

A Day in the Life of a Veterinary Nurse

8am

Arrive at the practice. There has been an inpatient dog staying overnight. I say good morning and give him a big fuss! I walk him, give him breakfast and administer his morning medications. I give him a check-up of temperature, heart rate and weight, and discuss with his vet to decide what the plan for him is for today.



10pm

The duty nurse is called out by the vet to assist with an emergency caesarean. It takes 2 hours and all the cleaning needs to be done again – and need to be back bright and early to do it all again tomorrow!



6pm

The practice is clean and set up for tomorrow's procedures. The overnight inpatient is staying in again tonight, so the case nurse hands over all the patients progress to the duty vet for the night.



4pm

The inpatients for the day start to go home. The nurse explains all the post-op care to each owner, tailored to each patient and procedure. They all have different medications, foods and exercise regimes!



2pm

The clinic nurse starts their afternoon session. They start with giving a regular patient their monthly immunotherapy injection, then a kitten having its second vaccination, then a detailed chat with the owner of a diabetic dog about their progress.

8.30am

We look at the operation list for today and get ready – do we need the operating theatre, x-ray machine, dental equipment? We admit all the procedures for the day – Ensuring each owner has informed consent. We run through the procedure and costs and make sure you understand what we will do. Each patient is then checked over and settled in.

9am

Operations and Anaesthesia

We will get all the patients ready for their procedures. Taking blood samples, placing IV catheters and calculating and preparing all the medications for anaesthesia.

The theatre nurse will monitor all the anaesthetics for the day, checking all the way that the patients are safe. The inpatient nurse will be monitoring them through their recovery when they return to bed.

1pm

The inpatient nurse calls owners to reassure them their pets are well. They are feeding all the patients their well-earned lunch and taking them out for.



Did you know?

All of the nurses also have other responsibilities outside of their daily duties.

Emma is in charge of processing all the **insurance claims** which is a very time consuming job, as well as being our **Head Nurse!**

Gemma is our **Lead clinic nurse**, and makes sure your pets have access to a nurses expertise when needed.

Annie processes all the sign-ups to the **Pet Health Club**, as well as being a student trying to fill out her portfolio.

Sara is in charge of **stock control**, making sure we have plenty of food and medications in stock for any outcome.

Jennie works behind the scenes on our **auditing process** – making sure we are always providing the best care we can and working out how we can improve it.

And more!

How can I become a Veterinary Nurse?

Becoming a veterinary nurse takes 2-3 years of theory and practical training, both in a classroom setting and working in practice. There are a few different routes, such as a diploma course or a degree, working in practice full time or in blocks.

For more information visit www.bvna.org.uk/information-on-training/