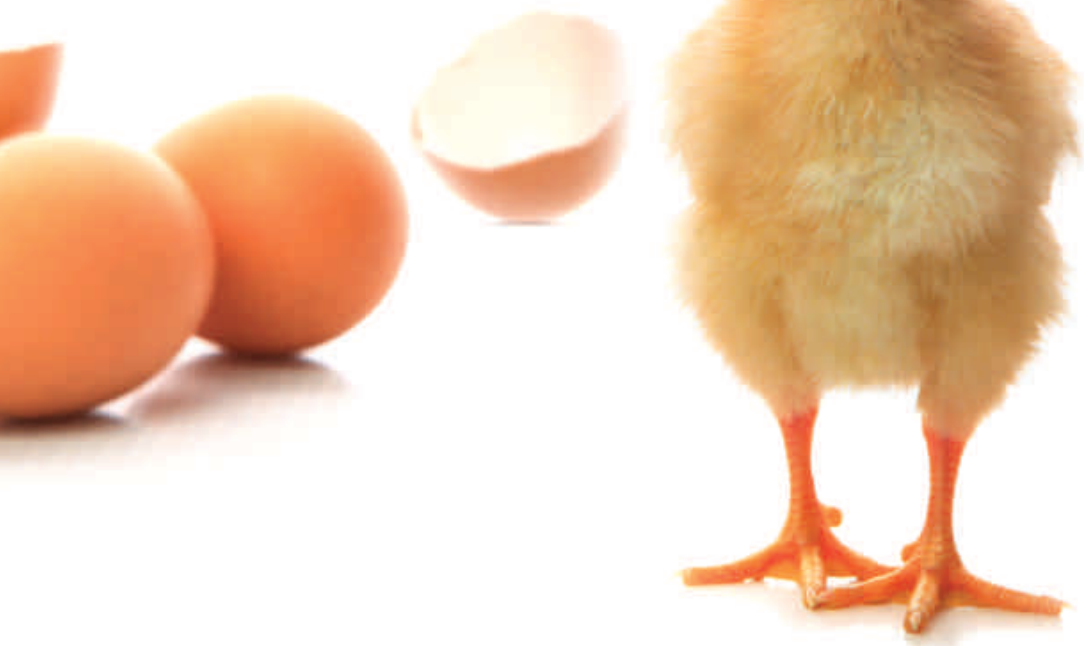


## Professionals from day one

***New set of Day  
One Competences  
for VNs published***



**In this issue:** VN Council elections, ACOVENE audit, Charter update, renewal fee reminder, VN survey, student enrolments and Schedule 3, Period of Supervised Practice, new VN Qualifications Officer, BVNA Congress report, student VNs and out-of-hours, Vetnnet report, registration Q&A, RCVS Awards closure, exam dates and staff list.

# Make a stand for VN Council

## Call for election candidates

**The nomination period for next year's VN Council elections is now open and we are looking for veterinary nurses from all sectors to put themselves forward as candidates.**

Next year there will be two seats available for VN Council and successful candidates will serve four-year terms. Existing VN Council members Elizabeth Branscombe and Elizabeth Cox are due to retire as members but will be eligible to stand again in 2015.

The deadline for submitting nominations is Saturday 31 January 2015 and each candidate will need to complete a nomination form, submit a short biography, write a short personal statement and supply a high resolution digital photo. Each candidate also needs to have two nominators who must be registered veterinary nurses who are not current VN Council members. Nomination forms, guidance notes and a frequently asked questions document can be downloaded from [www.rcvs.org.uk/vncouncil15](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/vncouncil15).

The election comes at a particularly exciting time for VN Council as, when the new Royal Charter comes into effect next year (see page 3), it will have expanded powers and responsibilities and veterinary nursing will be recognised as a fully regulated profession.

Kathy Kissick, Chair of VN Council, says: "VN Council and the profession at large need candidates who are willing to stand up and proudly say that they are veterinary nurses, who can promote the profession as an integral part of the veterinary team and who can raise its profile and really put it on the map. As a member of VN Council you can have a real impact on the future of the profession, so if this sounds like you – put yourself forward!"

The election period starts in early March 2015 and runs until Friday 24 April. Successful candidates for VN Council will take up their seats at RCVS Day – our Annual General Meeting and Awards Day – on Friday 10 July 2015.



