VN Council election: vote online, or by post

- Four candidates standing this year — see inside for biographies and manifestos.
- Voting closes at 5pm on Friday, 28 April 2017.
Mr Miguel Borralho
RVN
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Proposers: Judit Kurian, Joanna Roberts

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
Born in the small town of Portalegre, in Portugal.
Went to College in 2006 to graduate in 2011.
Completed a PostGrad in Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation in 2012.
Worked in a small animal practice since 2011 to Feb 2015 in Portugal, in that same year moved to London in March.
Started to Work at Canonbury Vets on 1st of April 2015 until present day.
Completed my OSCES in November 2015, and my exams in May of 2016, becoming a RVN on 9th of May 2016.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
Having trained overseas, and having different experiences over the years, make me who I am today.
It’s time for me to help others like me, my equals, all the VNs that for many reasons are still not registered, but will want to join us.
To make the RVNs even more important to all the practices, by helping them to achieve their goals, like specialisations in all of the different fields of veterinary medicine.
To ensure that the quality of the services that we provide as a RVN, to be according to the Code of Professional Conduct.
By having this opportunity I will also be giving one extra quality, that is my language; my Portuguese will allow me to help break some barriers.
My goal is to make life as a RVN as simple and as focused to veterinary care as possible, and make this profession one of the most enthusiastic and lovely.
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
After training in a busy first-opinion practice in Manchester I qualified as a VN in 1997. I worked in an excellent team that had a vast reservoir of knowledge and experience, many of whom held or were studying for further certificates and diplomas. This inspired me to further my own knowledge and skills, and I went on to achieve the Dip AVN (Surgical) in 2000, and the Dip AVN (Medical) in 2003. During this time I also became involved in training student nurses within the practice.

I enjoyed a period of time working as a locum nurse in various practices and hospitals around the country before I made the transition to education.

From 2003, I was employed as lecturer at the College of Animal Welfare, teaching student veterinary nurses. I gained my Certificate in Education in 2005 and in 2010 achieved a top up BSc (Hons) in Veterinary Nursing.

In 2009 I moved to Harper Adams University where I am currently employed as the Programme Manager for a range of veterinary nursing courses.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
I am proud to be a Veterinary Nurse and value all the experiences and opportunities that working in this profession can bring. During the past 20 years that I have been qualified I have seen many changes to the profession, especially nurse education.

I believe that promoting veterinary nursing as a profession is best achieved through advancing knowledge and skills. Although veterinary nursing is still a relatively young profession I am inspired when I see students advancing patient care through Evidence-based Nursing.

For the past few years I have been a member of the RCVS Veterinary Nursing Education Committee, as a representative of Higher Education providers. This has been a great opportunity to be involved with some of the recent changes to veterinary nurse education. Especially the streamlining of the Day One Skills and Competencies, that hopefully put the emphasis of judging a student’s competence back in the hands of Clinical Coaches in practice.

If elected to VN Council I will use my role to promote an educational culture, in which education is built around the needs of the busy veterinary nursing professional based in clinical practice. Regardless of clinical role, nurses want the opportunity to excel professionally, drive forward the profession and their career, but do not want to feel forced to leave the coalface in order to do so. These are the nurses best placed to advocate effectively for their patients, and access to high quality, evidence-based education to help facilitate this is paramount. I strongly believe that we must tailor education to the needs of these nurses if we are to continue the positive development and growth of the Veterinary Nursing profession. This is how I feel that I can best advocate for the profession that I have dedicated my professional life to.
CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY

I started my career in the National Health Service as an orthopaedic nurse and decided to retrain as a veterinary nurse. I spent time in a mixed practice in Staffordshire before joining the Animal Health Trust as a small animal nurse and then as the head nurse. This is where I gained my Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Surgical). I moved into teaching after this and worked for Barbara Cooper at the College of Animal Welfare both in Cambridgeshire and at the Royal Veterinary College, London. In 2002 I moved to Bristol Veterinary School where I am still based and am the programme director for the veterinary nursing degree programme.

I am currently researching the factors which influence the retention of veterinary nurses within the profession as part of my doctoral thesis, with the aim of developing a professional model which identifies what is needed to keep nurses working.

I am an honorary member of the British Veterinary Nursing Association and was jointly awarded the first Bruce Vivash Jones award for outstanding contribution to small animal veterinary nursing in 2015 with Hilary Orpet for the development of the Ability Model, the first veterinary nursing model of care for veterinary patients.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO

I am putting myself forward for re-election as I believe that as a profession, Veterinary Nursing is on the cusp of something fantastic and I would like to have an active role as an elected representative in contributing to the next phase of our profession’s development.

The joint British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) Veterinary Nurses Futures report has really galvanised the profession to drive forward some of the initiatives highlighted in the report, with working parties reviewing significant areas such as schedule three and post registration career pathways along with a framework of post registration qualifications.

