



CENTRAL QUALIFICATIONS™

# Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

Small Animal Qualification

## VN1 - Understanding the operational requirements of a veterinary practice

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Move and handle a dog safely (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure a lead or harness is correctly placed before moving dog</i>  <i>Place dog in position as required for procedure</i>  <i>Restrain dog, ensuring safety of self and others and using restraint equipment if necessary</i></p>	
2	<p><b>Move and handle a cat safely (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure the cat is either placed in a secure basket or held securely, as appropriate, before moving</i>  <i>Place the cat in position as required for procedure</i>  <i>Restrain cat, ensuring safety of self and others and using restraint equipment if necessary</i></p>	
3	<p><b>Move and handle a small mammal or exotic species safely (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure the animal is securely restrained or placed in a carrier before moving</i>  <i>Place the animal in position as required for procedure</i>  <i>Restrain animal, ensuring safety of self and others and using restraint equipment if necessary</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Manually move and handle equipment or load safely (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Move a load that is suited to safe carrying by a single person</i>  <i>Identify risks or difficulties due to weight, positioning, shape or size of equipment or load</i>  <i>Move load ensuring safety of self and others</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Move and handle equipment or load safely using an aid (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Identify an appropriate aid for moving the equipment or load</i>  <i>Identify risks or difficulties due to weight, positioning, shape or size of equipment or load</i>  <i>Use an aid to move load, ensuring safety of self and others</i></p>	
6	<p><b>Store equipment and materials to allow for safe manual handling (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Identify a safe storage place for equipment and materials</i>  <i>Place equipment and materials in storage place that will avoid injury to self and others and allow for safe manual handling</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Arrange a maintenance visit for one piece of practice equipment (3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Contact the appropriate maintenance company and organise a visit according to practice protocol</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Identify and report damage to equipment and/or accommodation (3.3)</b></p> <p><i>Report damage according to practice protocol. May include; damaged accommodation, chemical spills, breakages, electrical faults, fire, gas leak</i></p>	
9	<p><b>Maintain stock in the consulting room (4.1)</b></p> <p><i>Before the beginning of the consultation period, ensure adequate stocks of consumables and pharmaceuticals</i>  <i>Check the expiry dates on pharmaceuticals and ensure they are stored correctly</i>  <i>Check stocks during breaks in consulting and replenish as necessary, paying attention to stock rotation</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Place an order for veterinary consumables and/or pharmaceuticals (4.1)</b></p> <p><i>Identify items to be ordered</i>  <i>Place an order according to practice protocol</i></p>	
11	<p><b>Identify surplus or outdated materials or medicines and dispose of according to legal requirements (4.3)</b></p> <p><i>Recognise safe methods of disposing of outdated materials</i>  <i>Comply with relevant legislation when disposing of surplus or outdated medicines</i></p>	

## VN2 - Professional relationships and communication for veterinary nursing practice

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Take a patient history (2.1, 2.2)</b> <i>Take an accurate patient history from an owner, elicit relevant information, correctly interpret facts Record history accurately and report to a veterinary colleague</i>	
2	<b>Produce clear written clinical records (2.1, 2.2)</b> <i>May include nursing care plans, observations and client instructions Records should be legible, comprehensive and comprehensible Records should include appropriate use of veterinary terminology and abbreviations</i>	
3	<b>Greet and address clients appropriately to include face to face and telephone communications (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>As the client approaches the reception desk, ensure they are greeted in a friendly and professional manner Throughout communications remain polite, friendly and helpful When dealing with a client on the telephone, speak clearly, check client understanding and remain friendly and professional.</i>	
4	<b>Deal with client telephone queries in a professional manner (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Deal with queries quickly and efficiently, remaining polite and professional throughout</i>	
5	<b>Deal with face to face client queries in a professional manner (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Communicate with colleagues and other clients in a professional manner in front of clients Deal with queries quickly and efficiently, remaining polite and professional throughout</i>	
6	<b>Register a new client (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Follow practice protocol in registering a new client both over the telephone and face to face Complete the relevant practice records accurately</i>	
7	<b>Register a new patient (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Follow practice protocol in registering a new patient, both over the telephone and face to face Complete the relevant practice records accurately</i>	
8	<b>Make a first appointment for a client (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Follow practice protocol to make a first appointment for a client and ensure all relevant practice records are completed accurately</i>	
9	<b>Make an emergency appointment for a client (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Follow practice protocol to make an emergency appointment for a client and ensure all relevant practice records are completed accurately</i>	
10	<b>Make a follow-up appointment for a client (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Follow practice protocol to make a follow-up appointment for a client and ensure all relevant practice records are completed accurately</i>	
11	<b>Make an appointment for a surgical procedure (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Follow practice procedure to make an appointment for a surgical procedure Ensure the client is aware of any special instructions e.g. to starve the animal from the previous evening Ensure all relevant practice records are completed accurately</i>	
12	<b>Provide an estimate of cost to a client (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Follow practice protocol and liaise with colleagues where appropriate to provide an estimate of cost to a client Ensure a record/copy is made of the estimate</i>	
13	<b>Use a veterinary record keeping system (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Maintain accurate client records and documentation according to practice protocol Process insurance claims Maintain client confidentiality and adhere to data protection guidelines</i>	
14	<b>Take payments to include credit cards, cheques and insurance claims (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>Process and record payments accurately according to practice protocol Process payments securely Prepare invoices for clients</i>	
15	<b>Advise clients on process of seeking second opinions or referrals (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5)</b> <i>According to practice protocol and in line with RCVS guidelines, offer advice to clients on the process of seeking a second opinion or referral to a veterinary specialist or para-veterinary professional</i>	

