



## Standard Draft Preview

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# Standard in development

## L3: Veterinary nurse (RCVS2026)

### Version 2.0

#### Title of occupation

Veterinary nurse (RCVS2026)

#### UOS reference number

ST1508

#### Core and options

No

#### Level of occupation

Level 3

#### Occupational maps data

**Route:** Agriculture, environmental and animal care

**Pathway:** Animal Care and Management

**Cluster:** Animal care and welfare assistant

#### Typical duration of apprenticeship

33 months

#### Resubmission

No

#### Would your proposed apprenticeship standard replace an existing framework?

No

#### Does professional recognition exist for the occupation?

Yes

#### Regulated occupation

#### Is this a statutory regulated occupation?

Yes

#### Name of regulator body

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

## The following needs to be approved by the statutory regulator

EPAO

### Occupational summary

This occupation is found in veterinary practices, which can include primary care, referral, private, corporate-owned, and animal charities. These practices provide essential care for sick and injured animals.

Additionally, some Registered Veterinary Nurses work in settings, such as emergency care centres or referral hospitals.

Rescue centres, wildlife organisations and animal charities also employ Registered Veterinary Nurses, contributing to the welfare of animals in need.

Registered Veterinary Nurses can work in a range of settings ranging from independently owned practices through to large group organisations.

They may progress into non-clinical roles in education, research and pharmaceutical settings and business support roles.

Registered Veterinary Nurses can work with a wide range of animals, from domestic pets to exotic species, wildlife, equine and livestock.

The broad purpose of the occupation is to provide essential care for animals.

A Registered Veterinary Nurse works as a member of the veterinary team, providing expert nursing care in line with the Veterinary Surgeons Act to ensure animal health and welfare.

Registered Veterinary Nurses perform hands-on nursing care, administer treatments, and assist with surgical procedures. They carry out technical work and are skilled in undertaking a range of diagnostic tests, monitoring anaesthesia, medical treatments and minor surgical procedures.

They also play a significant role educating animal owners on animal health and build strong client relationships.

Depending on the practice, they may focus on areas like emergency care or referrals.

Their working hours can include weekends and unsociable hours due to the 24/7 nature of animal care.

A Registered Veterinary Nurse interacts with internal and external stakeholders including animal owners.

They prioritise the delivery of animal health and welfare as part of a multi-disciplinary team.

Registered Veterinary Nurses collaborate with all members of the veterinary team as well as paraprofessionals.

Typical external stakeholders can include suppliers, other veterinary practices and charities.

The level of interaction varies based on the practice size and role within the organisation.

A Registered Veterinary Nurse will be responsible for practising in accordance with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Code of Professional Conduct for veterinary nurses.

Registered Veterinary Nurses are registered professionals and work within the standards and scope of practice defined by the RCVS <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/about-us/the-role-of-the-rcvs/>

Registered Veterinary Nurses work with moderate autonomy, displaying leadership qualities and completing tasks independently whilst working within legal and ethical limits. They may manage, support and develop team members along with maintaining their own health and wellbeing, professional development, accountability and fitness to practice.

They are responsible for patient safety and apply evidence based techniques to implement clinical governance and quality improvement processes.

They are responsible for working safely, considering the environment, sustainability, and providing contextualised care.

They are required to comply with legislation relevant to the industry.

## Typical job titles

Registered veterinary nurse

## Are there any statutory / regulatory or other typical entry requirements?

Yes

## Entry requirement label

Learners must evidence capability in numeracy, literacy and science, written and spoken English and mathematics. This would typically include GCSEs at grades 9 to 4 (or A\* to C), including English, mathematics and a science subject or equivalent.

