



VETERINARY NURSE CERTIFICATE IN DENTISTRY

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INTRODUCTION

This is the most comprehensive dentistry course for Veterinary Nurses currently available, covering in detail all aspects of general dentistry in small animal practice.

It is designed specifically for the qualified, listed/registered veterinary nurse but is also open to veterinary surgeons. Other people wishing to attend the course will be considered but will not be eligible to obtain the certificate.

The course runs over a calendar year with a mix of contact teaching and directed learning.

The contact teaching is in 3 two-day modules held on a Friday and Saturday. The modules consist of a mix of lectures, tutorials, demonstrations, displays and informal discussion. There is a full day of practical (hands-on) teaching in module two. Module three contains a practice run for part of the final exam – the steeplechase component.

There is also a self learning aspect with set coursework and a reading list. A dental case diary and 4 case studies are to be compiled and submitted during the year and will be part of the final assessment. Full instruction will be given during the contact teaching.

All teaching will be given by people who have recognised expertise in animal dentistry.

During this course it is strongly recommended that students visit places of excellence for example – referral centres or hospitals to gain further experience.

All applicants should be aware that there will be a considerable amount of time and commitment required to achieve completion of the course.

TOOTH EXTRACTION

Attending the course and achieving a pass in the certificate does not in any way allow a veterinary nurse to perform tooth extraction (or any procedure outside schedule 3). Principles of tooth extraction will be covered but not in a way to train the VN to be able to perform extractions. The course will conform to the RCVS decision that tooth extraction is considered major surgery and therefore not permitted by a Veterinary Nurse.

STATEMENT OF THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Obtaining the certificate will:

- Provide the qualified veterinary nurse with an understanding of the importance of dental health in small animals
- Enable the candidate to play a greater role in providing effective dental care for small animals and improve the level of dental care offered by their practice

The subjects included in the certificate are limited to the basic and fundamental aspects of routine veterinary practice dentistry and will comply with the scope of tasks that a qualified veterinary nurse is allowed to perform under current legislation and policies. A certificate holder will not be in anyway different, in a legal perspective, in what tasks they can perform.

The candidate will gain:

- An understanding of which dental problems occur in their patients and how these problems occur
- Understanding of the aims of the treatments and how they should be tailored to the individual to maximise effectiveness. This means greater improvement to the dental health of the individual animal and also to the pet population as a whole
- Improved job satisfaction when involved in providing dental care.

REQUIREMENTS

Experience

In order to enrol for this certificate, the candidates must be a Qualified and Registered/Listed Veterinary Nurse (or a veterinary surgeon). The candidate must have completed at least 12 months post qualification employment (ideally in a VNAC or TP as approved by the RCVS) prior to the examination.

Workplace support

The caseload of the Training Centre must be adequate to provide sufficient experience for candidates. Ideally there must be the ability for the VN to see approximately 15 dental cases per month.

- Support of Students

The concept of specialist VN's is new and may meet with resistance from some veterinary surgeons. It is essential that any VN undertaking this course has the full support of the practice Principal who will be responsible for ensuring that sufficient cases are available.

- Veterinary Surgeon as Supervisor

The candidate will require clinical support from a designated supervisor who should be a veterinary surgeon preferably working in the same practice. The supervisor will be responsible for supporting the candidate and advising on the preparation of the case diary and case studies.

EQUIPMENT AND FACILITIES REQUIRED

It is essential that appropriate equipment and facilities are available at the candidate's veterinary practice to enable the candidate to get appropriate experience in the range of procedures required throughout the training period.

The following guidance notes list items which might be considered essential to a candidate and those which are desirable (and which might be experienced by arranging regular visits to another practice if not available in their practice). The importance to a candidate of becoming familiar with the practical use of these items of equipment and facilities cannot be overemphasised, since such familiarity will be assumed in the examination.

