

Full notes

Notes for The Veterinary Nursing Online Clinical Placement Tool program:

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A program to help veterinary nursing students prepare for, and get the most out of, clinical placements

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Introduction

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Welcome to the VN Online Clinical Placement Tool. My name is Tierney and along with colleagues from the Royal Veterinary College and the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, we've created this computer aided learning program to assist veterinary nursing students with preparing for learning on placements

Introduction

What is the VN Online Clinical Placement Tool?

- This is a computer aided learning program that will help you to prepare for, and get the most out of, your placements

Why did we develop the Online Clinical Placement Tool?

- We want you to get the most out of your placements
- Both qualified veterinary nurses and students have told us that a little preparation in advance would help with this

How did we design the Online Clinical Placement Tool?

- We consulted qualified veterinary nurses, placement providers, staff at the Royal Veterinary College's Veterinary Nursing School and veterinary nursing students to find out common concerns and issues that arise both before and during placements



"Having looked through this program, it's not just relevant to placements - it is also relevant to day-to-day life working in practice"

Quote from a placement provider.

Introduction

About this program

You will be able to find out about:

- “What practices expect of you”
- “How you should prepare for your placements”

For example:

- What clothing and equipment you should take
- Working with people (staff and clients)
- Some “Do’s” and “Don’ts” (from vets and nurses)
- Some issues relating to confidentiality, mobile phones and photos
- Some “Top Tips” (from students and nurses)
- Some “Frequently Asked Questions” (from students)
- Links to other useful information relating to placements

Preparation

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Preparation: this section will give you some tips for what you should do before you begin your placement. We will look at questions such as “what equipment should I take?” and “what will I be expected to know?”

Preparation

Do's - General



- Do organise your placements well in advance
 - Finding your own placement: start looking early as good placements may get booked up
 - University organised placements: get in contact with the practice as soon as you have their details, or when advised by your college
 - If you know of an appropriate placement, you should let your university placement administrator know
- Do organise placements at appropriate practices
 - Are they approved by your college? (e.g. an RCVS Training Practice – a list can be obtained from the [RCVS website \(http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-veterinary-nurse/approved-training-practices/\)](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/education/i-want-to-be-a-veterinary-nurse/approved-training-practices/))
 - Specialist or referral centres may seem exciting places to go but may not provide you with the basic training of reception work and interaction with clients. They will however be very suitable for later years of your course as the work will be much more relevant to your studies
 - Do you need equine experience? Remember this can also be obtained during your holidays at riding schools and livery yards
 - Try to build a rapport with a good practice and then spend several of your placement weeks with them throughout 1st, 2nd and 3rd year

Preparation

Do's - General



- **Do** get in contact with the placement in advance of starting your placement block. Some placements require you to attend an interview prior to starting so try to find out as much as you can about the practice before you go
- **Do** ask questions such as:
 - What time should I arrive on the first day, and what hours will I be working?
 - I have a student uniform, but should I bring anything else (overalls, scrubs etc.)?
 - Do you have any guidelines for students, a practice handbook or Health & Safety documents that I can read in advance?
- **Do** think about directions and parking
 - Ask where you should park (some practices don't allow their staff, or students, to park in client spaces)
 - Print out directions and/or a map if you are not sure how to get there.
 - SatNav might not work for your placement; your placement provider may give you better directions.
 - Plan a trial run to the practice, especially if you are using public transport so you know how long it will take. Think about whether there will be more traffic during peak times.

Preparation

Do turn up!



- You are on a professional course and your behaviour is also assessed
- Turning up late or not at all creates a very bad impression of you and the university
- It also puts practices off having other students in the future
- Make sure you put the phone number of the practice in your phone so that you can contact them if you are held up

Preparation

Do's – what to take with you



- Basic equipment, such as:
 - Fob watch with second hand (to measure heart/respiratory rates) – ideally you should not be wearing anything below your elbow
 - Pocket notebook and pen
 - Curved scissors – with your name on!
- Plus maybe:
 - Digital thermometer
 - Slip lead
 - Pen torch
 - Stethoscope
 - Calculator – for doses



- Your lunch (!)
 - There may not be facilities close to the practice to buy something for lunch and it is much cheaper to make your own on a student budget!

