

Veterinary nurse registration rules

Citation

1. These rules may be cited as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Veterinary Nurse Registration Rules 2017.

Interpretation

2. In these rules -
 - "approved" means approved by the Veterinary Nurses' Council;
 - "bye-law" means a bye-law of the College;
 - " College" means the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons;
 - "disclosure of matters relevant to good character" means a declaration whether the person making the declaration has been convicted of a criminal offence or cautioned for such an offence or removed from a register by any professional organisation or refused entry to such a register;
 - "former registrant" means a person whose name was formerly entered in the register or in the list of veterinary nurses kept by the College;
 - "Supplemental Charter" means the Supplemental Charter granted to the College in 2014;
 - "register" means the register of veterinary nurses which article 12 of the Supplemental Charter requires the College to keep;
 - "registrar" means the registrar of the College appointed in accordance with the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966;
 - "registrant" means a person whose name is entered in the register, and shall include a person who has applied for their name to be entered in the register;
 - "registration" means the entry of a person's name in the register for the first time, and the verb "register" shall be construed accordingly;

- "registration fee" means a fee charged to a registrant on registration as approved from time to time by RCVS Council;
- "removal" means the removal of a registrant's name from the register, and "remove" shall be construed accordingly;
- "restoration" means the restoration of a name which has been removed from the register, and "restore" shall be construed accordingly;
- "restoration fee" means a fee charged on the restoration of a name to the register as approved from time to time by RCVS Council;
- "retention" means the retention of an existing registrant's name in the register;
- "retention fee" means the fee charged in respect of the retention of a registrant's name in the register for each retention fee year;
- "retention fee year" means the period running from 1 November following the date of registration until the following 31 October, and each period of 12 months thereafter;
- "Schedule" means one of the Schedules to these rules.

Keeping of the register

3. The register shall be kept by the registrar and shall be published.
4. The registrar shall correct any entry in the register if satisfied that it is incorrect.

Entry to the register

5. A person who -
 - satisfies the requirements as to training and education set out in Schedule 1,
 - makes a disclosure of matters relevant to good character, and
 - pays the registration fee
 is entitled to be registered.

6. If a person applies to be registered but registration is refused, or ceases to be registered because the registrar has corrected an entry in the register, that person may appeal to the Veterinary Nurses' Council. The Council may remit any such appeal to a committee. The Council, or the committee, may-
 - dismiss the appeal;

- allow the appeal and quash the decision appealed against;
- substitute for the decision appealed against any other decision which could have been made; or
- remit the case to the registrar to dispose of in accordance with the directions of the Council or the committee.

Retention in the register: fees

7. Retention is subject to payment of a retention fee.

Removal from the register

8. The registrar shall remove from the register the name of any deceased person.
9. The registrar may remove a name from the register at the registrant's request or with the registrant's consent.
10. A registrant requesting their own removal must state the ground upon which the request is made, and declare that they are not aware of any reason for the institution of disciplinary proceedings in accordance with rules made under bye-law 13.
11. The registrar may remove a name from the register if the full retention fee for the registrant has not been received by 31 December of the relevant retention fee year.
12. The registrar must notify a registrant at least four weeks before removing the registrant's name from the register for non-payment of the retention fee. The registrar may proceed to remove the registrant's name even if the notification is not received.
13. The registrar may remove the name of a registrant who does not respond within six months to a written enquiry asking whether the details of the registrant included in the register are up to date.
14. A registrant may be removed from the register, or their registration may be suspended for a period, at the direction of an independent disciplinary tribunal in accordance with rules made under bye-law 13.

Restoration to the register

15. A former registrant whose name was removed at their request or with their consent, or for non-payment of a retention fee, or for failing to respond to an enquiry whether the details included in the register are up to date, shall be entitled to be restored to the register subject to -

- payment of the retention fee for the current retention fee year except where restoration takes place between 1 May and 31 October in which case, 50% of the retention fee shall be payable,
 - payment of the restoration fee.
 - disclosure of matters relevant to good character, and
 - if their name has not been entered in the register for five years or more, having completing a period of supervised practice lasting not less than 17 weeks (equivalent to 595 hours) and provided evidence of competence.
16. If a disciplinary tribunal directs in accordance with rules made under bye-law 13 that a former registrant whose name was removed at the direction of the tribunal shall be restored to the register, the retention fee for the current retention fee year and the restoration fee shall be payable.

Schedule 1

Requirements as to training and education

1. In order to be entered in the register of veterinary nurses a person must –
 - hold an approved vocational qualification and have completed practical training as specified below; or
 - hold an approved degree in veterinary nursing or other higher qualification in veterinary nursing and have completed practical training as specified below; or
 - have passed the Part II veterinary nursing examination formerly administered by the College and have completed practical training as specified below; or
 - hold the RCVS Certificate in Veterinary Nursing; or
 - have undertaken training and obtained a qualification outside the United Kingdom and acquired skill and knowledge commensurate with the standards set by the Veterinary Nurses' Council under article 14 of the Supplemental Charter for the training and education of persons wishing to be entered in the register of veterinary nurses.

2. The practical training mentioned above is an approved programme of veterinary nurse education at an approved centre lasting at least 2,990 hours, excluding annual leave and absence. The programme must include a period of practical training in an approved training practice equivalent to 1,800 hours, together with a theoretical programme accredited by the RCVS. The practical training, which need not be continuous, must be spent in gainful employment or educational practice placement.