## European spot-checks

### ACOVENE audit

**We affiliated with the Accreditation Committee for Veterinary Nurse Education (ACOVENE) in November 2010. Under the terms of the agreement, the ACOVENE Board will visit one centre from each UK awarding organisation (RCVS Awards, Central Qualifications and City & Guilds) and one higher education institution annually. This is to ensure that our regulatory standards for veterinary nurse training are in step with those of ACOVENE, and that quality assurance of centres and training practices is effective.**

ACOVENE has audited three UK centres in 2014 – two well established agricultural colleges and one agricultural college new to veterinary nurse training, all of which deliver further education – plus one agricultural college delivering both higher and further education qualifications. Feedback from the panel was, in the main, very positive. They were particularly

impressed with the dedication, enthusiasm and commitment of the teaching teams they met.

Specific feedback related to what they saw as inadequate use of colleges' excellent animal resources within practical teaching sessions and access to library facilities for evidence-based teaching and learning.

ACOVENE functions in much the same way as Ofqual and QAA in auditing quality assurance procedures. All of its reports are fed back to VN Council and, via the RCVS, to the awarding organisations and higher education institutions concerned.

"This external check on our quality assurance gives very useful feedback on its effectiveness, and provides a fresh perspective on UK VN education," says Julie Dugmore, Head of Veterinary Nursing. "We welcome the 'spot-check' audits of RCVS-accredited qualification provision, and both the reassurances and opportunities to improve that the feedback provides."

# A new day one

## New competences for VNs

**We have now published a new set of Day One Competences for veterinary nurses – the minimum level of knowledge, skills and attitudes that we expect all student veterinary nurses to have met upon registration with the RCVS.**

In meeting the competences a new veterinary nurse should be capable of practising veterinary nursing at a primary care level on their own, under direction from a veterinary surgeon. In addition to the Day One Competences, new veterinary nurses are also expected to demonstrate competence in spoken and written English and be familiar with the *Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses* and its supporting guidance.

We expect all universities and awarding organisations providing licence to practise qualifications for veterinary nurses to ensure that their students have met the Day One Competences by the time they qualify and apply to join the Register.

When conducting accreditation visits to those universities or awarding bodies that wish to provide veterinary nursing qualifications – or when re-accrediting existing courses – we will be monitoring whether or not the syllabus equips students with these new competences. If they are found to be non-compliant we can choose not to accredit the course or withdraw accreditation in the case of existing courses.

To download the full list of Day One Competences for veterinary nurses, please visit [www.rcvs.org.uk/vnd1c](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/vnd1c).

# Charter update

## Listed VNs to join the Register

**Early next year we are expecting our new Royal Charter, which was approved by the Queen in Council in November, to come into effect.**

The Charter represents a huge step forward for the veterinary nursing profession as it recognises all veterinary nurses as regulated professionals and associates of the College with the postnominals RVN. One of the most significant changes is that all current listed veterinary nurses will become registered veterinary nurses.

As in other professions, full professional recognition brings with it certain obligations and this is a key part of recognition by the Charter. For example, all registered veterinary nurses will need to make sure that their skills and knowledge are kept up-to-date by undertaking at least 45 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) over a rolling three-year period and abide by the professional standards set out in the *Code of Professional Conduct* and its supporting guidance.

Furthermore, this means that former listed veterinary nurses will also be accountable for their professional conduct through the College's disciplinary system and will need to disclose any convictions, cautions or adverse findings upon renewing their registration next year.

An FAQ document with further details on how the new Charter will affect veterinary nurses who are currently on the List can be found at [www.rcvs.org.uk/rvn](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/rvn).

# Final call for renewal fees

## Must be paid by end of year

**Please remember that you must pay your annual renewal fee to remain on the Register/List of Veterinary Nurses by the end of this year or your name will be removed.**

As well as paying the fee, all veterinary nurses will need to confirm their registration details and correspondence address while registered veterinary nurses will need to declare any convictions, cautions and/or adverse findings and confirm they have complied with our CPD requirement of 45 hours over a three-year period.