Preparation

Do's – what to take with you



- Relevant course notes (not all of them)
- Name badge
- Placement documentation
- Your university/college handbook/documentation with module guides – which may be useful for your practice mentor to see what subjects you are currently studying
- The learning outcomes and skills that you are required to cover during your placement
- Contact details of the placement coordinator in case of problems

Preparation



Do's – what to take with you: dress codes

- Student uniform:
 - In the UK with is traditionally a green and white striped tunic and bottle green trousers; in Hong Kong, a student VN polo shirt with practice's scrub top
 - Check with the practice as to whether they allow cardigans or jumpers to be worn. They may have a 'no long sleeves' policy as part of infection control procedures
 - Your shoes should protect your feet from large dogs' paws and falling needles (!)
 - See the next page of this section for "What not to wear"
- Equine/Mixed practice:
 - If you are working with horses ideally wear black steel toe-capped boots
 - Check with the practice about further dress codes for equine/mixed practices

Preparation

Do's – what (not) to take with you: dress codes

- Feedback has indicated vets and nurses prefer:
 - NO trainers, open-toed shoes, or extremely bright coloured socks!
 - NO jewellery. Small stud earrings are okay, but you will probably be asked to remove other piercings e.g. tongue
 - NO loose hair – shoulder length or long hair should be tied back, and remember a spare hair clip or band. NO extreme hair dye (such as bright pink). NO stubble
 - NO long fingernails or false nails (as these may hurt the animals) and NO nail varnish

Preparation

Do's – what to take with you: dress codes



"Men's uniforms can be a different colour. You can have an aqua one as well as a light green one"

"I want to order the trousers and top because I bought a dress and couldn't pick up the animals!"



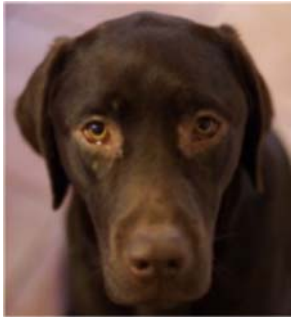
"Don't buy a tunic with the little buttons on and wear no top underneath it!"

Quotes from students.

Preparation

Do's – Knowledge & Skills

- Do know gestation periods and basic temperature, pulse and respiration (TPR) values for the common species (dog, cat, rabbit, horse) – [view summary sheet \(http://www.ems.vet.ed.ac.uk/vetnursing/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2014/07/Nurse_TPR_summary_table.pdf\)](http://www.ems.vet.ed.ac.uk/vetnursing/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2014/07/Nurse_TPR_summary_table.pdf)
- Do know basic terminology relevant to different species (e.g. dog breeds, fetlock, lagomorph)
- Do remind yourself of basic animal handling



Preparation

Do's – Knowledge & Skill

- Your knowledge doesn't need to be exhaustive – you are not expected to know everything before your first placement (so don't worry!). But be prepared to:
 - Read briefly through your relevant notes before (and during) your placement, and use books and resources in the practice
 - Discuss cases
 - Ask relevant questions at appropriate times, and answer questions too
 - Discuss topical issues about various species
 - Check websites e.g. DEFRA, BVNA, BEVA, BSAVA, BBC, FAB, or search your equivalent national websites
 - Check publications e.g. VN Times, Veterinary Nurse, VNJ, Vet Times, Vet Record
- Your placement is where you will learn from experience and so it is important to have a good understanding of the procedures carried out
 - Make a note of new procedures you assist with or see

Preparation

Do's – Knowledge & Skills

- What if I don't know the answer to a nurse's or vet's question?
 - Nursing is about problem solving. If you don't know the answer, or 'haven't been taught that yet', then try to work out what you can from first principles
 - Try not to worry about it. Questions help nurses and vets to work out what you know, and where you are in your learning
 - Tips from students and staff:



"I would say "I'm afraid I don't know, I obviously need to work on that! I will look it up tonight and if you've got time, could we discuss it again tomorrow?"



