

Careers in veterinary medicine including veterinary nursing

Thinking of becoming a vet, or veterinary nurse (VN)? Dare we say it, **NOW** is the time to start planning and working hard at school in order to achieve your life's ambition. With hard work and determination you can succeed and work in the most wonderful profession there is.

Veterinary medicine (being both a vet and a nurse) is an extremely rewarding and fulfilling career. At Hillside Vets we have strong links with our local schools particularly Corfe Hills, Parkstone Grammar, Poole Grammar and Queen Elizabeth's School (QE). Vet, Chris and qualified VN Gemma regularly attend the schools' careers' evenings at both Corfe Hills and Parkstone Grammar. We also accept students from all local schools for work experience placements with us which gives a clearer insight into what it's actually like.

We received a lovely thank you card from a work experience student that said:

July 2014

To everyone at Hillside Veterinary Centre

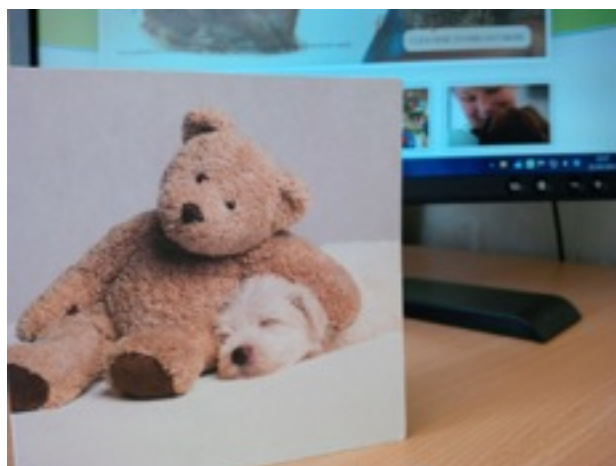
Thank you so much for taking the time to help and give me the experience of all the aspects of working as a veterinary surgeon, a veterinary nurse, receptionist and more.

I have benefited greatly from this experience and know that now I do want to become a vet, as before I didn't know what the job consisted of.

Thank you so much for taking me on to do work experience and making me feel welcome and thank you for the opportunity to watch and take part with vet consults and operations.

I now know that ultra-sound isn't only used for scanning pregnant women, that operations are not as gory as I first thought and that not all animal are cute and calm!

In the future if you have any volunteering positions or jobs/employment, I am greatly interested!



Becoming a vet – a career in veterinary medicine

The first thing to bear in mind is training as a vet is a very popular course and subsequently the entry requirements for vet school are set high – typically three 'A' grades at A-level or perhaps AAB.

There are currently a small number of universities offering degrees in Veterinary Medicine. The courses are five long hard years (six at Cambridge).

The governing body, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) publishes a very useful document collating the current entry requirements for UK universities <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/document-library/admissions-requirements-aug-2010/> which is highly recommended for students seriously considering applying for university.

As a more general guide to the profession and the options available Hillside Vets recommends the following websites:

www.walksoflife.org.uk
www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-vet

There is also a good YouTube video at www.youtube.com/vetcareers

Hillside Vets are always happy to offer support and advice to students, please contact us if you would like more information.

Becoming a veterinary nurse (VN)

Veterinary nursing has advanced significantly in the past 10-20 years. There is now a formal and well respected qualification and clear career structure within the profession.

There are two pathways into veterinary nursing; the first and most common is via a work place training within a registered nurse training veterinary practice like ourselves at Hillside. In these cases trainee nurses would be employed full time by the practice with a day release to a local training college. The other option is via a veterinary nursing degree, offered at several academic institutions.

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons has further information www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-veterinary-nurse and the nursing representative body, the BVNA also has some further details on <http://www.bvna.org.uk/smartweb/careers/careers> .

If you have any further queries or concerns or just want to chat over your options of becoming either a vet or VN, then please do contact us and we'll be happy to help.