Essential Dental Equipment

Air driven dental unit (high-speed drill, slow motor and air/water syringe)

If not, Minimum requirement is a micromotor unit with contra-angle handpiece

Power scaler - Piezon type, Cavitron type or sonic scaler

Dental explorer probe (No 6 pattern or equivalent)

Periodontal pocket probe (Williams 14 or alternative)

Dental charts (for cat, dog & common exotics)

Dental X-ray film (standard of self contained type)

Dental hand curette

Dental hand scaler

Dental sharpening stone & oil

Polishing equipment (suitable slow dental handpiece, cups or brush, paste)

Dental elevators – Couplands size No. 1 & No. 3 and Super Slim type

Extraction forceps - small & large (ideal = patterns 76N and 76)

Rabbit calliper type gag

Small & Large cheek dilators

Toothbrushes and toothpaste (for animal use)

Periosteal elevator (Goldman Fox pattern or alternative)

Desirable Dental equipment

Dental X-ray machine

Digital X-ray sensors and software

Set of Dental luxators

Winged or modified dental elevators

Straight dental handpiece (or Doriot type) with HP burs (esp. acrylic trimmer type)

Dental demonstration models

Essential general practice equipment

Gaseous Anaesthesia equipment

Range of cuffed endo-tracheal tubes

Autoclave or other equivalent method of sterilization

X-ray viewer

Otoscope and range of cones

Veterinary X-ray machine

Desirable general practice equipment and facilities

Up to date inhalation anaesthetic equipment

Anaesthetic monitoring equipment such as pulse oximetry

Anaesthetic requirements for other animal species (exotics)

COURSE COMPONENTS

Residential Courses

There will be three 2–day mandatory residential courses plus an optional revision day. The course concludes with the candidate sitting a one day examination. The first course is held in late January / early February, with the second in May, third in September and final examination in early December.

The residential courses will contain some practical work; which may include the use of cadaver heads.

Failure to complete attendance at these courses will result in candidates not being put forward for the written examination. Appeals due to mitigating circumstances will be reviewed by the course leader.

Case Record Books

The candidate will be expected to keep a Diary of all dental cases which the candidate had involvement with during the period of the course. The Diary will be for scrutinised by the examiners and should contain basic information so that case histories can be retrieved from the practice record system.

The candidate must complete 4 case studies. The first is a practice run and will be marked. The other 3 must be 1 dog case, 1 cat and 1 other of the student's choice (these may be cat or dog but can include exotic species). Candidates are encouraged to use routine cases which include something of specific interest.

Examination

The examination will take place in December (usually on the first Saturday)
Before the examination the candidate must present:

- ◆ Record of full attendance at residential courses
- ◆ 60 diary entries
- ◆ Completed course work
- ◆ 4 full case studies. These must be typed with dental charts and photographic evidence where possible and presented as duplicated bound copies.

The examination process will consist of three sections:

- ◆ Multiple choice questions
- ◆ Short essays
- ◆ Steeplechase (timed questions)

2012 ARRANGEMENTS

Venue TBC

Tutors

Lisa Milella BVSc MRCVS

Lisa Milella graduated from the University of Pretoria in 1997 and has since been working in the UK. She soon developed an interest in dentistry. Lisa is a diplomat of the European Veterinary dental College. She accepts dental and oral surgery referrals at her dedicated veterinary dental surgery, in Byfleet, Surrey. She is also the Past President of the British Veterinary Dental Association.

John Robinson BDS, Dentist to the Veterinary Profession.

Qualified as a dentist at Kings College Hospital Dental School, London, UK in 1984 and then worked in general dental practice for 6 years. His interests took him towards veterinary dentistry which became his full time occupation in 1992. He treats first opinion as well as referral cases.

John was course organiser for the British Veterinary Dental Association from 1995 until 2004.

His work is increasingly focused on advancing the standard of dentistry provided in general veterinary practice. He teaches extensively in the UK and abroad. He is external lecturer to the Veterinary schools of Cambridge, Dublin (UCD) and London (RVC).

Please note that, under unforeseen circumstances, a tutor may have to be replaced.

2012 dates

Module 1	-	Fri 11th & Sat 12th May 2012
Module 2	-	Fri 21st & Sat 22nd September 2012
Module 3	-	Fri 30th November & Sat 1st December 2012
Examination		January 2013

For further information and Enquiries

Lisa Brett - Education Manager

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John Robinson: john@vetdentist.com

SYLLABUS

Extensive knowledge of the VN Part 1 and Part 2 examination syllabus will be assumed.