"Five freedoms are useful to remember when nursing a patient, as well as using a model of nursing care for assessing the patients needs. Also, relate it back to anatomy and physiology – why is the patient not eating?"

Preparation

Don'ts – General

- Don't turn up late
- Don't turn up with a dirty uniform looking unprofessional
- Don't forget all your paperwork required to complete the placement
- Don't expect to have set lunch breaks or leave on time every day
 - You may work 9am-5pm, or you may be put on the practice rota
 - Be prepared to stay for any emergencies (you can learn a huge amount from them and not appearing to want to do 'out of hours' work may give a bad impression)
 - If you need to leave early (e.g. doctor's appointment), ask and let someone know

Working with People

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Working with people: while on your placement, you may have to work with many different people – vets, qualified veterinary nurses, other student veterinary nurses, receptionists, practice managers and of course clients. This section will offer advice on how to work with these different groups of people. We will pay particular interest to the aspect of body language

Working with People

Do's – General



- Do be prepared to discuss patients, answer questions and ask questions
- Do treat all practice staff and clients with respect:
 - They are giving up their time for you **free of charge**
 - Respect and learn from the qualified nurses in the practice – they will often have a lot of experience which can help you in your studies
 - Respect and learn from the other staff including reception staff who can often give you tips on dealing with difficult clients
 - Respect and learn from clients that you meet – they may have a lot of experience with a particular species that you are unfamiliar with
 - Note – the amount of interaction you will have with clients will depend on the practice
 - Thank staff who have helped you
 - Offer to help qualified staff and ask them (nicely and at an appropriate time) if they can help you to learn a skill e.g. administering a subcutaneous injection

Working with People

Do's – General

- Do show your enthusiasm and motivation
 - You have worked hard to get where you are now so make the most of it!
 - Even if you don't want to work in that type of practice, improving your general skills will be of benefit to your future career
 - Ask to help out whenever possible – not just the exciting cases in theatre but the cleaning and infection control jobs



- Work with, and learn from, other student nurses where possible – especially if they are further on in the course; they will be sympathetic to your problems!
- Do ASK if you aren't sure about something e.g.
 - 'How do I remove this dog from its kennel'
 - 'What is the protocol for cleaning this piece of equipment'
 - 'Which disinfectant should I use?'

Working with People

Showing empathy and respect for your client and patient

- Striking that fine balance between professionalism and empathy is a skill which needs to be honed and worked at



"I know it's difficult, but don't be overly sentimental, don't burst into tears every time a patient has to be euthanised"



"But you shouldn't be afraid to show some emotion. Sometimes – especially if you know the client – they like that you show emotion and you actually care for the animals"

Tips from staff.

Working with People



Body Language

- Being conscious of what message you are sending with your body language is very important
- The following body language suggests that you are bored, disinterested and unenthusiastic
 - Slouching
 - Avoiding eye contact
 - Leaning back (e.g. against a wall)
 - Folding arms
 - Looking down or away
 - Never smiling
 - Shuffling feet, tapping pencil, etc.



"I noticed another student at my practice putting out poor signals and in return they received a very poor experience"

Quote from a student.

Working with People

Body Language



- To look interested and enthusiastic:
 - Stand up straight
 - Make eye contact regularly with staff & clients
 - Avoid crossing your arms
 - Look and lean towards the focus of activity
 - Smile and be animated whenever appropriate
- Many of the students who have used this program have said that the tips on 'Body Language' were really useful e.g.



"I used these tips at my last practice and it definitely made me more popular with the staff and thus I was given more practical tasks, which was great!"

Quote from a student.

Working with People

Do's

- If you are unsure about handling an animal, do tell someone – don't do it if you feel uncomfortable



"As soon as I got to my placement, someone asked me to pick up a cat – I'd never picked up a cat in my life, and I just thought oh no. I tried but I dropped it, and it ran away – and then they withdrew from asking me to do anything"

Quote from a student.