## Occupation duties

DUTY	KSBS
<p><b>Duty 1</b> Keep up to date with legislation affecting practice.</p>	<p>K1 K2 K3 K4 K8 K9 K10 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K22 K23 K24 K25 K26 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31</p> <p>S1 S2 S3 S4 S11 S12 S13 S14 S18 S19 S20 S21 S22</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8</p>
<p><b>Duty 2</b> Communicate effectively with internal and external stakeholders.</p>	<p>K1 K2 K3 K4 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K16 K17 K18 K19 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24 K25 K27 K28 K29 K30 K31 K32 K33</p> <p>S1 S2 S4 S5 S6 S9 S10 S13 S15 S17 S19 S20 S21 S22</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8</p>
<p><b>Duty 3</b> Handle and restrain animals.</p>	<p>K1 K2 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K11 K15 K16 K17 K18 K19 K20 K21 K22 K26</p> <p>S1 S2 S3 S7 S8 S9 S13 S14 S15 S16 S17 S19 S20 S21</p> <p>B1 B2 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8</p>
<p><b>Duty 4</b> Provide nursing care.</p>	<p>K1 K2 K4 K5 K6 K7 K9 K11 K15 K16 K17 K18 K19 K20 K21 K33</p> <p>S1 S2 S3 S8 S9 S13 S14 S15 S16 S17 S19 S20 S21</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8</p>
<p><b>Duty 5</b> Take samples and perform laboratory tests and procedures.</p>	<p>K1 K2 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K11 K12 K13 K14 K15 K20 K21 K25 K26 K27</p> <p>S1 S2 S3 S4 S8 S10 S11 S14 S15 S16 S17 S21</p> <p>B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8</p>
<p><b>Duty 6</b> Conduct diagnostic imaging and procedures.</p>	<p>K1 K2 K4 K5 K6 K7 K9 K13 K14 K15 K16 K20 K21 K22 K23 K24</p>

	S1 S2 S3 S8 S10 S11 S14 S15 S16 S17 S21
	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8
<b>Duty 7</b> Dispense medication.	K1 K2 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K15 K16 K17
	S1 S2 S3 S4 S8 S12 S13 S14 S17 S20 S21
	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8
<b>Duty 8</b> Implement appropriate infection control strategies.	K1 K2 K3 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K25 K26 K27
	S1 S2 S3 S8 S14 S15 S17 S19 S20 S21
	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8
<b>Duty 9</b> Prepare, maintain and assist theatre practices.	K1 K2 K4 K5 K6 K7 K8 K9 K10 K11 K12 K14 K16 K33
	S1 S2 S3 S8 S14 S15 S16 S17 S18 S19 S21
	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8
<b>Duty 10</b> Prepare, support, maintain and monitor anaesthesia.	K1 K2 K4 K5 K6 K7 K13 K14 K16 K17
	S1 S2 S3 S8 S13 S14 S16 S17 S18 S19 S20 S21
	B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8

## KSBs

### Knowledge

**K1:** The RCVS Day One Competences for Veterinary Nurses.

**K2:** The RCVS Code of Professional Conduct and its associated guidance.

**K3:** Organisational requirements and legislation related to a veterinary business and animal welfare.

- K4:** Effective health and safety within a veterinary practice.
- K5:** Anatomy and physiology in relation to veterinary nursing practice.
- K6:** Normal form and function of body systems.
- K7:** The relationship between normal form and function and the effect of disease processes and the consequent nursing requirements of sick animals.
- K8:** The role of infection in animal and human health.
- K9:** The principles of disease transmission.
- K10:** The principles of disinfection and sterilisation.
- K11:** How to maintain personal hygiene especially in relation to cross-infection.
- K12:** The principles of infection monitoring and control.
- K13:** Correct usage, handling, storage, maintenance and disposal materials, equipment and instruments.
- K14:** The principles of record keeping.
- K15:** The principles of medical veterinary nursing and support.
- K16:** The principles of surgical veterinary nursing and support including anaesthesia.
- K17:** The principles of safe and responsible pharmacology to include administration of medication and usage, handling and disposal of veterinary pharmaceuticals.
- K18:** The principles of first aid.
- K19:** The principles of nursing support and the triage, stabilisation and treatment of emergency patients.
- K20:** Nursing requirements of critically ill or injured animals.
- K21:** Intensive nursing care techniques and requirements for veterinary patients.
- K22:** The principles of radiography and imaging techniques.
- K23:** The principles of how to take and process radiographs.
- K24:** The principles of how to manage and store diagnostic images.
- K25:** The function and use of a range of laboratory equipment.
- K26:** The principles of how to prepare specimens for transportation.
- K27:** The principles of how to collect, prepare, test pathological samples.
- K28:** The principles and methods of effective communication and their impact on clients and patient care.

