



# Staying in touch



## Introducing CQ's new Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing SA

Abbeydale is delighted to launch CQ's redesigned Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing SA, commencing September 2025. This refreshed qualification reflects extensive feedback from centres and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, ensuring a modern, practice-focused curriculum that equips future veterinary nurses with the knowledge and skills to excel.

### Evolution

CQ listened carefully to feedback from training centres and the RCVS to ensure their qualification meets the highest standards. Key motivations for the redesign include:

- Integrating Anatomy and Physiology throughout the curriculum
- Amending theory and practical content to mirror contemporary veterinary nursing practice.
- Reducing repetitive modules and streamlining content for clarity.
- Mapping every learning outcome (LO) to the RCVS Day One Skills (DOS) and Day One Competencies (DOC) for transparent progress tracking.
- Including dates for all relevant legislation to keep current and compliant.



### Course Structure and Units

The new Diploma spans 16 logically ordered units that build foundational knowledge before challenging students to apply skills in practice. Notable changes:

- Comparative Anatomy and Physiology has been removed in favour of a fully integrated approach.
- Practical elements are woven into theory units, explicitly linking what students learn to real-world scenarios.
- Guided Learning Hours (GLH) now differentiate classroom-based time from other activities, clarifying expectations.



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Unit Number	Title of unit	Unit Number	Title of unit
VNSA1	Operational requirements in small animal practice	VNSA9	Principles of supporting anaesthesia for small animal veterinary nurses
VNSA2	Applied animal welfare, health and husbandry in small animal practice	VNSA10	Theatre practice for small animal veterinary nurses
VNSA3	Infection control in small animal practice	VNSA16	Home care and convalescence
VNSA4	Communication and professional relationships in small animal practice	VNSA11	Principles of small animal peri-operative veterinary nursing support
VNSA5	Veterinary nursing care for hospitalised small animals	VNSA12	Diagnostic imaging in small animal practice
VNSA6	Veterinary medicine supply in small animal practice	VNSA13	Laboratory diagnostics in small animal practice
VNSA7	Understand and apply the principles of fluid therapy and intravenous catheterisation	VNSA14	Principles of small animal veterinary nursing support
VNSA8	Introduction to professional practice, professionalism and ethics for small animal veterinary nurses	VNSA15	Veterinary nursing support for emergency and critical care of small animals
		VNSA16	Home care and convalescence

### Assessments and Assignments

Assignments have been streamlined to two primary projects, both completed within the first year. Students can select from various assignment formats to accommodate diverse learning styles.

Examinations continue to comprise of five papers:

- Four multiple-choice question (MCQ) exams.
- One short-answer question (SAQ) exam, with VN8 SAQs based on realistic scenarios.

To streamline administration and feedback:

Exams are scheduled at the start of the examination week (Monday–Tuesday), allowing for a quicker turnaround of results.



### Next Steps



The new syllabus officially begins in September 2025. If you'd like more information about applying, exploring course handbooks, or chatting about how Abbeydale can support training in your practice, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our team.

We also have a recording of our employers' evening available, which walks through the new qualification in detail – just drop us a message and we'll send over the YouTube link.

We're excited to work with you in preparing and inspiring the next generation of veterinary nurses.



Address

Abbeydale Veterinary Training Ltd  
Apex House  
Wonastow Industrial Estate (East)  
Monmouth  
NP25 5JB


Scan the QR code to access our online  
application form directly.



Phone

01600 737 040





## Abbeydale Vet Nurse Training Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing... now online!

Get ready to kickstart your veterinary nursing career with Abbeydale's brand-new online programme! Launching January 2026, this flexible, fully supported Level 3 Diploma lets you train from home while still benefiting from our exceptional achievement rates.

- Weekly live Zoom sessions with our expert teaching team
- Practical prep days on site to master hands-on skills
- Attendance only for written exams and OSCE assessments

Our dedicated tutor team will be online to answer questions, run small-group workshops, and ensure you never feel isolated—no matter where you're based.

### What You'll Need

To study effectively online, you'll want:

- A reliable internet connection and a quiet workspace
- A laptop or tablet with webcam and audio capability
- Self-motivation and good time-management habits
- Basic digital skills: joining Zoom calls, downloading materials, submitting assignments

We'll send you a starter pack full of tips, tech-checks, and study planners so you hit the ground running.