- When you walk in, smile and try to say 'hi' to everybody
- Have a sense of humour when you go into practice. Laugh at your mistakes – unless it's critical!
- Do try to become part of the team, don't have an 'us and them' attitude, muck in and help out. Don't be afraid to socialise with your colleagues outside the work place. If you really fit in, you might be offered a job
- Do be prepared that you won't always see textbook, gold standard, techniques in practice – but don't bring these into your exams!

Working with People

Don'ts

- Don't carry out any nursing procedures without checking first with the qualified nurse or vet
- Don't criticise or contradict a nurse or vet, or give an unsolicited opinion about a patient
- Don't talk to clients about their animal's treatment, especially during a consultation, unless asked to do so by a qualified nurse or vet
- Don't be embarrassed if you feel faint or have hurt yourself – **do let someone know** and complete the necessary forms
- Don't break client, patient or practice confidentiality at any time (see next section: professionalism)
- Don't use too many big words while speaking on the telephone on reception, just to make yourself sound important. Speak clearly and not too quietly



"Don't come in being a know it all!!"

Working with People

It's the real workplace

- The veterinary practice, as with any workplace, is not always perfect; you may see and hear things that you deem unnecessary or even unprofessional
- You will also witness exemplary behaviour from the very best of role models
- To help you cope with the stresses and strains of being in the real workplace here are some tips from your peers:



"As long as you know you are doing your best, don't worry"

"I just don't get involved, but they are always bitching about each other"



"I got shouted at and you very quickly realise that people in theatre, where an animal is dying, are not exactly in the right frame of mind to be polite"

"Try to get something from every placement, and it's good to remember that it's just one placement"



"Don't take it personally if someone is having a bad day"

"Keep it all in perspective"

Professionalism

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Professionalism: there are three main areas of professionalism covered in this section – confidentiality, mobile phones, and the taking of photos and videos. All are incredibly important things to remember while on your placement

Professionalism

Confidentiality

- Maintaining client and patient (as well as practice) confidentiality is an essential professional requirement, and an issue that was raised by a number of the practices that we consulted when designing this program
- Don't discuss named clients, patients, nurses, vets or practices:
 - In front of other clients
 - In public where you could be overheard (e.g. the pub)
 - Once back at the university
 - When at another practice
 - On social networking sites like Facebook
- If you see a particularly interesting case that you want to discuss, then a solution might be to 'anonymise' it and discuss in an appropriate location



"I saw a really interesting case of obesity in a cat last week, the owner had been overfeeding it for years"

Hypothetical quote from a student.

- You can learn a lot by chatting with friends but be professional and anonymise it

Professionalism

Confidentiality

- You may not mean to break confidentiality, but think about where you are, and who might be able to overhear you before discussing sensitive information



"The RSPCA were called to Mrs Jones' house yesterday about her new kitten"

"There are lots of dogs with kennel cough at Silver Tree Boarding Kennels"



"Poppy Smith really should be put down but they can't get the owners to agree to it"

Hypothetical quotes from students.

- And how would a member of the public feel when overhearing this kind of 'chat'?



"I saw the most disgusting case of fly strike in a rabbit yesterday, there were maggots crawling all over its back end"

Hypothetical quote from a student.

Professionalism

Mobile phones



- It is likely that you will be expected to keep your phone switched off or on silent, and kept in your bag or locker
- You can probably check it during break times
- These rules are in place so that your phone does not go off at inappropriate times (e.g. during a euthanasia), plus texting can be considered rude!



"Phones don't tend to work too well after they have been in a bucket of disinfectant or covered in cats pee, so keep them in the staff room!"

Quote from a student.

Professionalism

Photos & videos

- Taking photos and videos is potentially a very sensitive issue and should be handled with extreme care and consideration
- Never take photos of potentially sensitive material, e.g. welfare cases
- Consider what the implications of these photos getting into the public domain would be
- If it is appropriate to take a photo, you should ask permission from both the vet and the owner of the animal
- Carefully consider what they gave you permission to do with the photo e.g. you can put it in your casebook or portfolio, but not use it for other purposes

Professionalism

Photos & videos

- Never post these photos or videos on public websites e.g. YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram etc.
- Consider where a photo you post might end up if access to the area is electronic and not controlled – as we all know, it's easy to copy things off the internet



“How would you feel if you found a picture of your recently deceased pet on the internet without your permission?”

