

Matthew Rendle VN

I started my veterinary nursing career at The Park Veterinary Centre, Watford in September 1989, a busy 13 vet practice whilst completing my veterinary nursing qualification. I was involved in nursing, anaesthetics and radiography for a wide variety of species including domestic and farm animals, horses, most varieties of birds, bats, reptiles, amphibians and fish. I was promoted to Senior Theatre Nurse in 1994 and continued in this post until I left in July 2003 to pursue my interest in exotics nursing at the Zoological Society of London.

Working at the Zoological Society of London has enabled me to gain a broader knowledge of exotic veterinary nursing and I now have experience in nursing animals from all taxonomic groups. My role also involves carrying out training, using positive reinforcement techniques, such as clicker training in various species including gorillas, tigers and Komodo dragons.

I regularly give lectures to veterinary nurse and veterinary surgeon undergraduates at the RVC as part of their core modules. Topics covered include husbandry, and treatments in herpetology.

I am a keen herpetologist, having a particular interest in poison arrow frogs, python's, boas and chameleons. I have been successful in breeding many species over the years, and find their husbandry and breeding strategies fascinating and challenging. This consumes a great deal of my spare time.