

**Programme Specification – Foundation Degree Veterinary Nursing  
& BSc Veterinary Nursing**

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| <b>1. Awarding institution</b>                 | The Royal Veterinary College  |
| <b>2. Teaching institution</b>                 | The Royal Veterinary College (University of London)   |
| <b>3. Programme accredited by</b>              | The Royal Veterinary College (University of London) & Approval to deliver the FdSc Veterinary Nursing course has been granted by The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons |
| <b>4. Final award</b>                          | Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing or BSc Veterinary Nursing   |
| <b>5. Programme Title</b>                      | Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing (FdSc VN) or BSc Veterinary Nursing (BSc VN)  |
| <b>6. Date of First Intake</b>                 | September 2004 (FdSc VN), September 2008 (BSc VN)   |
| <b>7. Frequency of Intake</b>                  | Annually in September   |
| <b>8. Duration and Mode(s) of Study</b>        | Three years full-time (FdSc VN), Four years full-time (BSc VN)  |
| <b>9. Timing of Examination Board meetings</b> | June / July for yrs 3 and 4<br>Sept for yrs 1 and 2   |



Students who are unable to complete the full course may be awarded the Certificate in HE Animal Welfare and Care providing they meet the requirements in the Award and Assessment Regulations. The broad outcomes of this exit award are:

**At the end of the **Certificate in HE Animal Welfare and Care**, the student is able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of the basic care and animal husbandry of a range of small animal, exotic and equine species as required for veterinary practice;
- Interact with colleagues, clients, patients and members of the multi-disciplinary team;
- Demonstrate a range of skills providing basic care for small animals, exotics and equine.

**At the end of the **FdSc VN Degree programme**, the student is able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses;
- Demonstrate an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of veterinary nursing;
- Demonstrate critical understanding of veterinary nursing practice through applying a wide range of nursing skills;
- Apply relevant technology in veterinary practice;
- Understand the judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues;
- Solve practical work problems in an effective manner;
- Demonstrate an awareness of current issues relating to veterinary practice;
- Plan and manage their own work.

**At the end of the **BScVN Degree programme**, the student is able to:**

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses;
- Demonstrate an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of veterinary nursing;
- Demonstrate critical understanding of veterinary nursing practice through applying a wide range of nursing skills;
- Apply relevant technology in veterinary practice;
- Understand the judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues;
- Solve practical work problems in an effective manner;
- Demonstrate an awareness of current issues relating to veterinary practice;
- Plan and manage their own work;
- Conduct research in a relevant area of clinical practice.

1. Demonstrate critical understanding of Veterinary Nursing practice through the implementation of general nursing care
2. Possess an extensive and integrated knowledge and understanding of Veterinary Nursing
3. Show insight into current developments at the forefront of areas of Veterinary Nursing
4. Understand those judgements employed by Veterinary Nurses and other professional colleagues
5. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of professional, ethical and moral responsibilities of Veterinary Nurses
6. With minimal guidance, resolve Veterinary Nursing problems using appropriate knowledge and skills

### **Teaching/learning methods**

Students learn knowledge and understanding through attendance at lectures, seminars, workshops and through a variety of directed and self-directed learning activities and through placement time.

### **Assessment**

Assessed by coursework, clinical assessment, examination and report writing

## **19. Programme structures and requirements, levels, modules, credits and awards**

### **Professional Development & Clinical Skills I, II and III**

- Study & time management skills
- Finding information & IT skills
- Referencing and report writing
- RCVS Day One skills and competencies
- Clinical skills

### **Year 1**

#### **Clinical Nursing Practice I**

- Introduction to animal behaviour
- Animal housing and hospitalisation
- Handling and restraint
- Patient assessment
- Introduction to nursing techniques
- Nutrition
- Breeds and Breeding,
- Basic nursing care of common exotic and other companion animals
- Dose calculations
- Administration of medicines

#### **Clinical Nursing Practice II**

- Communication and record keeping
- Reception Skills
- Hospital Hygiene
- Health & Safety – working safely in the practice
- Preparation and assisting with veterinary procedures



## Year 3

### Applied Nursing Care

- Nursing process and models of nursing
- Applied nursing care to surgical & medical conditions
- Preparation for surgical procedures
- Post operative care
- Dispensing of medications & Drug groups
- Legal and professional responsibilities of dispensing
- Pharmacodynamics & Pharmacokinetics
- Running a surgical theatre
- Schedule III techniques

### Professional Practice

- Running a business
- Basic accountancy (VAT, invoices etc.)
- Staff management
- Introduction to research & Literature searches
- How to research using different sources – internet, library etc.
- Intro to evidence based veterinary medicine, role of clinical trials
- Legislation affecting the veterinary professional
- Ethical & Professional issues
- Animal Welfare issues

## Year 4 (BScVN)

Advanced Practice Toolkit

Research Methods

Final Year Project

Elective modules:

- Pathology

## Foundation Degree in Veterinary Nursing (Years One, Two & Three)

### & BSc Veterinary Nursing (All Years)

#### Year One (FHEQ Level 4)

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Professional Development & Clinical Skills I | 20 credits |
| Clinical Nursing Practice I                  | 25 credits |
| Clinical Nursing Practice II                 | 25 credits |
| Veterinary Nursing Applied Science I         | 25 credits |
| Veterinary Nursing Applied Science II        | 25 credits |

#### Year Two (FHEQ Level 5)

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Professional Development & Clinical Skills II | 10 credits |
| Anaesthesia/Emergency and Critical Care       | 25 credits |
| Diagnostic Techniques                         | 25 credits |

#### Year Three (FHEQ Level 5)

|  |            |
|--|------------|
| Professional Development & Clinical Skills III | 10 credits |
| Applied Nursing Care                           | 25 credits |
| Professional Practice                          | 25 credits |

Total Credits                      240 credits

#### Year Four (FHEQ Level 6)

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| Advanced Practice Toolkit       | (L6) 15 |
| Research Methods                | (L6) 30 |
| Final Year Project              | (L6) 60 |
| 15 Credits from Elective Module | (L6) 15 |

Total Credits                      (All) 360

## Elective Modules

Emergency and Critical Care Nursing incorporating Fluid Therapy