- If you have questions about appropriate use of photos or videos and consent we recommend you contact an appropriate member of staff

Tips

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Tips: within this section, you will see 14 pages of general tips from other students and qualified veterinary nurses. We will cover such topics as 'how to get the most out of your placement' and 'what to do when it's quiet'

Tips (from nurses and students)

Getting the most out of your placement



- Discuss with your mentor at the practice what you would like to achieve from the placement. You may want to show them evidence of skills you have already achieved – learning diary, skills logs etc.
- Creating an action plan will help you achieve the skills you require and will help the practice understand how they can provide the best learning environment for you. Examples of objectives might be:
 - Learn to restrain a range of patients for various procedures
 - Improve my cat handling skills
 - Assist in theatre to help with instrument identification
 - Administer medication – by intramuscular injection
- Remember your objectives must be relevant to the stage of the course you are at. You need to master the basic skills before progressing to more technical skills
- Don't keep annoying the mentor for a meeting all the time – plan when the most suitable time for a review would be

Tips

Working with clinical cases



- Learn to recognise behavioural signs especially aggression in animals so that you learn to predict their behaviour
- Be aware of where to stand when working with horses and other large animals
- **Always** close kennel/cage/consulting room/stable doors and gates behind you
- Try to find out where equipment such as endoscopes are stored as soon as possible, so that you can find them in a hurry. Perhaps ask for a tour, or look in the cupboards during a quiet time
- Follow health and safety guidelines (these will probably be given to you on your first day; if not you should ask about them)

Tips

Working with clinical cases

- Make sure your nails are short
 - It would be difficult carrying out procedures with long nails
 - And you may hurt the animal
- Follow aseptic procedures in theatre and other areas of the practice. Be careful that you do not touch sterile areas – these are often covered in sterile green drapes
- Wear short sleeved clothes in the clinic
 - This is important for infection control, as you can wash your forearms and hands frequently to prevent the spread of infection
- Fill out hospital charts, care plans etc. every time you treat an animal



“Always record what you’ve done with a patient so that people know – especially the clinical health signs”

A tip from staff.

Tips



You may be asked to go out on calls with the vet

- For example you may go out on call for:
 - A PTS (put to sleep)
 - An equine or farm animal operation – depending on the practice and the location
- Be prepared – keep all of your outdoor/protective clothing together in a clean waterproof welly bag or strong plastic bag (e.g. “Bag for Life”) with any personal belongings you might need
 - You can then grab them easily if a call comes in
 - The strong bag stops them messing up the vet’s car when they are wet – check where the vet wants you to put your bag in the car

Tips

Don't keep people waiting!

- A tongue-in-cheek example of “how to put your protective clothing on” from a vet and “how not to do it” from a student (actor)!
 - Always try to get changed, for example for theatre, quickly and have equipment ready for when you might need it!

Tips

Being contactable and enthusiastic



- Make sure that you are contactable
 - Let the vet/nurse know where you are – even if you are just having your break in the staff room
 - Emergency cases don't follow normal office hours – discuss with your mentor if it might be appropriate for you to stay after hours or even do a night shift for additional experience
 - Leave your mobile number somewhere obvious (e.g. in the practice diary, with the on call vet)
- Don't pick or choose just 'interesting' or cleaner cases – take what comes
 - It really annoys staff when students do this
 - You will learn more from getting involved in all types of cases
 - But do ensure your mentor knows what particular sort of skills or cases you would like to practice or observe
- Don't 'clock watch' being first out of the door at home time
 - You will gain respect from offering to lend a hand if the practice is very busy
- Remember the importance of your body language!

Tips

Being contactable and enthusiastic



"Make sure you take part in everything, even if it's a rubbish job. Don't complain, moan or get stressed about it. Just be prepared for rubbish jobs – it's all part and parcel, so get on with it"

"If you put the effort in, the trust builds up and they will let you do more. Like everybody, any nurse that's qualified has probably started where everyone else has – cleaning, or making tea!"