To do all this in an easy and convenient way, please visit the 'My Account' area of the website ([www.rcvs.org.uk/login](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/login)). Security details to access the area were sent to all registered and listed



veterinary nurses earlier this year but if you have not received, or have misplaced, your renewal letter or login details, please contact the Registration Department on 020 7202 0707.

For advice on how to pay your annual renewal fee, please contact our Finance Department on [finance@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:finance@rcvs.org.uk) or 020 7202 0723.

# After the Facts

## Read our VN Survey and RCVS Facts



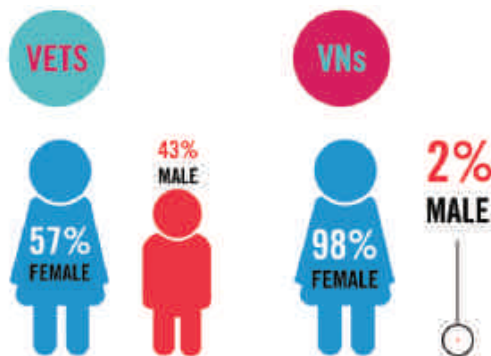
**W**ant to find out all the latest information about the veterinary nursing profession? Well, now you can, thanks to the recent publication of two key sources of information about veterinary nurses – the *Survey of the Veterinary Nursing Profession 2014* and *RCVS Facts 2014*.

The *Survey of the Veterinary Nursing Profession* is conducted every four years and this year we received responses from 3,612 registered/listed veterinary nurses (amounting to around 31% of the profession), as well as 1,792 student veterinary nurses.

One of the key facts picked up by the Survey was that the proportion of student veterinary nurses who are intending to remain employed at their training practices after they qualify has fallen from 61% in the 2010

survey to 52% this year. Overall, veterinary nurses were also found to be generally more positive about the profession than in the 2010 survey. You can download the full report at [www.rcvs.org.uk/publications](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/publications).

And if those aren't enough statistics for you, we have also published *RCVS Facts 2014* containing the latest data on the total number of veterinary nurses on our Register/List and their geographical distribution, the age breakdown of veterinary nurses, the number of Practice Standards Scheme-accredited premises in the UK and much more. The publication is also available to download from the above webpage.



## Recruitment for VN investigation committee

### Two veterinary nurses required

**E**arly next year we will be looking to recruit two registered veterinary nurses to join our Veterinary Nurse Preliminary Investigation Committee, which assesses and investigates concerns raised about the professional conduct of RVNs.

Job descriptions and application forms will be going live on the RCVS website in January so, if you are interested, do make sure to regularly check online to see if they have been posted. Or follow us on Twitter (@RCVS\_UK) for all our latest news.

## Listen up!

### All our webinars in one place

**W**ant to hear about our plans for the new Practice Standards Scheme or new guidance on 24-hour emergency care and pain relief straight from the equine's oral cavity?

Well, now you can, thanks to a new page on our website ([www.rcvs.org.uk/webinars](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/webinars)) which has all our free Webinar Vet hosted webinars in one place.

And remember – listening to a webinar can count towards your continuing professional development requirement.

# The importance of enrolment

## Students must be enrolled to perform Schedule 3 tasks

**We have recently become aware of a small number of training practices that have been employing 'student veterinary nurses' who are undertaking distance learning with overseas awarding organisations that are not recognised or accredited by the College.**

***“Generally, we will only enrol students who are registered for the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing or a UK degree that has been accredited by us.”***

Training practices should be aware that if these students are undertaking any Schedule 3 tasks, as set out in the Veterinary Surgeons Act (Schedule 3 Amendment) Order 2002, they are doing so illegally and will also be highly unlikely to be able to join the Register of Veterinary Nurses upon application. It is also highly unlikely that these distance learning courses will be equipping candidates with the essential knowledge and skills required of a qualified veterinary nurse as set out in our Day One Competences (see page 3).

Generally, we will only enrol students who are registered for the Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing or a UK degree that has been accredited by us. Veterinary nursing students on distance learning programmes are therefore not eligible to enrol with us. However, all prospective further and higher education students **MUST** be enrolled with the College in order to legally undertake veterinary nursing procedures defined under Schedule 3 of the Act.