**K29:** Factors affecting working relationships with clients and within the veterinary team.

**K30:** The principles relating to evidence based approaches to personal development and practice.

**K31:** Personal and professional limitations.

**K32:** How to seek and use feedback and advice.

**K33:** The principles of efficient workflow and time management.

## Skills

**S1:** Demonstrates RCVS day one skills.

**S2:** Prepare and maintain a sustainable working environment in accordance with current legislation, regulations, wellbeing policies, manufacturers guidelines and standard operating procedures.

**S3:** Critically assess hazards and minimise risks in the working environment.

**S4:** Create, maintain, and store clinical records and manage the use of personal data in accordance with current legislation and practice policy.

**S5:** Communicate with internal and external stakeholders, maintaining civility and empathy using a variety of methods and styles.

**S6:** Communicate patient status and care requirements to veterinary care team and clients.

**S7:** Handle and restrain animals ethically and safely.

**S8:** Practise evidence based nursing care in accordance with practice policy and standard operating procedures.

**S9:** Devise, implement and critically evaluate nursing care strategies in collaboration with the veterinary care team and clients.

**S10:** Plan diagnostic procedure strategies in collaboration with the veterinary team.

**S11:** Obtain and process laboratory samples and diagnostic images in accordance with current legislation, regulation, practice policy and standard operating procedures.

**S12:** Handle, manage, dispense, store and dispose of pharmaceuticals sustainably in accordance with current legislation, regulation and practice policy and procedures.

**S13:** Administer medicines prescribed by the veterinary surgeon and in accordance with manufacturer's instructions.

**S14:** Formulate and implement sustainable biosecurity strategies.

**S15:** Plan sustainable surgical and non-surgical procedure strategies in collaboration with the veterinary team.

**S16:** Prepare and position patients for surgical and non-surgical procedures in accordance with the strategic plan.

**S17:** Assist the veterinary team with surgical and non-surgical procedures in accordance with the strategic plan.

**S18:** Utilise checklists to maximise patient safety and minimise risk.

**S19:** Plan sustainable anaesthesia strategies in collaboration with the veterinary team.

**S20:** Prepare, position, monitor and maintain patients for anaesthesia in accordance with the strategic plan.

**S21:** Formulate, reflect on and implement auditing and quality improvement strategies.

**S22:** Formulate, reflect on and implement practice protocols which consider the health, safety and wellbeing of both the individual and wider team.

## Behaviours

**B1:** Complies with RCVS professional behaviours.

**B2:** Commits to ensuring sustainability.

**B3:** Works co-operatively and collaboratively, promoting equity, diversity, belonging, civility and inclusion.

**B4:** Commits to the process of reflection, and continuous learning and professional development.

**B5:** Acts in a professional, ethical manner, recognising professional and personal requirements and limitations.

**B6:** Demonstrates compliance with the RCVS regulatory requirements to prioritise animal welfare and wellbeing of people.

**B7:** Upholds and contributes positively to the reputation of the profession.

**B8:** Practises in line with best available evidence with a commitment to evidence-based improvement and enhancement.

## Qualifications

### English and maths

English and maths qualifications must be completed in line with the apprenticeship funding rules.

**Does the apprenticeship need to include any mandated qualifications in addition to the above-mentioned English and maths qualifications?**

Yes

## Other mandatory qualifications

A level 3 diploma in veterinary nursing that is accredited by the RCVS as a “licence to practise” in veterinary nursing, and which entitle holders to apply to enter the RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses.

Level: 3

Additional information: Please refer to the Awarding Organisation to confirm if English and maths is an essential component of any mandatory qualification.

## Professional recognition

This standard aligns with the following professional recognition:

- Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) for Professional registration

## Regulated occupation

This is a regulated occupation.

## Regulator body:

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS)

Training provider does not require approval by regulator body

EPAO must be approved by regulator body

## Consultation

Skills England to run a 2 week public survey to collate any feedback.

## Progression routes

## Supporting uploads

### Mandatory qualification uploads

### Mandated degree evidence uploads

### Professional body confirmation uploads

## Subject sector area

3.3 Animal care and veterinary science