



Who is caring for your pet?



Have you ever wondered who is responsible for the nursing care of your pets when you leave them at your veterinary Practice? Most clients will know who their veterinary surgeons are but what about the qualified nurses that work in the practice?

The formal veterinary nursing qualification that has been recognised in the UK for over half a century is that of VN, nowadays known as RVN, to indicate that the holder's name is held on the RCVS Register of qualified veterinary nurses. The register is similar to that maintained by the RCVS for qualified veterinary surgeons and it ensures that these nurses are professionally accountable for their actions.

The training period for this qualification is very intensive and takes two or three years. A large portion of this time is spent gaining clinical experience in an RCVS approved training practice where student veterinary nurses work under supervision of qualified veterinary nurses and veterinary surgeons.

The successful student nurse will be awarded a level 3 Diploma and will be eligible to enter the RCVS Register of Veterinary Nurses and use the letters after their name of 'RVN'. The uniform worn by qualified veterinary nurses is bottle green, while student veterinary nurses (SVN) generally wear green and white stripes.

RVN's provide wide and varying roles in the practice, including in-patient care, surgical nursing and anaesthesia, nurse clinics and diagnostic procedures. For information on our nursing clinics, please visit, www.powisvets.co.uk.

At Powis and Partners we have one RVN and one SVN.

Joanne, our RVN, has been with the practice for over 20 years and is also our A1 Assessor and Clinical Coach; this means she is responsible for the ongoing training and assessment of the SVN's. **Josh** is our current SVN, he is in his 3rd and final year of his Veterinary Nursing training. We also have **Kim**, who will begin her training in September, working towards completing the RCVS Extended Diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

As well as the RVN's, the practice also has 7 nursing assistants. Nursing assistants do not hold any formal qualifications but play an equally important role within the practice providing help and support for the RVN's, SVN's and veterinary surgeons.

If you are interested in a career as a Veterinary Nurse, our RVN and SVN's will be only too happy to advise you.

Spotting pain in cats



Neutering your cat

Kittens reach sexual maturity from around the age of 5 to 8 months and are therefore capable of breeding and producing kittens themselves!!!! A female cat can also come into season several times a year, making it impossible for the owner to be able to know when the season is due. Also, a female is fertile again as soon as she has given birth so can become immediately pregnant. This is why there are so many unwanted cats and kittens in rescue centres and living feral.

A male cat will roam for miles looking for a female in season if he is entire, he will also be very territorial, causing fighting with other cats and spraying in and around his environment. Entire cats are also prone to more illness and disease.

The simple solution is to have your cat neutered, spaying in females and castration in males. Both operations are routine and relatively inexpensive. Both sexes can be neutered from around 6 months of age.

Opening Hours

8.30am – 7.00pm weekdays

10.00am – 12.00pm Saturdays

Consulting Hours

9.00am – 10.30am,

2.30pm – 4.30pm &

5.00pm – 7.00pm weekdays

10.00am – 12.00pm Saturdays

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

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Spotting signs of pain in your cat can be very difficult. Cats are known and loved for their independent nature and athleticism, yet these qualities can make it difficult for us to identify when they are in discomfort. Furthermore, cats have evolved to instinctively hide signs that they are in pain. As they are relatively small and agile, they can hide mobility difficulties caused by arthritis for instance, unlike dogs, cats with arthritis do not limp. Instead, cats are more likely to show subtle changes in their behaviour.

Some of the signs that your cat maybe experiencing pain are;

- **Reduced mobility:** hesitating to jump on or off surfaces or onto your lap
- **Reduced activity:** sleeping more or moving more slowly
- **Changes in grooming habits:** deterioration in your cat's appearance such as matted or scruffy coats
- **Changes in temperament:** becoming less tolerant around people or more withdrawn

If you have noticed any of these signs in your cat, it may be time to have a thorough examination by the vet, so don't hesitate, make an appointment today.



NOW AVAILABLE: Training and behaviour advice for your dogs



Powis and Partners are now able to offer our clients training and behaviour advice for their dogs.

Carole, who has been a Nursing Assistant with the practice for over 20 years, has been studying dog behaviour now for the last three years. She has rescued several dogs over the years, all of which came to her with some degree of behavioural issues. One of her dogs is totally deaf and she has trained him using sign language. This prompted her to study the subject more in depth.

So far she has completed and passed – 'An Introduction to companion animal behaviour and welfare with Edinburgh University', Alpha Education Think Dog! Certificate, Think Dog! Intermediate and is currently working towards completing Think Dog! Advanced. These courses are accredited by the Open College Network and once completed, she will have gained knowledge of the subject at foundation level. She hopes also to complete a specific course in dog to dog aggression and become a member of the APDT (Association of Pet Dog Trainers).

Some of the issues she has so far helped clients with successfully are, separation anxiety, some degree of dog to dog aggression, noise phobias, fears and phobias, general nervousness and anxiety as well as intense advice on training and obedience. She will only work within her capabilities and if she thinks that a dog's behaviour would benefit from more experience, she will refer them on to a behaviourist that specialises in that particular behaviour.

If you are experiencing problems with your dog's behaviour or training, please do not hesitate to contact the surgery to speak to her.