### Is This Course for You?

This online route suits you if you:

- Live too far from Monmouth or face long commutes
- Juggle work, family, or other commitments
- Thrive in one-to-one and small-group online environments
- Value Abbeydale's outstanding pass rates and student support



*Apply*  
**NOW**  
*For January 2026*



# What are Off The Job Hours?

Off-the-job training is the time your apprentices spend building knowledge, skills, and behaviours away from their day-to-day clinical duties. For both Level 2 VNA and Level 3 Vet Nursing, it makes up 20% of their paid working hours and is essential to meet apprenticeship standards.

**Remember: these hours must be scheduled into their workweek. They're not "extra" homework to do in evenings or at home.**

What Counts as Off-the-Job Training?

**Live teaching sessions (at Abbeydale or online)**

**Formal tutorials with Abbeydale tutors or Clinical coaches**

**Practical training at Abbeydale or formal sessions in the practice**

**Completing CSL or focus theory books in work hours**

This dedicated learning time will:

- Give apprentices space to focus on theory and clinical skills without distractions
- Ensure they meet DfE requirements and funding rules

By building off-the-job training into their working week, you'll set your apprentices up for real success—both in the qualification and their future career. If you've got questions or need extra resources, our team is here to help.

## Behind the Scenes: Meet the Minds of Abbeydale

You've checked out our bios on the website and socials, but now it's time to dive deep and really meet the crew...

**Emma Collins, lead tutor**

### **What is your favorite animal, and why?**

*Penguins, any species, one thing I have discovered doing this interview is my inability to provide a solid answer. No particular reason, I just think they are rather fabulous.*

### **What was your favorite snack to recharge after a busy day in practice?**

*I am very food motivated, so it would be hard to choose a particular snack! It would depend on the type of day whether I would be face planting a chocolate cake or devouring cheese, it absolutely would not be tuna though!*

### **How did you first become interested in Veterinary Nursing?**

*From an early age, I aspired to work with animals. I spent my childhood helping on a livery yard, enjoying tasks like cleaning tack and mucking out. A careers leaflet on veterinary nursing at school led me to a week of work experience at a local veterinary practice, where I was inspired by the team's diverse roles and learning opportunities. That experience confirmed my desire to become a veterinary nurse.*

### **What advice would you give to someone dreaming of becoming a vet nurse?**

*A career in veterinary nursing is rewarding, whether as a registered veterinary nurse or a veterinary nurse assistant. It's hard work, especially initially, but dedication pays off. Gaining experience at a supportive practice can lead to opportunities upon qualification. There are a wealth of opportunities available to us now and exciting times ahead with the progression being made. The pathways are endless, and it's your journey to have.*





# Gemma Brown Aspirational Memorial Award

## Honouring Gemma Legacy

The Gemma Brown Aspirational Memorial Award celebrates the life and achievements of Gemma Brown, an Abbeydale student renowned for her drive, determination, kindness, and compassion. Gemma's journey was cut short when she tragically passed away in August 2023 before completing her Diploma in Veterinary Nursing.

## About the Award

The award is presented each August to the student/s who demonstrates exceptional motivation and drive to achieve, both academically and personally.

## 2025 Winners

This year's award goes to two outstanding students whose resilience and dedication mirror Gemma's exceptional qualities.

### Kendal Swart

Kendal quietly inspires everyone around her. Balancing full-time work, her studies, and raising two children, she tackles every challenge without complaint. Kendal lifts people up through her calm friendliness and willingness to help—whether it's a peer struggling with coursework or a colleague needing support. Her genuine love of learning drives her to go beyond ticking boxes. Kendal approaches every task with curiosity and positivity, setting an example of what's possible when kindness and determination lead the way.



### Jessica Fennelly

Jessica's journey at Abbeydale began with obstacles, but she quickly turned things around. Facing personal and medical challenges that might have derailed anyone else, Jess dug deep, showed remarkable strength, and found her rhythm. She's grown in confidence, passing each exam on her first try and radiating positivity in every interaction. Jess' transformation into a capable, determined student assures us she will become an outstanding Registered Veterinary Nurse.



Congratulations to both Kendal and Jess—we can't wait to see all the incredible things you achieve next!