

# Is your delegation

# SUPERB?

**A six-point checklist for veterinary surgeons wishing to delegate work to registered/student veterinary nurses under Schedule 3\***

**S**

## PECIFIC PROCEDURE?

**Is the procedure medical treatment or minor surgery, not involving entry into a body cavity?**

- a. Remember, certain things are off-limits, including: independent medical treatment or minor surgery, major surgery, diagnosis, certification, castrations, spays, and dental extractions using instruments.



**U**

## NDER CARE?

**Is the animal under your care?**

- a. Has the client given you responsibility for the animal's health?  
b. Have you seen the animal immediately before delegation, or recently enough to have personal knowledge of its condition?



**P**

## ERSON?

**Can you delegate to this person?**

- a. Under Schedule 3, you can only delegate medical treatment and minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity) to RVNs and SVNs, not to lay people.



**E**

## XPERIENCE?

**Does the RVN/SVN feel capable, and have sufficient competence and experience?**

- a. Are they familiar with the species?  
b. If they have not done this procedure before, have they had the right training and will they be supervised?  
c. If there is a problem, do they know what to do?



**R**

## ISKS?

**Have you considered the risks specific to this case?**

- a. How difficult is the procedure?  
b. How likely is it that something could go wrong?  
c. Does the RVN/SVN understand the associated risks?



**B**

## E THERE!

**Are you available to direct or supervise, as necessary?**

- a. RVNs must work under your direction, ie you have provided the necessary instructions about the task to be performed, but you do not have to be on the premises.  
b. SVNs must work under your supervision  
i. For medical treatment, you need to be on the premises and available to assist.  
ii. For minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity), you must stay with the SVN and give them your undivided personal attention



[www.rcvs.org.uk/schedule3](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/schedule3)

\*Under Schedule 3 to the Veterinary Surgeons Act, only registered veterinary nurses and student veterinary nurses have the privilege to perform certain procedures in veterinary practice, as delegated to them by you, a veterinary surgeon colleague employed in the same practice. Make sure your delegation is SUPERB!

**RCVS** SETTING VETERINARY STANDARDS