VCAs involved in assisting veterinary surgeons with the monitoring of companion animals under anaesthesia and sedation.

Whilst it is recognised that the monitoring of anaesthesia of companion animals is best carried out by a qualified veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse, this is not always possible in every circumstance. It is therefore important that lay staff, who may be called upon to assist, are equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills needed to do so in a safe, professional manner.

**View full course details**



# Our Level 4 Certificate for Suitably Qualified Persons (SQP) - Companion Animal

## Key Facts

- ✓ Start at any time
- ✓ No college attendance
- ✓ 6 months to complete
- ✓ Online learning

## Entry requirements

You must be 16 years of age or over and have basic literacy and numeracy skills. Employment or work experience within a Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) registered premises, a veterinary practice registered with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), or a retail pharmacy registered with the General Pharmaceutical Council (GPhC) may be beneficial in assisting in preparation towards the final assessment but is not essential.

## Assessment

You will be assessed by completing two multiple choice question (MCQ) online exams and an online, scenario-based professional discussion.

## Course content

On completion of this qualification you will have achieved the following units:

- » Legislation and SQP Status for the Supply of Veterinary Medicines
- » Companion Animal Health for the SQP
- » Prescribing and Supplying Veterinary Medicines for Companion Animals

A Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) is an animal medicine advisor who is qualified to prescribe and/or supply certain veterinary medicines under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations.

## VetSkill VTEC Level 4 Award for Animal Medicines Advisors (SQP - Companion Animal)

6 months

This qualification is designed for those looking to gain the necessary qualification to be able to prescribe and supply veterinary medicine classes POM-VPS and/or NFA-VPS to companion animals. You may be working in veterinary practice, or in a Suitably Qualified Persons (SQP) retailer approved to retail and supply VPS medicines.

It is intended to provide relevant SQP competencies and underpinning knowledge and understanding that will enable prescription of medicines that fall under the POM-VPS and NFA-VPS categories within the companion animal group. Additionally, you will develop a broad understanding of animal health and disease, and the skills to identify parasite infestations and select appropriate medicines to prescribe.

[View full course details](#)



# Veterinary Reception

The important role that veterinary receptionists play within the veterinary setting cannot be underestimated.

Effective customer service combined with specialist knowledge of the record-keeping systems that support clinical services can make all the difference to the customer experience and ensuing practice reputation.

Veterinary receptionist training is ideal for those involved in reception work in a veterinary practice, and looking to gain a qualification that covers the key skills needed to provide an effective front-of-house service to veterinary clients.

**Explore our  
Veterinary  
Reception  
course**



# Our Level 2 Certificate for Veterinary Receptionists

If you are working in a receptionist role in a veterinary environment and are looking to further develop your skills and confidence, this online, distance learning qualification could be for you.

## Key Facts

- ✓ Start at any time
- ✓ Pay monthly option
- ✓ 6-12 months to complete
- ✓ Online learning

## Entry requirements

There are no formal academic entry requirements; however you should have a sound level of numeracy, literacy and ICT skills.

You will need to be working, or volunteering, on reception in a veterinary practice, for a minimum of 8 hours per week, and have done so for at least three months before applying.

You must have the full support of your practice and will need to have a mentor in place within practice to assist you with parts of your course.

If you are volunteering, you may be asked to provide a reference from a practice manager, head receptionist, veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse supporting your application.

## Course content

Over the course of the qualification you will cover the following units:

- » Assisting with the supply of veterinary products
- » Maintenance of a veterinary reception area
- » Principles and practice of veterinary reception
- » Working safely in a veterinary practice
- » Essentials of veterinary terminology

## Assessment

You will complete an online portfolio and undertake a short, multiple choice question, examination. You will be required to attend one of our centres (Huntingdon, North London, Leeds or Edinburgh) to undertake your final examination. If you do not have access to a CAW centre, the examination can be carried out via remote invigilation.

Customer Service Qualifications are also available. Visit our website for more information.

## VetSkill Level 2 Certificate for Veterinary Receptionists

6 - 12 months

The Level 2 Certificate for Veterinary Receptionists, awarded by VetSkill, is an online course tailored for the veterinary environment; that can be undertaken alongside employment, or voluntary work in a veterinary reception setting. Ideal for those looking to gain a qualification demonstrating their industry knowledge and practical skills, the course will cover the key skills needed to provide an effective front-of-house service to veterinary clients.

All course content is delivered via distance learning on our online Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). You will be supported by one of the College's distance learning tutors and a suitable mentor in the workplace. As such this course can be taken anywhere in the UK or overseas, however attendance at one of The College of Animal Welfare centres (Huntingdon, London, Leeds or Edinburgh) will be required to undertake the examination.

[View full course details](#)



# Lifelong Learning and Development

## Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Undertaking regular CPD is a professional requirement for veterinary nurses. Our range of short CPD courses are suitable for both qualified and student veterinary nurses, VCA's and support staff. Subjects covered include clinical coaching, first aid, customer relations and many more.