These are exciting times for our profession and I believe that with my experience of having been on the RCVS Veterinary Nurses Council for a number of years, along with my role as a veterinary nurse teacher having trained and educated a significant number of student nurses over the years in a variety of first opinion and referral settings, that I have a realistic view of how our profession can shape itself for the 21st century and will commit to working hard, if re-elected, to help that happen.

One of the themes coming through from the VN Futures meetings was a feeling amongst veterinary nurses that their skills and knowledge were under-used by veterinary surgeons in practice. Education of the veterinary team to understand what the Day One Competencies and Skills are that veterinary nurses need to have achieved in order to enter the professional register is vitally important. That process of understanding starts with ensuring that veterinary students are taught about the role of the veterinary nurse as part of their veterinary school education and this is something which along with my professional colleague, Hilary Orpet RVN I am intending to raise awareness of.
Miss Marie Rippingale
DipAVN(Equine) REVN

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Proposers: Kate Lambert, Judith Parry

CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHY
I graduated from the Nottingham Trent University in 2005 with a First Class Honours Degree in Equine Sports Science. I qualified as an REVN with merit in 2007 and was Head Equine Nurse at Scarsdale from 2007–2016. I am now a Senior Equine Nurse at Scarsdale and divide my time between clinical nursing and lecturing. I am a Clinical Coach and train the equine veterinary nursing students at Scarsdale. In 2012 I completed the Diploma in Higher Education Clinical Veterinary Nursing (DipHECVN) with distinction. I then obtained the RCVS Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing (DipAVN) with distinction in 2013. I have been lecturing on the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing at Bottle Green Training in Melbourne since 2010.

I am a member of the BVNA and a member of the BEVA education committee. I have already completed an 18-month term on VN Council and I am a member of the VN Futures Action Group.

My special interests include foal nursing, radiography, anaesthesia, thrombophlebitis and intravenous catheter care. Outside of work I enjoy eventing my Irish Sports Horse called Chaplin.

CANDIDATE MANIFESTO
I am a highly motivated REVN with a great passion for equine veterinary nursing. I am however dedicated to getting recognition for veterinary nursing as a profession, not just in the equine context. For the last 18 months, I have served on VN Council and been a member of the VN Futures Action Group. I am very keen to stay involved with this fantastic project.

Having served on VN Council for some time already, I am aware of the commitment required and now have some experience as to how things work.

As a DipAVN (Equine) I am very aware of the importance of high standards of patient and client care. I am very keen to make evidence based medicine more widely used and recognised within the profession to keep us up-to-date and moving forward. As a lecturer on the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing, I have a real passion for teaching and creating useful and informative CPD. I feel that these skills would be a useful addition to the VN Council.

As a former Head Nurse, I am approachable and used to motivating large groups of people. I have been working in practice for nearly 14 years, so I understand the role of the veterinary nurse very well. With organising and delivering so much CPD, I meet a lot of people in the industry, and am therefore in a unique position to represent a wide variety of views rather than just a narrow section of the profession.

With your vote, I will strive to ensure that all veterinary nurses feel empowered, supported and encouraged to reach their full potential. Together we can further and develop this fantastic profession.
Background information

- VN Council is made up of 15 members: eight elected veterinary nurses; four appointed veterinary surgeons; and three appointed lay members. Each elected VN member has a four-year term of office.

- Every year two elected VN Council members retire at RCVS Day — our Annual General Meeting — though they are eligible for re-election.

- In 2017, four veterinary nurses are contesting two places on VN Council. Two of these are existing VN Council members eligible for re-election while two candidates are not currently on VN Council.

- The full biographies and manifestos of each candidate can be found at www.rcvs.org.uk/vnvote17 where videos of the candidates answering questions submitted directly by members of the profession can also be found.

- You may vote online or by post. Full voting instructions are printed on the separate ballot paper enclosed with this booklet.

- If your ballot paper is not enclosed please contact Annette Amato, VN Council Secretary, on 020 7202 0713 or a.amato@rcvs.org.uk to arrange for a duplicate to be sent to you.

- The result of the election will be announced in May after the voting period closes. The elected candidates will take up their four-year terms at the Annual General Meeting of the RCVS which will take place on Friday 7 July 2017 at the Royal Institute of British Architects.

- The VN Council election is run independently by Electoral Reform Services — the UK’s leading independent supplier of ballot and election services.

- The deadline for receipt of all votes — whether online or by post — is 5pm on Friday 28 April 2017.

YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Thank you to all those veterinary nurses who quizzed the candidates by sending in their questions.

The videos of the candidates answering two of the submitted questions of their choice can be found on the RCVS YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/rcvsvideos.

Vote online* at www.ersvotes.com/vnvote17

Vote by post by returning your ballot paper in the pre-paid envelope provided

*You will need the two-part security code printed on your ballot paper and sent by email