



### **LEGAL ASSESSOR FOR THE RCVS VETERINARY NURSES DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

The RCVS, which is the regulatory authority for the veterinary nursing profession, is seeking an enthusiastic and experienced individual to be present at all proceedings before the Veterinary Nurses Disciplinary Committee. Legal Assessors must be qualified as a solicitor, barrister or advocate in England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Main duties are to be present at all proceedings before the Veterinary Nurses Disciplinary Committee; to advise on any questions of law, evidence, procedure or other matters relevant to hearings and to inform the Committee of any irregularity in the conduct of procedures. In addition, Legal Assessors are expected to keep up to date with this developing area of law and to participate in training sessions for members of the Committee.

The RCVS is looking to appoint a Legal Assessor with experience in this area of work, preferably with relevant advocacy experience before the Disciplinary Committees or Tribunals of other professions.

Time commitment is up to 2 – 4 weeks per year, possibly in blocks of a week or more. Legal Assessors will be reimbursed at the rate of £400.00 per day or £200.00 per half day. Travel and subsistence expenses are also payable.

Full details are available on the RCVS website at [www.rcvs.org.uk/about-us/work-for-us](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/about-us/work-for-us).

Interviews will take place in late May/early June 2011.

Applications (curriculum vitae with a covering letter) should be sent to Lesley Evans, RCVS, Belgravia House, 62/64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF or by email: [l.evans@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:l.evans@rcvs.org.uk) **to arrive by Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2011.**



## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **LEGAL ASSESSOR TO SIT WITH RCVS VETERINARY NURSES DISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE**

#### **BACKGROUND**

The RCVS regulates veterinary nurses under a non-statutory/voluntary scheme operated under its Royal Charter. The Register has been in place since 2007 and to date over 8,000 VN's have contracted to comply with the requirements for CPD and the Guide to Professional Conduct and submit themselves to disciplinary proceedings. The disciplinary processes were put in place with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011, after allowing new registrants to become familiar with their professional obligations.

**The RCVS is a statutory regulator** - undertaking the statutory responsibilities set out in the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 - to maintain a register of veterinary surgeons eligible to practise in the UK; to regulate veterinary education and to regulate professional conduct;

**The RCVS is 'a Royal College'** - exercising powers under the Royal Charter to award Fellowships, Diplomas and Certificates to veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and others, and to act as an informed and impartial source of opinion on veterinary matters;

**RCVS Trust** – is a separate charity established to promote and advance the study and practice of the art and science of veterinary surgery and medicine - by providing the RCVS Library and Information Service and a range of grants largely to support educational and research activities.

The RCVS was established in 1844 by Royal Charter to be the governing body of the veterinary profession. Its statutory duties are currently laid out in the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966.

Further background information is available on the RCVS Website at [www.rcvs.org.uk](http://www.rcvs.org.uk)

#### **APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL ASSESSOR**

Appointed under Veterinary Nursing Rules 2010 (copy attached). Role of the Legal Assessor to be based on Veterinary Surgeons (Disciplinary Proceedings) Legal Assessor Rules 1967 – (S.I. 1967 No 684).

See also: The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Disciplinary Committee (Procedure and Evidence) Rules 2003 – (S.I. 2004 No 1680).

#### **MAIN DUTIES**

The main duties of a Legal Assessor as set out in the legislation are:-

1. to be present at proceedings before the Disciplinary Committee;
2. to advise on any questions of law, as to evidence, procedure or other matters specified in the Rules;

3. to inform the Committee of any irregularity in the conduct of proceedings.

In addition Legal Assessors are expected to keep up-to-date with this developing area of law and to participate in training sessions for members of the Committee.

#### **TIME COMMITMENT**

The time commitment required is up to 2 – 4 weeks a year, possibly in blocks of a week or more (for lengthy cases). Dates are provisionally set well in advance and confirmed as inquiries are listed

#### **FEES**

Legal Assessors are currently reimbursed on the basis of £400.00 a day or £200.00 for a half day, either sitting with the Committee or for reading and preparation time. Travel and subsistence expenses are also payable. Refreshments, including lunch, are provided when the Committee is sitting.

#### **TIMING OF APPOINTMENT**

Interviews will take place in late May/early June with appointment ratified by the Veterinary Nurses Council.

#### **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

In accordance with the Act, Legal Assessors shall be solicitors, barristers or advocates in either England and Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland.

The RCVS is looking for a Legal Assessor who has experience in this area of work - ideally working with another professional body or equivalent.

April 2011