Under Schedule 3 registered, listed or student veterinary nurses, under the direction of a veterinary surgeon, may carry out limited veterinary surgery that is defined as medical treatment or minor surgery which does not involve entry into a body cavity. Furthermore, student veterinary nurses must be supervised by a veterinary surgeon or registered veterinary nurse when carrying out medical treatment and, in the case of minor surgery, the supervision must be direct, continuous and personal.

Most veterinary nursing qualifications require evidence that the student has completed basic nursing skills, such as administering medication, monitoring vital signs, taking blood samples and administering fluid therapy. However, all of these procedures – along with

a number of others – are classified as either medical treatments or surgical procedures under the Veterinary Surgeons Act. As such, they may only be legitimately delegated to student veterinary nurses who have enrolled with us – otherwise they are in breach of the Act and performing these procedures illegally.

This year alone we have been aware of two individuals who were on distance learning courses who had their application to join the Register rejected by the Registrar because the qualification was deemed inadequate when compared against UK accredited courses. Practices must remember that it is ultimately their responsibility to make sure that their student veterinary nurses are enrolled with us and, where a student or any other employee may have breached the Veterinary Surgeons Act, that they will ultimately be held responsible.

If you are concerned that a student veterinary nurse is studying for an unaccredited distance learning course and is not enrolled with the College, please contact Lily Lipman, Qualifications Officer, on [l.lipman@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:l.lipman@rcvs.org.uk) or 020 7202 0788, for further advice.

More details about delegation of procedures to veterinary nurses can be found in the supporting guidance to our *Code of Professional Conduct* at [www.rcvs.org.uk/delegation](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/delegation).





# A smooth return to practice life

## Period of Supervised Practice after long absences

**Veterinary nurses returning to practice after a significant career break might find the transition a challenge, whatever their previous experience or level of seniority.**

In order to assist returning nurses – and in the best interests of the public and their animals – those who wish to return to the Register of Veterinary Nurses after an absence of five or more years need to undertake the Period of Supervised Practice (PSP) to refresh their skills under the guidance of a mentor who can be either an experienced registered veterinary nurse or veterinary surgeon.

The PSP should be completed within a year and must take place over a minimum of 17 full-time weeks (or the part-time equivalent) amounting to at least 595 hours. The PSP should also normally take place at an RCVS-approved training practice (TP) or a veterinary practice that is approved by our Practice Standards Scheme. Once the number of hours has been met, and the individual is confident that they meet the Day One Competences for veterinary nurses, then they should submit a declaration of completion signed by their mentor.

Unfortunately, our Veterinary Nursing Department has recently been made aware of a number of issues regarding the registration status of veterinary nurses and the PSP. For example, some have not informed us that they have undertaken the PSP and we have only found out when their final declaration of completion forms were submitted. This means that we have been unable to restore them to the Register.

Julie Dugmore, Head of Veterinary Nursing, explains: "The PSP aims to help registered veterinary nurses refresh their skills and ensure that they are competent in their sphere of work before they re-join the Register as fully-fledged members of the profession. However, in order for this to be legally sound, they must inform us beforehand so that we can classify them as a 'PSP Nurse' which allows them to carry out Schedule 3 reserved tasks, albeit with the same restrictions that apply to student veterinary nurses."

All those who wish to embark on the PSP must first submit an application (and pay a £75 fee). If they have not applied for the PSP but have undertaken Schedule 3 work then they will have breached the Veterinary Surgeons Act and may therefore be referred to our Professional Conduct Department.

We are also aware of individuals who have been working as veterinary nurses while not on the List or Register – either because they didn't renew their registration or never registered in the first place – who have applied to have the PSP recognised retroactively. Again, these individuals have been performing Schedule 3 work illegally and, therefore, have been referred to our Professional Conduct Department for further investigation.

Any TP that currently has individuals doing the PSP may be held responsible should that individual not in fact have PSP status and be undertaking Schedule 3 tasks illegally. If you are unsure, please contact us on [vetnursing@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:vetnursing@rcvs.org.uk) or 020 7202 0788 to check the individual's status.

## It's all in the name

### Appropriate use of 'veterinary nursing' in education

**We are asking higher and further education institutions to ensure that they do not use the title 'veterinary nursing' for any of their courses or course modules if they do not lead to a formal veterinary nursing qualification.**

Although we currently have no official protection for the title 'veterinary nurse' we are aiming to increase public awareness of the fact that an individual should not be calling themselves a veterinary nurse unless they have completed their formal training and have joined our Register of Veterinary Nurses. We hope that educational institutions can help us with this by

ensuring that 'veterinary nursing' is not used to describe animal care or animal management courses or their sub-modules.

