



Becoming a Veterinary Nurse

We have an amazing team of veterinary nurses here at Castle Vets and thought we would ask them about why they wanted to train to become a veterinary nurse and explain the day to day role. We also have two student nurses, Jess and Erin, who are being supported in their training by their clinical supervisors, Rachael and Olivia.

Why did you want to become a veterinary nurse?

Erin – ‘I wanted to work with animals and felt it would be a rewarding career path’.

Jess – ‘After working as a kennel assistant, I felt inspired by my colleagues to become a veterinary nurse’.

What do you do day to day?

- Assist vets and RVNs by holding animals
- Infection control, such as cleaning the theatre after a procedure.
- Cleaning and sterilising surgical instruments.
- Caring for our patients, feeding them and taking them outside for short walks.
- Admitting and discharging patients.
- Assisting RVNs with Schedule 3 procedures such as taking blood samples, administering injections, microchipping puppies and kittens. All these procedures are performed under the supervision of a qualified veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon.
- Working on reception and helping clients.
- Running nurse clinics.

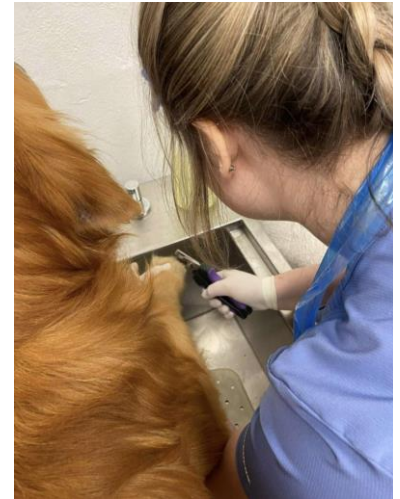
How do you become a student veterinary nurse?

There are two routes you can take to become a qualified veterinary nurse.

Vocational training: this style of training is more ‘hands-on’ and is good if you find you are a practical learner. This can be done full-time or similar an apprenticeship where you work in a veterinary practice alongside your studies. At the end of training you will receive a Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. This is the route that both Jess and Erin have chosen for their training, and they are both currently in practice 4 days a week and at college 1 day a week.

Higher education: a degree course in veterinary nursing can take a bit longer than the vocational route and is more academic. However, you will still have to undertake placements in approved veterinary practices to gain practical experience and this route can lead to additional career opportunities, such as research or the pharmaceutical industry, as well as working in practice.

Regardless of the route you take, in order to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse, you must undertake an accredited qualification that is governed by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS), and will be held on a register.



What is a Clinical Supervisor?

Our student nurses are supported by their clinical supervisors throughout their training. You must be a registered veterinary nurse for 1 year before you can become a clinical supervisor, and you have to stay up to date with your CPD, including attending TP updates at college. Each supervisor usually supports one student at a time and will spend time with the student whilst working in the practice guiding them through day to day tasks.

Why did you want to become a clinical supervisor?

Rachael: 'Being a clinical supervisor ensures I stay up-to-date with any changing procedures and techniques. It is also very rewarding to see my previous students progress in their careers'.

Olivia: 'Because I enjoy teaching and supporting students through their journey to become an RVN. I also like staying up to date with the clinical knowledge and skills that student veterinary nurses are taught'.



Avian Flu Update

UPDATE: The housing measures are being extended and will be in force across England from 7th November 2022. This means that from this time it is a mandatory requirement for all bird keepers across England to keep their birds housed, or where this is not practical, to take steps to separate them from wild birds.

There is a high level of Avian Influenza in the wild bird population of Devon and Cornwall currently. This is a very contagious virus which causes severe disease and death in birds, including chickens and other poultry. It is very sad to see that there are many dead and dying seabirds along our coastline. There is a risk of Avian Influenza being spread to humans through contact with infected ill or dead birds, the risk is considered to be very low, but the disease can be severe in humans if it does occur.

Therefore, it is advised that the public DO NOT PICK UP DISEASED OR DEAD BIRDS. If you have a dead bird in your garden that you need to dispose of then wear disposable plastic gloves, or pick it up using a plastic bag, turn this inside out and tie it. Then place this in another plastic bag, tie it, and put it in the normal household rubbish. If you find an ill bird, then DO NOT handle it, but call the RSPCA on 0300 1234999 or DEFRA on 03459 33 55 77. If you find a bird that has an injury, please call the surgery for advice before bringing it to us.

Pet Birds/Backyard Poultry

All birds should be housed where possible, and if not, then should be in an enclosed outdoor area. Food and water should be covered, and every effort should be made to avoid contact with wild birds or their faeces.

If you have a sick bird that you want to bring to the surgery for a consultation, please call reception and they will arrange a Vet to discuss it with you. Once the Vet is satisfied that the risk of it being Avian Influenza is minimal then we will be happy to arrange a consultation.



The Castle Care Club Juniors

We are excited to announce the launch of our new Castle Care Club Juniors membership which includes:

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| -Initial vaccinations and full vet health check | -Microchipping |
| -Full year of flea and worm treatments | -Up to 50% off neutering |
| -Puppy preschool (4 weeks) | |

This is covered by a one-off payment at enrolment of £155 for puppies and £140 for kittens with the aim of ensuring their best health and well-being up until their first birthday, after which they can join our Castle Care Club for adult pets.