1) Background knowledge

- 1.1 Head anatomy pertinent to dentistry
Head anatomy - Main anatomical features of head, which are affected by dental disease or dental treatment. - in the dog, cat and rabbit
- 1.2 Anatomy and physiology of teeth
Components of tooth structure – enamel, dentine, cementum, pulp, odontoblasts.
How hard tissues are different to bone and so orthopaedic principles are inappropriate.
Innervation of the teeth
- 1.3 Anatomy and physiology of dental soft tissues
Gingiva – including attached gingiva, mucogingival line
Periodontium. - periodontal ligaments, innervation of perio ligament
Paradental tissues
- 1.4 Dental formulae, tooth types and eruption times
Of mammals (general) and specifically cat, dog, rabbit, chinchilla, guinea pig, hamsters, rats and mice.
- 1.5 Outline of the formation and development of the dentition - basic
Development of tooth root with time (baseline time of eruption)
- 1.6 Occlusion
Features of normal – detecting traumatic malocclusions – transitional dentition (implication of retained deciduous teeth)

Learning outcomes

At the end of this section of the course the students should be able to:

- Know the dental formulae of the cat and dog and the Triadan notation system.
- Describe the function of different teeth.
- Describe the features of normal occlusion,
- Know the timing of the deciduous and permanent dentition and be aware of complications in the transitional stage.
- List the common factors, which may result in developmental abnormalities of the teeth.
- Describe the main anatomical features of the head, which may be affected by dental disease or be involved in dental treatments.
- Know the specific anatomy of the teeth and gingival / periodontal tissues.

1a) Health & Safety

- Safety of the operator
- Contamination of the environment
- Cross Infection
- Cleaning and care of dental equipment and instruments

Aetiology & pathogenesis of dental diseases,

2.1 Periodontal disease, including specific feline periodontal conditions

Gingival anatomy; description of junctional epithelium - the unique epithelial interface

Definition of gingivitis and periodontitis

What plaque is - composition and time scale of formation

What calculus is and interface with plaque

Adult onset periodontitis

aetiology

pathogenesis - mechanism by which disease arises

Clinical stages - clinically healthy gingiva (subclinical inflammation)
gingivitis - presence of plaque, reversible condition
periodontitis - progression of destruction

Incidence

Relationship to general health - systemic effects

Role of diet

Outline of other types of Periodontal disease

Feline perio problems - juvenile gingivitis & periodontitis
- gingivostomatitis

Acute Necrotising Ulcerative Gingivitis

2.2 Caries (tooth decay)

Caries in dogs

2.3 Feline Odontoclastic Resorptive Lesions (RLs)

2.4 Traumatic injuries – fractured teeth, luxation

2.5 Problems in pet exotics (rabbits, chinchillas etc)

Learning outcomes

At the end of this section of the course the students should be able to:

- Have a basic understanding of the aetiology and pathogenesis of all common dental diseases.
- Appreciate how dental diseases will impact on the overall health and wellbeing of the animal.
- Describe the key points in the aetiology and pathogenesis of periodontal disease.
- Understand how periodontal disease can affect general health and vice versa.

2) Dental diagnosis;

The actual diagnosis in a clinical case should be confirmed by the veterinary surgeon but the VN has a role in gathering and assimilating diagnostic information.

- Dental examination
- History taking
- Intra-oral radiography
- Treatment planning and case management.

3.1 Dental examination

How the dental examination fits in with routine physical examination

How to perform a conscious oral examination and its limitations

Examination of occlusion in the conscious animal

Definitive oral examination under General Anaesthetic

- soft tissue check and systematic dental examination inc;
 - Pocket depth measurement and gingivitis score
 - Recording findings / dental charts
 - Reasons for charting.

3.2 History taking

3.3 Intra - oral radiography

Radiography as an essential diagnostic tool for examination

Indications for radiography

Techniques of intra-oral radiography – equipment

 Parallel & bisecting angle technique

 Positioning of animal

Extra oral technique - limitations and disadvantages (optional)

Mounting and archiving of dental radiographs

3.4 Treatment planning and case management - basic principles.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this section of the course the students should be able to:

- Recognise common dental & oral disease and understand the significance of these conditions and their inter-relation to general health.
- Know the main oral conditions, which are specific to felines, namely - variations of periodontal disease, gingivo-stomatitis, resorptive lesions.
- Appreciate that the oral examination is part of a complete physical examination.
- Describe how to perform the definitive dental / oral examination, including gingivitis scoring, periodontal pocket measurement, assessment of abnormalities of dental hard tissues.
- Be able to describe a system to chart the findings of the dental examination and support the importance of dental charting.
- Give the indications for intra-oral radiography in oral diagnosis.
- Be able to perform intra-oral radiography.