"I think it's kind of what you make of it. Even if it's subconscious, try and make a challenge for yourself, achieve something – 'how quick can I clean this?', or 'this is a really dirty patch, how well can I mop up?'"

"Ask if you can write tasks that you'd like to practice on the white board, so that everyone could look out for cases for you"

Tips from students.

Tips

Interacting with practice staff and clients

- Be polite and professional at all times when talking to clients (address them by their full name e.g. Mrs MacDonald, Dr Brown unless invited to do otherwise)
- Don't feel too uncomfortable with silences – the vet or nurse may just be having 'that sort of day', and not feel like making conversation; or they may be trying to concentrate on what they are doing, especially in theatre
- If you are struggling, some examples of icebreaker questions could include:



- For vets or qualified nurses:
 - Where did you train?
 - What is your special area of interest?
 - Where else have you worked?
- For clients:
 - Have you had her since she was a puppy?
 - Have you got any other cats?
 - Do you compete with him? (to an equine client)

Tips (from nurses and students)

When it's quiet (what do I do?)

- Ask qualified and trainee vets, nurses and receptionists if there is something you can do to help (tip: if you are eager to help out, the offer usually results in a very grateful response and will almost certainly pay dividends in the long term)
- Show initiative by suggesting a job or getting on with jobs you can do rather than waiting to be asked
- Spend time with the inpatients, encouraging them to eat or making them feel relaxed – you may need to check with the nurse first
- Body language is important – recognise the signs you may be giving as well as body language of others – they may have other work to do such as paperwork and phone calls even in their 'breaks'



"There is always cleaning. Or revision. You should never be sitting on your bum – that's what they hate the most, and never say you are doing 'nothing'!!"

A tip from a student.

Tips

Practices are not paid to provide training



"The practice isn't paid to provide nursing students students with training, we are a business which needs to make money, and being an assessor means that we have extra work to do on top of our normal workload. Don't get me wrong I like teaching students, and it's great to hear from previous students who have just passed exams, but..."



"People did this for me and I feel strongly that I want to give something back and do the same for the next generation"

Quotes from staff.

Tips

Appreciating the value of placements

Q: What was good about your placements?

A: Getting to do lots! And being part of a team...



"My communication skills improved a lot – with vets, nurses and owners"

"Practice a lot of massage techniques because it was a therapeutic practice, that was quite fun"

"I got to help out with a goat and sheep caesarean"

"The people there were so lovely – so it was all good because they were nice people"



"They accepted me into the team sort of straight away rather than just standing there and watching, they actually let me get involved"

"Being appreciated: the practice manager thanked me and said they'd miss me!"

"Learning to be part of a team – and realising that will be so important when I start work"

"Getting to see what the job is really like"



"I learnt how to clean different machines"

"I got to feed and toilet the kittens"

These are quotes from first year students which you may like to use to help set your own goals

Tips

Appreciating the value of placements – improving my weaknesses

- When you are comfortable in a practice, try to put yourself forward for the things you find most difficult (i.e. your weaknesses)
- Placements are an excellent opportunity to drive your own learning and get as much as possible from experienced nurses and vets



"It's important to be honest with yourself with what you can and can't do. Try not to pretend that you are overly good at restraining cats if you are not. Practice makes perfect"

"If you are not confident handling dogs, you could ask if you could do the next puppy clinic and you'll get a lot of experience e.g. giving tablets etc."



"It may be easier to spend more time in the wards as there is always plenty to do, but if you need more client contact – make yourself spend more time on reception"

Quotes from students and staff.

Tips

5 'Golden Rules'



1. Your mobile phone
 - Keep it off at all times, and stored in your bag
 - Only text or make calls during coffee/lunch breaks
2. Offer to help out and 'muck in' whenever possible; try to become involved rather than just observing
 - Clean a consultation table
 - Make the coffee
 - Helping out can really pay off
3. Make an effort to get on well with all members of staff and tidy up after yourself
 - You can learn a lot about client care from a good receptionist
 - The other nurses have been in your position once – learn from them and their experience
4. Maintain professionalism at all times
 - You represent the profession and your college
5. Show your interest and enthusiasm
 - Remember the importance of your body language!

