

TRAINING AS AN EQUINE VETERINARY NURSE

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) is the awarding body for veterinary nurse qualifications. Student veterinary nurses undergo a practically based vocational training, giving treatment under supervision, supported by theoretical study courses at a range of levels from further education day-release to full-time undergraduate programmes. All veterinary nurse training must address the National Occupational Standards in veterinary nursing. Students must achieve NVQ levels 2 and 3 before being awarded their RCVS Certificate, which entitles them to register on the RCVS List of Veterinary Nurses.

Anyone wishing to train as an Equine Veterinary Nurse (EVN) must first be employed at an RCVS approved Equine Training Practice (ETP) (e.g. Rossdale & Partners). These practices must employ qualified assessors to guide the student through training. This enables the student to gain work-based training which complements classroom teaching.

A prospective student must be at least 17 years old, hold a minimum of 5 GCSEs at C grade or above, which must include English Language, Mathematics, and at least one science subject.

A list of Equine Training practices can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/equinetps>

Qualified small animal nurses can enroll as student EVNs provided they are employed at an approved ETP.

COURSE WORK

The course work includes the completion of a portfolio that contains a comprehensive log of evidence to prove the student's competence in areas relevant to equine practice: Health and Safety, client communication and support, laboratory, diagnostic imaging, critical care nursing, medical and surgical nursing, theatre nursing, anaesthesia assistance, and pharmacy.

COLLEGE TUITION

Students must attend an RCVS approved college that teaches the EVN syllabus to gain theoretical instruction. These colleges provide a minimum of 35 days of teaching, usually on a day release basis over one academic year. In addition, each student must undertake a minimum 3 hours per week of private study or individual tutorial with their assessors or vets.

Exams are taken at the completion of the first and second years provided the portfolio is complete and deemed of an acceptable standard. The course can be completed in two years provided the student commits a considerable amount of free time to study and portfolio work.

For more information, see the RCVS website: <http://tinyurl.com/rcvsnurses>