4) Dental treatment;

4.1 General GA considerations specific to dental treatment

Protecting the airways from fluid and debris ingress

Considerations in maintaining body temperature (countering heat loss)

4.2 Periodontal disease

Home Care - Equipment & products (inc. educational)

- Techniques – active and passive

mechanical, chemical, adjunct therapies (chews, diet)

- Client education – one on one, group meetings, show and do, motivation, continuous reinforcement

Periodontal therapy - scaling / polishing / root planing / lavage

Fluoride - uses and side effects

Role of antibiotics (basic) & chlorhexidine in therapy

Overview of- gingival hyperplasia, epuli and oral neoplasias

4.3 Tooth extraction

Indications; periodontal, endodontic, caries, fracture (bone or root), malocclusion, retained deciduous teeth, stomatitis, Feline resorptive lesions.

Techniques - simple (cutting epithelium, use of elevator, use of forceps)

- sectioning to single roots,

- outline of surgical extraction (only basic principles)

Factors influencing choice of technique – e.g. for extraction of deciduous teeth, canine teeth, feline teeth with RLs.

Instrument and equipment requirements (inc. surgical extraction)

Root remnants - assessment and treatment options

Complications associated with extraction

(damage to permanent successor, jaw fx)

Oronasal fistula – causes & recognition

4.4 Adjunct therapy (e.g. antibiotics). - basic principles only

Indication for requirement of antibiotics.

Need for analgesics – pre-emptive and guestimation of level of pain

4.5 Options as alternatives to extraction (conservative treatments)

Understand when there may be suitable or better alternatives to extraction

Learning outcomes

At the end of this section of the course the students should be able to:


- Describe the basic dental treatments, and be able to understand their rationale and potential for iatrogenic damage.
- Be able to describe the principles of case management in periodontal disease, including assessment of periodontal status, oral hygiene for prevention and intervention, and periodontal treatments.
- Be able to assess whether or not a tooth requires extraction.
- Understand the principles of sectioning teeth and root elevation.
- Know when a surgical extraction technique is required.
- Be aware of possible complications of extraction, both generally and of specific teeth, including how to avoid iatrogenic damage.
- Be able to recognise when there are retained root fragments and know what is the appropriate treatment.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All veterinary nurse applicants must be qualified and registered/listed.
2. Only qualified veterinary nurses and veterinary surgeons are allowed to sit the examination and by obtaining a pass achieve the BVNA certificate in dentistry. Other people may attend the course if they are deemed suitable by the BVNA and the course tutors.
3. Applicants will be notified of acceptance of a place. Reasons will be given if your application is not accepted.
4. By the time of the examination the candidate must be able to submit evidence of at least one calendar year of full-time employment in practice (which need not be continuous), gained after passing the Part II Veterinary nursing Examination.
5. A preliminary reading list, equipment list form and the diaries will be sent out prior to the first module.
6. The first residential course will be run in May with the second in September, third in December and final examination in January.
7. Each residential course is mandatory.
8. Candidates who are unable to attend a residential module due to unforeseen circumstances will be required to complete the said module before being allowed to submit their case studies and advancing onto the examination. Appeals due to mitigating circumstances will be reviewed by the course committee.
9. Each candidate must produce a minimum of 60 Diary entries per year.
10. Diaries are to be submitted prior to the examination. Under special circumstances a small time extension may be granted but this needs to be arranged before the examination.
11. 4 case studies are to be completed covering at least 1 dog case and 1 cat case.
12. 1st case report to be in by the 31st August this will be marked within 6 weeks by at least one member of the examination panel and returned to the candidate for reference. This is a trial case study and the marks are not counted.
13. The further 3 case studies are to be sent to the BVNA office by the 3rd module or handed in during this module. These should be sent in one file as one bound volume. These will be returned after the examination.
14. Only your own material can be used in these case studies.

15. You are advised to keep a copy of ALL work submitted for marking
16. Candidates who fail to achieve an overall pass mark in the case studies section, but have passed all other components, will be permitted to resubmit case studies before the following April. If successful a certificate will be awarded.
17. The examiners may reject case studies which are not presented in the specified format
18. Each case study will be marked by members of the examination panel
19. Examinations occur once yearly in December
20. The examinations consist of: -
 - Multiple Choice Questions
 - Steeplechase exam Steeplechase exam
 - short essay section
21. Candidates must pass all components (examination, coursework & case studies) to achieve an overall certificate qualification pass. When a pass is not achieved in any component up to 2 further attempts will be allowed for each component. After the 3rd attempt the entire course will need to be repeated.
22. A candidate may sit the examination if they have not successfully completed the coursework and case study components by the exam date.
23. The pass mark for each area will be 50% except for the Multiple Choice Questions where the pass mark is 65%.
24. Candidates who fail can request their percentage marks the specific areas failed.
25. Candidates must have a supervisor who should be a veterinary surgeon, ideally working in the same practice. The role of the supervisor is to ensure that the facilities are available in the practice to support the candidate's training and to monitor and advise on the preparation of the case diary.

