

The Impact of Statutory Registration for Veterinary Nurses

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VETERINARY COUNCIL OF IRELAND



The Veterinary Council of Ireland

- Originally set up by statute in 1931
- Amending legislation passed in 1952 and 1960
- Veterinary Practice Act 2005 – in force since 1 January 2006



Veterinary Practice Act 2005

Principal function of the Council as stated in the 2005 Act is to

Regulate the practice of Veterinary Medicine **and** Veterinary Nursing in the State

Unlike the RCVS the Council does not provide educational courses or awards

The Council is obliged to approve courses of education which will lead to awards which are registrable



Veterinary Nursing in Ireland Pre-2006

- Not Recognised
- No Register
- No Approved Training Courses



Veterinary Nursing Legal Obligations Post 2006

Register opened on 1 January 2008

Challenges Prior to This

Communication

Course Approval (one course May 2007)

Six months for registration

Protected Title post 30 June 2008



Veterinary Nursing Register Categories

- Veterinary Nurses with Registrable Qualifications
- Veterinary Nurses with either no formal qualification or whose qualification is not registrable
- Students – not part of the Register



Provisionally Registered Veterinary Nurses

- Applies before 30 June 2008
- Was practising as a veterinary nurse on 27 October 2004 and continued so acting in a whole time capacity, under the supervision of a veterinary practitioner, until 1 January 2008
- Undertakes to participate in an approved programme of education appropriate to veterinary nurses as prescribed
- Is in good standing

This category of registration ceases on 31 December 2012, until then they have the same rights and responsibilities as RVNs.



Procedures a Veterinary Nurse Can Perform

Five **while assisting and in the presence** of a veterinary practitioner

- Holding & Handling Tissue During Performance of surgical procedures;
- Assisting in the administration of sedation, pre-medication, anaesthetics, analgesics, the termination of anaesthesia, & the performance of endotracheal intubation;
- Assisting at the performance of surgical procedures that are not minor;



Procedures a Veterinary Nurse Can Perform (contd)

- Assisting at the performance on an animal of a caesarean section operation or other surgery to assist her to give birth to her young;
- The administration of medication intraosseously, enterically, by inhalation or by intravenous injection;



Procedures a Veterinary Nurse Can Perform

Four **under the direction** of a veterinary practitioner

- The administration of medication intravenously or subcutaneously, provided that the medication is being administered for the purposes of rehydration or fluid therapy;
- Catheterisation, surgical treatment of abscesses & ulcers, application of external casts & cutaneous suturing;
- The taking of x-ray images;
- The carrying out of minor medical procedures or minor surgery;



Rights & Responsibilities of RVNS

- Code of Professional Conduct
- Disciplinary Procedures
- Mandatory Continuing Veterinary Education
- Practice Ownership



Feedback following 3½ years of Regulation

Registered Veterinary Nurses
Provisionally Registered Nurses
Student Nurses
Veterinary Practitioners



Future for veterinary nursing

Currently there are 405 RVNs on the register and an additional 155 on the provisional register.

Next hurdle – to make sure as many provisionally registered nurses as possible are eligible to enter the main register.

Work with providers of animal care courses to prevent inadvertent illegal acts.

Support the recognition of RVNs by veterinary practitioners



Aspirations of the Profession

Widen the scope of the procedures which can be performed by RVNs;

Establish a Veterinary Nurses Board of Ireland to regulate the profession;





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