If you do use the title 'veterinary nursing' in any of your non-VN course titles or materials we would be grateful if you would consider reviewing this at the earliest opportunity. If you would like to discuss alternative wording, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Veterinary Nursing Department on [vetnursing@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:vetnursing@rcvs.org.uk) or 020 7202 0788. Thank you for helping us to promote the role and expertise of the veterinary nurse.

# Ensuring correct fresh gas flow

## Students failing on key task

**We have recently received concerns from examiners assessing the RCVS pre-registration objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) because a high number of students have been unable to successfully perform one particular task during the exam and have been failing it as a result.**

The OSCE station SA04 (Mini Lack) provides the opportunity for candidates to demonstrate that they are competent in setting up and using anaesthetic equipment. However, while candidates generally demonstrate good knowledge and skills in selecting and checking the equipment, examiners have found that around a third of candidates are unable to correctly set the fresh gas flow (FGF). While candidates appear to know that when using the flow meter they should read from the centre of the ball (where there is a dot), many nurses set the FGF on a bobbin flow meter using the dot in the middle of the bobbin. This is incorrect – the reading should be taken from the top of the bobbin.

Setting the FGF correctly is an important clinical skill for veterinary nurses and candidates who do not set it correctly will therefore fail the task. We are asking awarding organisations to please ensure that they are aware of the issues around correctly reading FGF and to train their student veterinary nurses accordingly.

For further information and guidance please contact Victoria Hedges, Examinations Manager, on 020 7202 0782 or [v.hedges@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:v.hedges@rcvs.org.uk).



## Meet the team

### Lily Lipman MBA BSc (Hons) RVN



#### What's your role at the RCVS?

I am the Veterinary Nursing Qualifications Officer, which is a new role at the College.

#### What does the role entail?

I carry out regulatory auditing of higher education institutions (HEIs) and awarding organisations (AOs) and quality assure their licence to practise qualifications, centres and training practices. My role involves liaising with HEIs/AOs and centre staff and providing support and guidance in relation to RCVS criteria and standards for training. I am also responsible for overseeing the Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing and overseas qualifications.

I am hugely excited to have the opportunity to use all my experience and skills from my career as a registered veterinary nurse and bring them to this new role. I am committed to the development and evolution of VN education, to maintain a collaborative working relationship with all those who provide it and, by doing so, give the best possible start to the new generation of VNs.

#### What's your background?

I began my career in veterinary nursing after a few years of trying different jobs in the hospitality and insurance industries and, after four years of study, achieved a 2:1 Veterinary Nursing BSc in 2006 through Middlesex University. Once qualified, having spent my training years in general practice, I had the opportunity to work as a medicine nurse at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC), where I learned high standards of nursing protocols and patient care within a dedicated team of excellent nurses and clinicians. During my time at the RVC, I also trained as an assessor and began assessing student veterinary nurses under the NVQ system.

My interest in training and education led to the role of animal care lecturer and later VN Co-ordinator for the veterinary nurse programme at a further education college in St Albans. I loved every day there and completed my teaching qualification in the first two years. There were numerous obstacles and challenges, for example, trying to fit the unique VN qualification into the FE mould, and I think it is fair to say my negotiating skills improved tenfold after beginning the post!

# Raising awareness of the profession

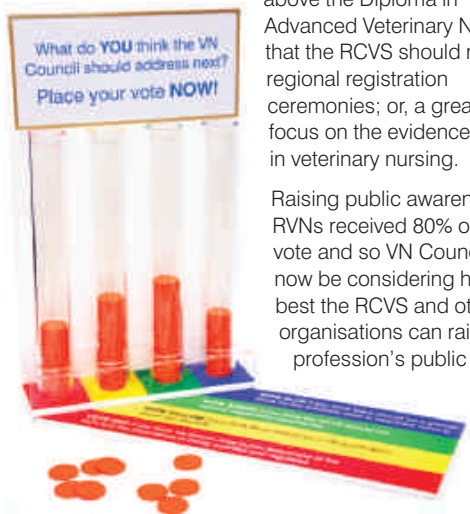
## Contact us with your ideas

**T**hank you to all those veterinary nurses who visited our stand during BVNA Congress (10-12 October) and cast a vote on which of the four issues they felt was the most important for VN Council to focus on next year.