FEE STRUCTURE

	Standard fees	Reduced fees (due to sponsorship)
Enrolment Application Fee	£190	£190
Module 1 Residential Sponsored by 	£348	£298
Module 2 Residential Sponsored by 	£348	£298
Module 3 Residential Sponsored by 	£348	£193
Examination	£215	£215
Total	£1,449	£1,194

Please note these fees DO NOT include accommodation expenses

An optional revision course may be offered in November prior to the examinations; approximate cost for this will be £80.00.

ALL residential courses take place at Hartpury College, Gloucester

Application forms must be submitted before 30th April to get the discounts due to external sponsorship

PFIZER ANIMAL HEALTH BURSARIES



Pfizer Animal Health is offering bursaries to encourage Dental Leadership, and will be awarding one successful applicant with £1,600 to cover the cost of undertaking the course plus expenses. Please visit the BVNA website at www.bvna.org.uk to download an application form.



Veterinary Nurse Certificate in Dentistry

APPLICATION FOR ENROLMENT

Please return to: BVNA, 82 Greenway Business Centre, Harlow Business Park, Harlow, Essex CM19 5QE

Section A. Personal Details

TITLE (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

SURNAME

ALL FORENAMES

MAIDEN NAME (if applicable)

ADDRESS

..... POST CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER (daytime contact)

E-MAIL ADDRESS

DATE OF BIRTH AGE

Date of passing Level 3 examination

RVN Number or RCVS Registration Number

Entry date onto the Register/List of Veterinary Nurses

Do you have any special needs (e.g. dyslexia) that may affect your ability to progress with the certificate:-

STUDENTS MUST INDICATE ANY DISABILITY THEY HAVE AT THE TIME OF ENROLMENT. BVNA WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CONSIDER OR PROCESS DISABILITY INFORMATION AT A LATER DATE.

YES NO

IF YES, PLEASE SPECIFY

Please help us by indicating your ethnic origin (optional)

WHITE

- 01 BRITISH
- 02 IRISH
- 03 OTHER WHITE BACKGROUND

MIXED

- 04 WHITE AND BLACK CARIBBEAN
- 05 WHITE AND BLACK AFRICAN
- 06 WHITE AND ASIAN
- 07 OTHER MIXED BACKGROUND

ASIAN AND ASIAN BRITISH

- 08 INDIAN
- 09 PAKISTANI
- 10 BANGLADESHI
- 11 OTHER ASIAN

BLACK OR BLACK BRITISH

- 12 CARIBBEAN
- 13 AFRICAN
- 14 OTHER BLACK BACKGROUND

CHINESE OR OTHER

- 15 CHINESE
- 16 ANY OTHER ETHNIC GROUP

Section B. Approved Centre

PRACTICE NAME

ADDRESS

.....

..... POST CODE

TELEPHONE NUMBER

VNAC/TP NUMBER

APPROVAL DATE

DATE EMPLOYMENT COMMENCED

CURRENT POSITION (e.g. Head Nurse)

Section C. Supervision

Please complete details of the Veterinary Surgeon who has agreed to act as your supervisor

TITLE (Mr/Mrs/Miss)

SURNAME

ALL FORENAMES

QUALIFICATIONS

ADDRESS (if different from your employer)

.....

Section D. Certification

I hereby apply for enrolment for the Veterinary Nurse Certificate in Dentistry and in so doing:

- I confirm that my place of employment meets the requirements for equipment and facilities as outlined in the guidance notes.
- I confirm that I have the full support of my principal at my practice.
- I confirm that I will attend the 3 residential courses and examination as prescribed in the guidance notes.
- I enclose enrolment fee of £190.00, made payable to the BVNA, and I understand that this fee will be returned to me if my enrolment is not accepted for any reason. Once my application has been accepted, I understand that this fee is not returnable or transferable.

I would like to pay by cheque/credit card * Amount enclosed/charged £.....

Card no.

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Expiry Date:..... Valid From:..... Issue No: Security Code:

Cardholders Name:..... Signature:.....

Signature of Applicant: **Date:**

Signature of Supervisor: **Date:**