



Veterinary Nursing

- RCVS Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing
- Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants

Greenmount offers two Veterinary Nursing courses designed to prepare students for careers in the veterinary nursing/animal care profession. The training provides the appropriate knowledge to complement the practical skills acquired while working in a veterinary practice and also helps student nurses develop their teamwork and interpersonal skills.

Facilities

Greenmount Campus provides an attractive learning and living environment for all students. Formal classes are taught in a specialist veterinary nursing classroom fitted with all the equipment necessary for small animal veterinary nursing, surgical nursing and diagnostic imaging.

The campus has a laboratory equipped with laboratory analysers, refractometers, microscopes, centrifuges and commercial test kits.

Veterinary nursing students have access to the Greenmount Resource Centre with its extensive library, work rooms and study areas.

The campus also has excellent computer facilities for students with the most up to date on-line teaching materials available.



Career profile: Catherine Davey

Catherine is currently employed by Earlswood Veterinary Hospital, Belfast and has completed the Animal Nursing Assistant and the RCVS Level 3 courses at Greenmount. "On leaving school I studied Art but soon realised however that my future lay in working with animals so I decided to change to a career in veterinary nursing. After volunteering with the USPCA I got a job with a local vet. I found I loved working with the animals and every day was different. I applied for a job in Earlswood Veterinary Hospital, which I got and really enjoy. I decided to apply to Greenmount where I studied both the ANA and RCVS courses. The ANA course was very enjoyable but quite challenging at times, while the RCVS course is very demanding. Staff are really helpful and encourage you all the way. The courses cover a wide range of subjects which I put into practice in my work place. I have no hesitation in recommending either or both of the courses to anyone with a keen interest in working with animals."

This course is designed to prepare students for careers in veterinary nursing/animal care working in veterinary practices.

Course content

The course is delivered over two years and students attend the College for a total of 110 days. The remainder of the time is spent employed or in a full-time placement in an approved veterinary practice.

Year 1 consists of 80 days, delivered two days per week, covering:

- Anaesthesia
- Anatomy and physiology
- Applied animal health and husbandry
- Diagnostic imaging
- Health and safety
- Infection control
- Laboratory diagnostic aids
- Pharmacology
- Professional relationships and communication
- Theatre practice
- Veterinary nursing care
- Veterinary nursing support

Year 2 consists of six weeks covering:

- Applied peri-operative equine/small animal nursing
- Applied nursing of sick small animals
- Developing professional veterinary nursing practice
- Emergency and critical care of small animals
- Supporting anaesthetised patients

Entry requirements

Five GCSE passes at Grade C or above including English Language, Mathematics and a Science subject. Applicants should be at least 16 years or over and be employed in an approved veterinary practice.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

On completion of the Level 3 Diploma students can progress onto a Diploma in Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

Fact file:

Course duration:

Two years.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Kenneth Johnston

Telephone:

028 9442 6769

Email:

kenneth.johnston@dardni.gov.uk



Student profile:
Mairead Mulvenna

"When I was studying at school for my A levels, I started working part-time in Balmoral Veterinary Centre in Belfast. I loved the work from the minute I started and after finishing school I joined the practice full-time. After a few years working I decided that I wanted to get some qualifications and completed the Animal Nursing Assistant course at Greenmount which I really enjoyed. At that stage Balmoral was not one of the RCVS approved training practices, however the practice has now got RCVS approved status and I was really pleased to be able to progress on to the RCVS Level 3 Diploma. Completing the ANA course first was great because it gave me the underpinning knowledge that is so helpful for the Level 3 programme. I continue to love working with animals and clients and have no regrets in the career I have chosen."

Level 2 Certificate for Animal Nursing Assistants (formerly known as Animal Nursing Assistant)

The aim of this course is to prepare students for careers as animal nursing assistants in veterinary practices. This Level 2 Certificate in Animal Nursing Assistant course equips students with the skills and knowledge required to support qualified veterinary staff.

Course content

The Animal Nursing Assistant course is delivered on a day-release basis over one academic year. The remainder of the time is spent working in a veterinary practice.

The course covers:

- Basic practical management and reception skills
- Companion animal anatomy and physiology
- Control and restraint of animals
- Maintenance of animal accommodation
- Principles of infection control
- The care of ill and injured animals within a veterinary practice
- The husbandry and welfare of domestic animals

Entry requirements

Normally two Grade Cs or three Grade Ds including English and Mathematics. Applicants must be at least 16 years or over, and employed for at least 20 hours/week in a veterinary practice.

Progression opportunities and career destinations

Students are normally already employed in veterinary practices and laboratories. Students who successfully complete the Animal Nursing Assistant course may progress onto RCVS Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing course.

Fact file:

Course duration:

One year.

Course location:

Greenmount Campus.

Contact details:

Course Manager:

Kenneth Johnston

Telephone:

028 9442 6769

Email:

kenneth.johnston@dardni.gov.uk

Level 2 Certificate



Graduate profile:
Ashleen Price

"For as long as I can remember I have always wanted to work with animals. Within a week of leaving school I found work in Firmount Veterinary Clinic, Antrim, which is one of the RCVS approved training practices. I enrolled on and have recently completed the Animal Nursing Assistant course at Greenmount. It was always my ambition to become a listed veterinary nurse with the RCVS and I now hope to progress onto the Level 3 course. The ANA course was really enjoyable, but intensive and requires a lot of work to be completed at home and at the practice. The tutors are great and extremely helpful and I have made a lot of new friends."