The choices on offer were: raise public awareness of the RVN and the importance of being registered and qualified; develop a veterinary nursing qualification

above the Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing; that the RCVS should run regional registration ceremonies; or, a greater focus on the evidence base in veterinary nursing.

Raising public awareness of RVNs received 80% of the vote and so VN Council will now be considering how best the RCVS and other organisations can raise the profession's public profile.



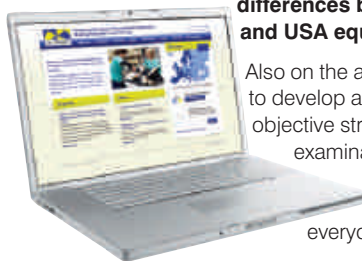
If you have any ideas on how we can achieve this, please do contact Lizzie Lockett, our Director of Communications, on [l.lockett@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:l.lockett@rcvs.org.uk).

Raising the profile of the profession was also covered at a joint Q & A session with the BVNA at the Congress. VN Council Chair Kathy Kissick, RCVS Head of Veterinary Nursing Julie Dugmore, the then BVNA President Kirstie Shield and President-Elect Fiona Andrew (pictured right to left) dealt with a range of topics posed by delegates including mental health and wellbeing, how to engage students in VN politics and Working Time Regulations, among other things.

# Vetnnet goes equine

## News from 2014 conference – and 2015 dates

**T**he Veterinary European Transnational Network for Nursing Education and Training (Vetnnet) held its 2014 conference in Lipica, Slovenia, home of the Lipizzaner horse. As you might expect, the theme was an equine one, which included lectures and workshops ranging from what/how to teach equine nursing students, to the differences between UK and USA equine nursing.



Also on the agenda was how to develop and administer objective structured clinical examinations (OSCE), which saw some delegates using everyday items to aid

their OSCE writing. They discovered the hard way that the key to a good OSCE is breaking down the task into all the individual steps – being directed to put on a pair of underpants is not easy when important steps are missing!

Next year's conference, celebrating 20 years of Vetnnet, will be in Porto, Portugal, hosted by the Instituto Polytechnico Viseu. The main theme will be 'how to get the best out of your student veterinary nurses'.

As well as the serious CPD, there will be lots of opportunity to network during the evenings and plenty of time to explore Porto, and, if you have a weekend free following the conference, further afield in Portugal. The dates for your diary are 23-25 September 2015. Keep an eye on [www.vetnnet.com](http://www.vetnnet.com) for further information.



# Guidance on students out-of-hours

## Regional Question Time highlighted issue

**Student veterinary nurses should not be working out-of-hours on their own – that was a clear message from our recent Regional Question Time meeting in Carlisle.**

The issue arose as one of the delegates, who was a VN lecturer, said that some of her student VNs were being asked to take the phones out-of-hours – and were also being leaned on heavily to say that the veterinary surgeon would not come out on a visit. “There is huge competition for VN training places so the students are reluctant to say ‘no’ but this is putting them under a lot of pressure – essentially harassment in the workplace,” said the delegate.

Kathy Kissick, VN Council Chair, who was on the panel at the meeting, offered the following advice: “Centres should not be placing students where they know this is happening. If you discuss it with the practice and they do not

change the policy, the training practice status should be reconsidered. Students should not be doing out-of-hours on their own and this should be included in the centre’s memorandum of understanding with its training practices.”

The Carlisle meeting took place on 11 November and was preceded by a meeting in Dundee on 10 November. A summary report of both meetings can be found at [www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-events/regional-question-times](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-events/regional-question-times).

***“There is huge competition for VN training places so the students are reluctant to say ‘no’ but this is putting them under a lot of pressure.”***

Our next RQTs are planned for March. Follow us on Twitter (@RCVS\_UK) or on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/thercvs](http://www.facebook.com/thercvs)) to find out more. We also summarise discussions live on Twitter, so if you can’t make it, you can still follow the action!



