



British Veterinary Nursing Association Positioning Statement -

This is in response to the petition that requests parliamentary review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, to include registration and statutory regulation for veterinary nurses and to protect the title 'Veterinary Nurse'.

The commonly used title of 'Veterinary Nurse' is not currently protected by law. This means that, despite Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) guidance, any unqualified member of staff who works in a UK veterinary practice can call themselves a 'Veterinary Nurse', regardless of their level of training.

This situation has led to:

- The perception on the part of clients to believe that most practice lay staff are qualified veterinary nurses
- An assumption that non-qualified individuals employed in practice who fulfill a nursing role are regulated
- A need to implement means to ensure the protection of patients and their welfare

The British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) supports the view that all those individuals who work as veterinary nurses in practice should be either qualified or student veterinary nurses working towards qualification. Qualified veterinary nurses have received first class training and are highly skilled, committed professionals.

At present the qualified veterinary nurse must pay an annual fee to the RCVS in order to remain on the non-statutory Register or List. The current non-statutory Register has its flaws and the desired statutory Register will not be possible until the Veterinary Surgeons Act is amended or a new law is passed. It is only with a statutory Register that veterinary nurses will be truly accountable and be privileged to use the title 'Veterinary Nurse'.

The BVNA IS committed to this ultimate goal, so that the public can be assured that their pets receive the support and care that they are entitled to.