



The role of a Veterinary Nurse (VN)

What exactly is the role of a Veterinary Nurse (VN) some of you may ask? Here I'll try and give you an insight into the work that me and my colleague Jo carry out each day.

Firstly, let me introduce myself! I'm Josh, and I'm one of two qualified VN's working at Powis and Partners. I am recently qualified, having completed a 4 year degree at Warwickshire College in Veterinary Nursing and Business Management.

I passed with 1st class honours, the highest level possible, and am now able to practice as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). The nature of my qualification means that I am technically skilled, and also have a good background knowledge base to draw upon when working with you and your pet. RVN status means that I am regulated by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – so you can be assured that your pet will receive the highest standard of care at all times. By being an RVN I am able to perform a number of different procedures. You can identify RVN's by their green uniform.

My particular interests lie in laboratory work and surgical nursing. I also enjoy meeting you, the client, at nurse clinics, as this is a fantastic way to form a bond between yourself, your pet and the practice! Outside of work I enjoy dog showing with my Shih Tzu (Meilijo Shih Tzu), and I'm a committee member of the Shih Tzu Club, and the local canine society. I also have experience in keeping and breeding chickens and ducks.

The role of an RVN:

- Minor surgical procedures eg. Dental scale and polishes, suturing, fluid therapy
- Diagnostic testing – blood/urine samples, x-rays, blood pressure, laboratory testing of samples
- Nurse clinics
- Care of inpatients
- Assisting Veterinary Surgeons
- Reception work
- Cleaning
- Attend Continuing Professional Development (CPD) courses to further our knowledge and improve the care which we offer to your pets even further

Of course, not all aspects of the job can be enjoyable. However, the long hours and being on your feet all day are worth it as there is nothing more satisfying than knowing that you have contributed to the wellbeing and happiness of someone's pet. This is what makes veterinary nursing such a rewarding career.



Nurse Clinic (held by RVN's)

- Nail clips *at a reduced rate*
- Dental checks and dental care
- Suture removal
- Weight club
- Dietary advice
- Microchipping
- Flea and worm treatment advice
- 6 month checks for young pets
- Reproduction Advice
- Anal gland emptying
- 16 week parvovirus vaccinations
- Please call us if there is anything else you think we may be able to help with!

Nurse clinics are held on **weekday mornings between 11.30 and 12.00**, and on **afternoons between 2.30 and 4.00**. Please call us on 01384 372849 if you would like to book your pet in to see one of the RVN's – we'd be pleased to meet you! We are available on the telephone too should you have any questions or need any advice, and would be happy to assist you.



Autumn 2013

newsletter

Practice News

We would like to welcome our new vet Michelle Tromans to the team; you may have seen her around in the past few years. Michelle first came to us for work experience from school, she gained a place at Glasgow University to train to be a vet and while she was there she continued to come and spend time training with us through her holidays. Now we are pleased to congratulate her on her graduation this summer and welcome her to Powis and partners.

Also congratulations to Josh Somers who finished his degree this summer. It is great to have another registered veterinary nurse on the team.

We wish good luck to Fiona McNeill who has gone on maternity leave and hope she enjoys her time off, Fiona will be back with us later in 2014.

On a sadder note our receptionist Vicky has left as she has moved to Cheltenham, we will miss her friendly smile and calmness on reception. We hope to have a new receptionist starting soon to take her place.

Opening Hours

8.30am – 7.00pm weekdays

9.30am – 12.00pm Saturdays

Consulting Hours

9.00am – 10.30am,

2.30pm – 4.30pm &

5.00pm – 7.00pm weekdays

9.30am – 12.00pm Saturdays

Consultations are by appointment only, please call the surgery to book.

Parvovirus

Powis and Partners would like to issue an urgent warning for dog owners to check their pets' vaccinations are up to date. In late September a puppy was brought into the clinic with parvovirus, a deadly disease.

We saw the case of suspected parvovirus in late September when a nine week old unvaccinated puppy with all the symptoms of parvovirus was also brought into the surgery. The puppy had only just been bought the day before and had vomiting and diarrhoea. He was admitted and tested for parvovirus, the test was positive. The puppy was then put on a drip and treatment was given to help him fight off the virus and stop the sickness and diarrhoea.

He eventually made a full recovery, partly because his owners recognised there was something wrong and brought him in to the surgery straight away. However it was a traumatic start to life in his new home and distressing for his owners. Parvovirus is a particularly nasty disease that can kill within two to three days of symptoms first being noticed.

With an outbreak of parvovirus, it is essential that pet owners take precautions to protect their dog. If your pet is not immunised against the disease, or its vaccinations have lapsed, keep it indoors until you are able to take it to the vets for vaccination. Vaccination is a simple procedure and it really is the only way to protect your dog against this terrible disease.

Canine parvovirus is an extremely resistant virus that can survive in the environment for long periods, is hard to eliminate and easily spread. All unvaccinated dogs, particularly those in high-risk areas and young puppies, are potentially at risk of catching the disease. Symptoms come on quickly and include diarrhoea, vomiting and lethargy.

A national disease surveillance project, CICADA typically estimates that around 5000-6000 cases of canine parvovirus continue to be seen annually throughout the United Kingdom and in recent years bigger outbreaks have often occurred where vaccination rates in the dog population are lowest.

Whilst economic times are hard, pet owners may be tempted to consider vaccinations as less necessary. Awareness that serious infectious diseases continue to present a threat to our pets locally makes it all important that pet owners continue to protect their animals from these risks.

For further information or to make an appointment please call the practice team on 01384 372849.

CICADA is a national reporting database set up by MSD Animal Health for 1st opinion vet practices to report preventable infectious diseases of pets.



19 Audnam
Wordsley
Stourbridge
West Midlands DY8 4AJ
T: 01384 372849
W: www.powisvets.co.uk

Powis&Partners
VETERINARY SURGEONS