## ACOVENE training day

### Visitation guidance for colleges

**In March, delegates from European schools of veterinary nursing joined the ACOVENE Board for a day of visitation training for colleges at our Belgravia House office. This was the second such event and it was encouraging to see delegates from a number of schools volunteering to become involved.**

The day was packed with activities, all based on real situations that would be encountered by colleges during the visitation process. Delegates worked in small groups to evaluate documentation, plan visitation agendas and identify potential issues for exploration at a site visit.

Communication was the main theme of the day and issues such as cultural differences in veterinary nurse training, ensuring the correct people are met and constructing a visitation report generated lively discussion. At the end of the session, ACOVENE recruited a number of potential visitors and received some excellent feedback.

## SEVC report

### Presentation on VN regulations

**In October, our Head of Veterinary Nursing, Julie Dugmore, was invited to speak at the Southern European Veterinary Conference (SEVC) in Barcelona. The three-day conference was well attended, with delegates from many European countries.**

The conference covered all aspects of companion animal veterinary care, from diagnostics to therapy, including specific topics such as anaesthesia, dentistry and emergency/critical care, and featured some 80 international speakers.

Julie’s presentations focused on the history of the veterinary nursing profession, how it is currently regulated and the upcoming changes affecting veterinary nurses in the UK. She also gave an overview of the current rules for international veterinary nurses entering the UK Register, giving practical hints and tips for those nurses who would be required to sit the RCVS pre-registration practical examination.

# Registering with the RCVS

## Your questions answered

**We often receive enquiries from newly qualified nurses asking how they formally register with the College, so we thought it might be useful to put together some handy questions and answers about the registration process that will be relevant for all qualified VNs – whether they are a Level 3 Diploma or higher education qualification holder. We would be grateful if training practices, awarding organisations and centres could disseminate this information among their students.**

### **I have just completed my Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing. How do I apply to join the Register?**

We receive monthly lists from both Central Qualifications and City & Guilds providing us with candidate details for all new certificates issued. On receipt of this information we forward registration packs to each newly qualified nurse, which includes the registration application form.

### **Can my college let you know that I have achieved the qualification?**

Yes, we encourage colleges to inform us of the names of all nurses who have completed the qualification. We will send registration packs to these nurses but you will not be able to register until we have received the official list from Central Qualifications or City & Guilds. This approach can reduce the time it takes to register.

### **While I am waiting for my registration pack is there anything I can do to prepare?**

We always advise student veterinary nurses to keep their record of training and record of absence up to date and to get these signed by the appropriate practice principal as this form needs to be submitted with your registration application. However, please do not send these documents to us without the registration application as we will not be able to process them on their own.

### **I would like to come to an RCVS admission ceremony, when should I submit my registration application?**

The RCVS admission ceremonies, where friends and family can gather to celebrate the new veterinary nurse's achievement, are very popular. The maximum number of attendees for any ceremony is 80 people, which amounts to 25 veterinary nurses and their guests. We will be holding eight ceremonies throughout 2015.

Please see the table for dates of ceremonies, along with the latest submission dates for registration applications.

Admission ceremony dates 2015	Registration form submission deadline
14 and 15 January	3 December 2014
25 and 26 March	23 February
1 and 2 July	19 May
28 and 29 October	8 September

If you would like to attend a ceremony but miss the submission date please don't worry. You can still be registered in the meantime and attend the next scheduled ceremony, where you will be presented with your badge and registration certificate.

### **Once qualified, how long can I remain as a student veterinary nurse?**

We will write to you three months after you have been issued with your Level 3 Diploma certificate to inform you that your student enrolment has ended. If you have not registered with us you must not accept delegation of medical treatments or carry out minor surgical procedures after this date. If you are still working towards registration you should contact us and we will re-instate your student status.

### **If I have completed a degree is the registration process the same as for the Level 3 Diploma?**

If you have completed a degree or HND, your university or college will provide you with the registration application pack. They will return these to us before your graduation. Your registration date will be your graduation date. If there are several months between completing your qualification and your graduation we will write and provide you with the opportunity to apply for temporary registration until your graduation date.

For further details on applying to enter the Register, or questions about any of the above information, please contact Sophie Jamieson, VN Admissions Officer, on [s.jamieson@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:s.jamieson@rcvs.org.uk) or 020 7202 0711.