Tips

Last tip:

“A ‘thank you’ and maybe even some biscuits are really appreciated on your last day”

Frequently Asked Questions

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Frequently Asked Questions: these four frequently asked questions were provided by students; an example is 'what should I do if an owner asks me a question while the vet is out of the room?' All answers are provided by qualified nurses and vets from practice

FAQs

Q: What should I do when I 'don't know' or am 'unsure' about something I've been asked to do?

Answers:

- Always ask someone for advice
- Try to ask at an appropriate moment e.g. not when the vet/nurse has a stethoscope in their ears
- Don't just go ahead because you can't find anyone to ask



"Don't be scared to admit you don't know something. You don't want to be told something and then you do it wrong, when you could have easily just asked again. Asking a question versus animal suffers – I think asking the question wins!"

A tip from a student.

FAQs



Q: What should I do if an owner asks me a question about their pet when I am on reception? e.g.

- “He is going to be okay, isn't he?”
- “How do I give her the tablets?”

A: Some tips:

- Try not to ‘express’ an opinion to the client i.e. don't say “yes, he'll be fine”
- State that you are a student veterinary nurse and that you will ask the vet on their behalf, e.g.

“I'm sure Mrs Brown will answer any worries you have about Simba when you see her”

“I'm sure Mrs Brown will explain that, but I could let her know that you're concerned about giving Molly her tablets”

FAQs

Q: I'm not sure if I can ask to be allowed to do a bit more?

A: There isn't a right answer to this but some tips are:

- Make sure you ask the relevant person – your mentor/assessor
- Try to ask as politely and constructively as possible
- Try to ask at a time when the vet or nurse isn't too busy
- Don't ask in front of a client

e.g. "I'm not very confident with calculating iv fluid rates, would there be any chance of having a go the next time a suitable case comes in please?"



"If you want to do a bit more it is good to ask. We can get in such a routine that we sometimes take a blood sample and then realise, oh I could have asked my student if they would have liked to have done that – but it's too late"



"It's important when you are signing off your skills to think 'if I was in a different place, would I be able to do this?'; if you can't, perhaps you shouldn't ask for it to be signed off – just say 'I'd prefer to do it a bit more first'"

Tips from staff.

FAQs

Q: Should I stay in the room during a PTS (euthanasia) consult?

A: Practices and situations vary. You might want to ask an appropriate person during a quiet moment at the beginning of the surgery, in case such a consult comes in.

Q: What should I do if I am not happy in my placement?

Answers:

- Find out who to contact for any problems or support with the placement before you go
- In the first instance try to speak to your clinical coach at the practice
- You could also contact your clinical tutor at university

Useful Information

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Useful Information: on the following slide you will find some useful links to websites of institutions such as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

Useful Information

- [RCVS Veterinary Nursing \(http://awardingbody.rcvs.org.uk/home/\)](http://awardingbody.rcvs.org.uk/home/)
- [RCVS Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses \(http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-nurses/\)](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/code-of-professional-conduct-for-veterinary-nurses/)
- [Find a Vet \(http://findavet.rcvs.org.uk/home/\)](http://findavet.rcvs.org.uk/home/)
- Or search your equivalent national websites

Finally:

- What you've read is all based on feedback from nurses and students
- Placements are a great opportunity – in making this program the nurses and your predecessors (i.e. the students) want to help you make the most of it

Notes & Certificate

If you cannot use audio, the text is:

Notes & Certificate: congratulations, you have come to the end of the computer aided learning program. If you have completed all the sections of the program, you will have green ticks by all the sections' names, and you will be able to claim your open badge certificate. You can also print a PDF copy of these slides for your notes. Good luck with your placements!

The VN Online Clinical Placement Tool



A program to help veterinary nursing students prepare for, and get the most out of, clinical placements

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Certificate

You did not provide a Mozilla Backpack email username, so no certificate will be awarded.

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