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Dear Sir

Re: "The veterinary nurse: pets control"

I write with reference to Jill Insley's article in the Saturday edition: "The veterinary nurse: pets control".

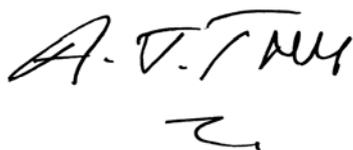
It is reassuring that the Romanian veterinary surgeon featured is keen to ease herself gently into working as a veterinary surgeon in UK practice, and pleasing to see that the role of the veterinary nurse in practice is gaining the recognition it deserves. However, it is worth noting that veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses are two different professions, each contributing different skills to the veterinary team and each with their own legal and regulatory frameworks.

Generally, under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, a veterinary surgeon can only practise in the UK if he or she is correctly registered as a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). Certain veterinary procedures can be delegated to veterinary nurses (those listed or registered with the RCVS), or student veterinary nurses (those students enrolled with the RCVS), but those procedures do not, for example, include 'neutering male cats', which is cited in the article.

Someone who is not correctly registered or listed with the RCVS may not carry out procedures that are restricted by law.

The veterinary surgeon quoted in the article states that she trains nurses to do what 'suits the needs of the practice'. However, only veterinary nurses trained via RCVS approved qualifications are eligible to list with us. We are actively encouraging more veterinary practices to become involved with recognised veterinary nursing training and are working to make it easier for them to do so.

Yours faithfully



Professor Sandy Trees BVM&S PhD DipEVPC MRCVS
President