# Bringing some closure

## RCVS Awards closure countdown

**R**CVS Awards, the College's veterinary nursing awarding organisation, is continuing to prepare for its closure at the beginning of December 2015.

There are now fewer than 200 students currently enrolled for the RCVS Level 3 Diploma – which is delivered by RCVS Awards through its various centres. Other centres no longer have any RCVS Awards students at all but are continuing to deliver the Level 3 Diploma in veterinary nursing through the awarding organisations Central Qualifications and City & Guilds.

Those remaining RCVS Awards students will have two opportunities to sit their theory and practical examinations next year (dates for these can be found on the back page). The final certification date for the RCVS Awards Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing and Certificate in Animal Studies is 30 November 2015.

If there are any remaining students with RCVS Awards when it closes in December 2015 we will assist their centres in transferring the students to a new awarding organisation. However, we cannot guarantee that all of the assessments that have been undertaken with RCVS Awards will be accepted and so we urge that students aim to complete their studies before the closure date.

If you are an RCVS Awards student and are concerned that you may not be able to complete your studies before the closure date, please contact Victoria Hedges, Examinations Manager, on [v.hedges@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:v.hedges@rcvs.org.uk) or 020 7202 0782 for further advice.

## Timeline of RCVS Awards closure

Step by step guide to the process

**RCVS Awards will close at the beginning of December 2015. Here's a timeline counting down the different stages of the process:**

**October 2011:** VN Council decided to wind down RCVS Awards

**August 2012:** the last cohort of students was enrolled on to the RCVS Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

**December 2013:** full approval was granted for Central Qualifications and City & Guilds to provide the Level 3 Diploma

**March 2014:** a formal recognition of surrender was submitted to and accepted by Ofqual, the Office of Qualifications and Examinations, the qualifications regulator

**April 2014:** all remaining students and centres were informed by letter of the timeline for the closure of RCVS Awards

**June 2015:** the remaining students will have the last opportunity to sit their theory and practical OSCE examinations; results for the theory and practical exams will be published in June and July 2015 respectively, after which there will be a three-month window for appeals

**November 2015:** date of last certification for the RCVS Awards Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing and Certificate in Animal Studies

**December 2015:** RCVS Awards will close and all remaining students will be transferred to Central Qualifications or City & Guilds to complete their qualification

# Top scorers

## Two students achieve 100% exam marks

**C**ongratulations to student veterinary nurses Rachel Ford and Samantha Squires who both achieved 100% for every task in their RCVS Level 3 Diploma Practical Examinations in July – a rare achievement!

Rachel, who works at AAS Vets in Abbeydale, Gloucestershire, studied at Hartpury College in Gloucester, while Samantha works at Moor Cottage Veterinary Hospital in Bracknell and attended MYF Training in Aldershot.

In total, 226 students took the practical examinations and 173 (77%) passed. The full pass list can be found at <http://awardingbody.rcvs.org.uk/exam-results>.



**Practical examinations (OSCE)****Spring 2015**

Closing date for entries	8 February
Exam weekend	6 – 8 March
Results published online	2 April

**Summer 2015**

Closing date for entries	29 May
Exam weekend	26 – 27 June
Results published online	23 July

**Theory examinations (e-assessment)****Spring 2015**

Closing date for entries	12 January
Appointment booking window	26 January – 19 February
Exam weeks	23 – 28 February
Results published online	26 March

**Summer 2015**

Closing date for entries	17 April
Appointment booking window	18 May – 12 June
Exam week	15 – 20 June
Results published online	16 July

**Who does what...**

Julie Dugmore	<i>Head of Veterinary Nursing</i>	Annah Bhebe	<i>Examinations, overseas registration applications</i>
Annette Amato	<i>Deputy Head of Department, Awarding Body Board Secretary, Secretary to VN Council</i>	Sophie Jamieson	<i>Initial VN registrations and certifications</i>
Vicky Hedges	<i>RCVS examinations</i>	Chloe Baxter	<i>Student enrolments and careers</i>
Helen Bourne	<i>Centre approvals and monitoring, ACOVENE support</i>	Lily Lipman	<i>Accreditation and quality monitoring for VN qualifications</i>

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