

# **Veterinary Nurses' Council**

## **Membership and Terms of Reference**

1. The Veterinary Nurses' Council shall consist of the following members:
  - a) six veterinary nurses practising or living wholly or mainly in the United Kingdom, elected by ballot of all veterinary nurses, conducted substantially in accordance with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Council Election Scheme 1967 (as amended), with the necessary adaptations;
  - b) two veterinary nurses to be appointed by the Veterinary Nurses' Council;
  - c) two veterinary surgeons, to be appointed by the Veterinary Nurses' Council in consultation with RCVS Council;
  - d) four lay members to be appointed by the Veterinary Nurses' Council.
2. The term of office of elected and appointed members of the Veterinary Nurses' Council shall be three years in each case, and one-third of the elected members shall retire in rotation each year, being eligible for re-election if still qualified to serve. A member elected or appointed to fill a casual vacancy shall serve the unexpired portion of the predecessor's term of office.
3. Members of the Veterinary Nurses' Council shall serve a maximum of three successive terms and after which they will be eligible to re-stand for election or be re-appointed after a gap of two years.
4. The quorum for meetings of the Veterinary Nurses' Council shall be seven members, which must include four veterinary nurse members, one veterinary surgeon member, and one lay member.
5. The Chair and up to two Vice-Chairs of the Veterinary Nurses' Council shall be elected by the Veterinary Nurses' Council, by secret ballot. The Chair will be either an elected or appointed veterinary nurse. The election of the Chair shall be confirmed by the RCVS Council.
6. The term of office of the Chair shall usually be three years and Vice-Chair(s) shall serve for either one or three years, with the outgoing Chair normally serving one year as Vice-Chair.
7. The Veterinary Nurses' Council was established in 2002 and the Supplementary Royal Charter confirms its functions shall encompass the regulation of the profession of veterinary nurses.

8. The Veterinary Nurses' Council shall, in addition to those functions specified in the Supplemental Royal Charter:
  - a) Set standards for the training and education of persons wishing to be entered in to the Register
  - b) Set requirements in relation to the registration of veterinary nurses
  - c) set standards for the conduct of veterinary nurses
  - d) maintain the register of veterinary nurses;
  - e) recommend to the Finance and Resources Committee a budget and levels of fees to be charged; and
  - f) recommend to the Council amendments to the rules relating to the registration, conduct and discipline of veterinary nurses.
9. In exercising its functions, the Veterinary Nurses' Council may delegate responsibility for matters related to veterinary nurse education, both licence to practise and post registration awards, to the Veterinary Nurse Education Committee.
10. The Veterinary Nurses' Council shall ensure that the welfare of animals and good veterinary practice are central to its work.