## Our Congresses

Each year we run a range of one-day virtual congresses. These events allow delegates to listen to lectures from industry speakers, take part in live Q&A sessions, network with other attendees and earn 7 hours of evidenced CPD. Our events include:

- ✓ Rabbit and Small Furrles Congress
- ✓ Advanced Veterinary Nursing
- ✓ Rehab Congress
- ✓ Wildlife & Exotics Congress
- ✓ VCA Congress
- ✓ Nutrition Congress
- ✓ Student Veterinary Nurse Congress
- ✓ Behaviour Congress
- ✓ Head Nurse Congress
- ✓ VCA Congress
- ✓ Dog Grooming Congress
- ✓ Clinical Coach Congress

## Leadership and Management Qualifications

Our leadership and management training can help you gain the skills and confidence to lead a team of people and deal with a range of management issues. More details can be found at: [business.caw.ac.uk/ilm](https://business.caw.ac.uk/ilm)

## Coaching and Mentoring Qualifications

Our coaching and mentoring qualifications will develop your ability to influence, guide and develop those around you. More details can be found at: [business.caw.ac.uk/cm](https://business.caw.ac.uk/cm)



**Explore our**  
**CPD and**  
**Events**

# Employer Information

## Supporting You and Your Employees

### Training Practice Approval and Clinical Coach Training

We offer a TP approval and clinical coach training service for veterinary practices looking to become involved in veterinary nurse training. For more information visit our website.

### Providing a Work Placement for a Student Veterinary Nurse

We currently have diploma and degree level student veterinary nurses looking for unpaid work placements in veterinary practices across the UK.

By offering a placement opportunity to a full-time student you can gain a keen and enthusiastic extra pair of hands in your practice and, where eligible, take advantage of a wide range of benefits including voucher rewards, free TP Approval and clinical coach training.

Visit our website for further information.

### Bespoke Training and Consultancy

We have worked with many of the UK's leading animal welfare organisations for a number of years, providing bespoke training, eLearning solutions and consultancy to support organisations with their staff training needs.



**Get more  
employer  
information**

**“We have an exceptional student from The College of Animal Welfare. She proves herself to be a true asset to the practice every single day. Her enthusiasm and training at CAW has helped us to develop and ‘freshen up’ some of our existing protocols and routines.”**

Holly Cooper RVN, Head Veterinary Nurse

# Our Alumni

Thousands of people have chosen to study with The College of Animal Welfare since we opened our doors in 1989.

Many of our alumni have gone on to achieve great things after leaving college, becoming experts in their fields.



L3 Diploma in  
Veterinary Nursing

Since qualifying as a veterinary nurse, Heidi has taken her skills abroad, working as an International Veterinary Nurse on welfare projects across the globe...

"I wanted a job that allowed me to work with animals, keep my brain engaged, take me around the world and allow me to give something back. The tutors at CAW helped consistently, they were always encouraging and helpful and brought good humour to the table!"



L2 Diploma for  
Veterinary Care Assistants

Evangeline completed veterinary care training with us in April 2016, and plans to undertake further studies in the future...

"I really enjoyed focusing on the medical side, delving into different conditions, treatment and care and expanding my knowledge of veterinary terminology. I particularly enjoyed the theory-based written assignments as I could really research the subject and get the most out of it."

# Stay connected

After you complete your studies with The College of Animal Welfare, you will be invited to join our alumni association.

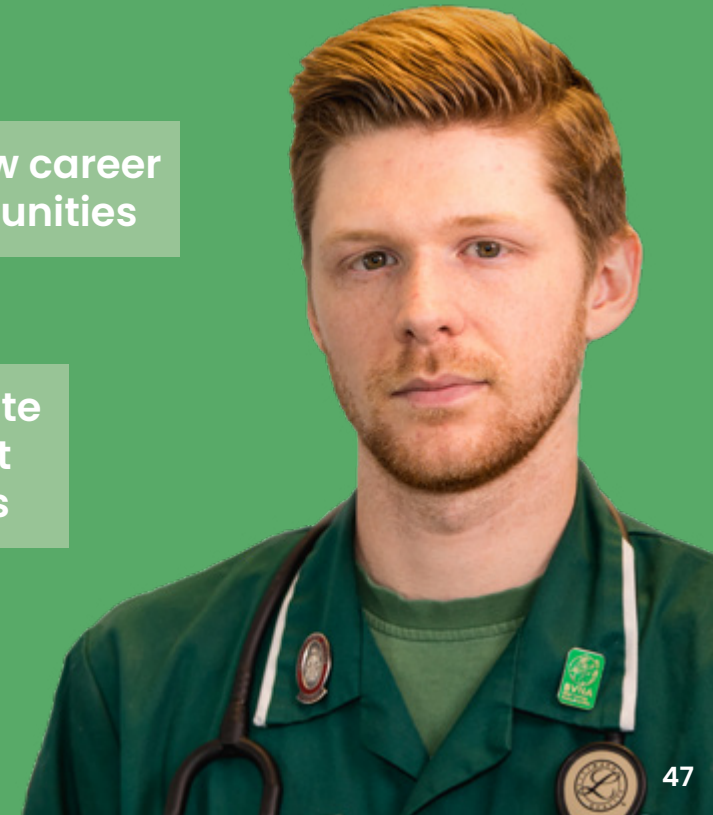
Receive an  
Alumni newsletter

Hear about past  
student successes  
and share your own

Enjoy member  
discounts on CPD

Find new career  
opportunities

Keep up-to-date  
with the latest  
industry news





# Our Partners

The College of Animal Welfare is proud to work in collaboration with HE providers across the UK in order to promote animal welfare through education and training..

## THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE (RVC) London

Founded in 1791, The Royal Veterinary College (RVC) is the first and biggest veterinary school in the United Kingdom. With a population of 1800 UK and international students, it is one of the world's top specialist institutions of veterinary medicine, biological sciences and veterinary nursing.

In 1996, The College of Animal Welfare opened the first of its branch centres at RVC in Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. The College is located at Boltons Park, which is approximately one mile away from the main RVC building.

In conjunction with the RVC, we deliver the FdSc Veterinary Nursing programme; which gives students an exceptional standard of professional training and access to outstanding veterinary facilities.

The facilities at the RVC give students the opportunity to gain vital industry experience. With access to an advanced Clinical Skills Centre, students are able to grow their practical skills. Hawkshead Campus library holds thousands of veterinary and biological science related books and journals and are available online as eBooks and as prints.

## MIDDLESEX UNIVERSITY Hendon, North London

The College of Animal Welfare has collaborated with Middlesex University in the development, delivery and assessment of the BSc (Honours) Veterinary Nursing degree since its inception in 1998.

With top of the line workshops, laboratories, and lecture theatres, Middlesex has one of the largest and most advanced campuses in London. The University is renowned for having one of the most diverse communities in the UK with over 22,000 students and staff from over 140 different countries.



# Fees and Finance

## Pay as You Learn

Our 'Pay As You Learn' scheme allows The College of Animal Welfare students the option to pay course fees (excluding professional or awarding body fees) on a monthly basis.

Professional and awarding body fees are payable in full before the commencement of the course.

## Advanced Learner Loan

If you are 19 years of age or older you may be eligible to apply for an Advanced Learner Loan.

It is easy to apply; there is no credit check and your household income isn't taken into account, and what's more, you won't have to pay anything back until you earn over £25,000 a year!

## CAW Loans2Learn Scheme

The CAW Loans2Learn scheme is a personal loan that can help you to spread the cost of your course into manageable payments. The loan can be used to fully or partially cover your course fees (but does not cover any awarding body fees, such as enrolment and examination fees). The loan works in a similar way to a bank loan, and it is not provided from the ESFA or any other government department, and is not related to any student finance.

## Grants, Bursaries and Additional Help

To help you find financial assistance to support your training costs, we have gathered information on various grants, bursaries and additional funding information on our website, however this list is not exhaustive. We recommend that you take the time to have a look through and consider if any of these are applicable to you.

With an average saving of over £663, the TOTUM card can help you save on your purchases. The TOTUM card is available for eligible students for £14.99 a year. You could save on fashion, music, health, food and drink and more!

Visit our website for all course fees: [www.caw.ac.uk](http://www.caw.ac.uk)



**Fees and  
finance  
information**

# Events

## Careers With Animals Day

Do you dream of working with animals? Join us at our annual, free Virtual Careers with Animals Days for an opportunity to listen to career talks and gather advice.

Whether you're at school, looking for a career change, unemployed and looking at how you can get back into work, or already working with animals and looking at different opportunities; you will have the chance to hear from people and organisations within the animal care industry. Visit [www.careerswithanimals.co.uk](http://www.careerswithanimals.co.uk) for more information.

## Open Days

Our Open Days give you a chance to get a taste of College life! This is a great opportunity to talk to tutors, have a tour of the facilities and find out more about what it is like to study with us.

[Register for Careers With Animals Day](#)

[Register for an Open Day](#)



# Stay in the know...

Sign up to our email newsletter and you will be the first to hear our latest news, details of upcoming events, courses and offers.

# We're social...

Follow us on social media, to stay connected and get an insight into CAW and like-minded people!



# Stay informed about our apprenticeship vacancies

Apprenticeships are an amazing opportunity to get paid a salary whilst gaining valuable experience in the workplace – all whilst studying for a recognised qualification! Keep an eye on our website for the latest apprenticeship opportunities.

[Subscribe to our newsletter](#)

[View apprenticeship vacancies](#)



# Apply

If you're ready to begin your new career, apply to study with us today.

## Course Application

Find your course on our website, click the "Apply now" button, create an account and start completing the application form. You can leave the form at any time, just log back in to continue.

## Enrolment and Interview

Submit your proof of identity and other documentation. You may be asked to attend an enrolment day or interview at the college, or via telephone with a member of our programme teams.

## Start Learning

Unlike many other colleges, our induction process starts before you get to college with our online induction courses, maximising your time in learning.



# Contact Us

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