



Veterinary Nursing

Industry:	Land-Based
Lantra code:	ST0343
Level:	3
Typical duration:	30 months
Funding band:	£15,000
EPA cost:	£2,800
Venue:	Workplace or Training Centre



Introduction to this Apprenticeship Standard

The Veterinary Nurse Apprenticeship standard has been designed to operate as the professional standard for people working as Veterinary Nurses across the sector.

Veterinary nursing is a regulated profession. Apprentices must be enrolled with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) for the duration of their training. Completion of the apprenticeship will coincide with the achievement of the accredited Licence to Practise Veterinary Nursing qualification at Level 3, which can be presented to the RCVS as evidence for the purpose of registration as a veterinary nurse. Student Veterinary Nurses and Registered Veterinary Nurses work within the standards and scope of practice defined by the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and the RCVS.

Veterinary nursing is the supportive care of animals receiving treatment within a veterinary practice. A veterinary nurse works as a member of the veterinary team, providing expert nursing care for sick animals. Veterinary nurses also play a significant role in educating owners on maintaining the health of their pets. They carry out technical work and are skilled in undertaking a range of diagnostic tests, medical treatments and minor surgical procedures, under veterinary direction.



On Programme Apprentice Activity and Tracking

Apprentices will complete a training programme accredited by the RCVS while employed in a veterinary practice, which meets the minimum standard defined by the RCVS. At the beginning of the apprenticeship, it is required that the employer, apprentice and training provider agree a training and assessment plan, demonstrating that the apprentice has the opportunity to develop the full range of knowledge, skills and behaviours set out in the standard.

It is expected that apprentices will have the opportunity to complete the minimum training time including both theoretical delivery and practical training as detailed in the RCVS Veterinary Nursing Registration Rules.



Mandatory Qualifications

Apprentices are required to have the following prior to starting:

Achieve 5 GCSEs of grade A-C or 4-9 (or equivalent) to include Mathematics, English and Science.



Gateway Criteria

Employers must satisfy themselves that apprentices are ready for their End-Point Assessment following the minimum training period. Veterinary nursing apprentices must demonstrate that they have satisfactorily completed the formal training plan agreed with the apprentice by the employer, including successful completion of the written/online examinations, assignments and workplace assessment. When the employer is satisfied that the apprentice has demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and behaviours of a competent veterinary nurse as outlined in the standard, they will enter the End-Point Assessment period. The employer may do this in consultation with the training provider.

Although the apprentice should only be recommended for End-Point Assessment when they are ready, employers should have a remediation process in place to support any apprentice who does not meet the conditions of the End-Point Assessment.

Conditions of End Point Assessment entry are:

- Completion of NPL
- All five MCQs and the assignment have been achieved
- Evidence of Off the Job Training – in line with the ESFA funding rules. All 'off the job' hours have been achieved and recorded on the relevant online platform
- Evidence of the minimum training time completed, as detailed in RCVS Veterinary Nursing Registration Rules
- All entry requirement certificates or equivalencies for the Veterinary Nursing qualification are available.



Gateway Declaration

The Lantra Awards Gateway Declaration form must be completed, signed and dated by the Employer, Apprentice and Training Provider and uploaded onto ACE360 as part of the EPA registration process prior to the EPA taking place.

End Point Assessment (EPA) – Demonstrating Learning

The final assessment will consist of 2 elements, a Professional Discussion and an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE), which are undertaken on separate days:

Day 1	Day one will be a professional discussion covering different scenarios and behaviours. This must be passed before proceeding to the second assessment - a one-to-one structured interview held under controlled conditions between the Apprentice and their assessor of 45 minute duration.
Day 2	Day two will be a synoptic practical assessment in the form of an Objective Structured Clinical Examination (OSCE) covering a range of practical skills.

Both components must be passed for the apprentice to meet the apprenticeship standard.



Apprenticeship Certification

Certificates are issued by the Education and Skills Funding Agency and sent direct to the Apprentice's employer.



How Lantra can help

- We are specialists in environmental and land-based industries
- We offer good value and cost-effective EPA
- Our assessors meet and exceed the requirements of the assessment plan
- We offer our service across the whole of England
- We use ACE360 - an apprenticeship standards management system - to manage EPA
- We are experts in the delivery of Apprenticeship Frameworks and National Occupational Standards
- With a 40-year history, delivering high quality, specialist support to the land-based industries is in our DNA.

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