## VN3 - Comparative functional anatomy for veterinary nursing practice

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Demonstrate the position of musculoskeletal landmarks in a dog (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include;</i>            Axial skeleton-occipital crest, zygomatic arch, vertical and horizontal mandibular ramus, wings of atlas, dorsal spine of axis vertebrae, thoracic dorsal spinous processes, lateral processes of lumbar vertebrae, first rib, last rib, manubrium, xiphisternum            Appendicular skeleton - Fore-limb landmarks - spine of scapula, acromion, greater tubercle of humerus, humeral condyles, olecranon            -Hind-limb and pelvis landmarks - wings of ilium, tuber ischii, brim of pubis, greater trochanter, patella, tibial tuberosity, calcaneous            Splanchnic skeleton - os penis</p>	
2	<p><b>Demonstrate the position of musculoskeletal landmarks in a cat (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include;</i>            Axial skeleton-occipital crest, zygomatic arch, vertical and horizontal mandibular ramus, wings of atlas, dorsal spine of axis vertebrae, thoracic dorsal spinous processes, lateral processes of lumbar vertebrae, first rib, last rib, manubrium, xiphisternum            Appendicular skeleton - Fore-limb landmarks - spine of scapula, acromion, greater tubercle of humerus, humeral condyles, olecranon            -Hind-limb and pelvis landmarks - wings of ilium, tuber ischii, brim of pubis, greater trochanter, patella, tibial tuberosity, calcaneous            Splanchnic skeleton - os penis</p>	
3	<p><b>Demonstrate the position of musculoskeletal landmarks in an exotic animal (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include where appropriate;</i>            Axial skeleton-occipital crest, zygomatic arch, vertical and horizontal mandibular ramus, wings of atlas, dorsal spine of axis vertebrae, thoracic dorsal spinous processes, lateral processes of lumbar vertebrae, first rib, last rib, manubrium, xiphisternum            Appendicular skeleton - Fore-limb landmarks - spine of scapula, acromion, greater tubercle of humerus, humeral condyles, olecranon            -Hind-limb and pelvis landmarks - wings of ilium, tuber ischii, brim of pubis, greater trochanter, patella, tibial tuberosity, calcaneous            Splanchnic skeleton - os penis</p>	
4	<p><b>Demonstrate the position of musculoskeletal landmarks in a horse (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include;</i>            Axial skeleton-occipital crest, zygomatic arch, vertical and horizontal mandibular ramus, wings of atlas, dorsal spine of axis vertebrae, thoracic dorsal spinous processes, lateral processes of lumbar vertebrae, first rib, last rib, manubrium, xiphisternum            Appendicular skeleton - Fore-limb landmarks - spine of scapula, acromion, greater tubercle of humerus, humeral condyles, olecranon            -Hind-limb and pelvis landmarks - wings of ilium, tuber ischii, brim of pubis, greater trochanter, patella, tibial tuberosity, calcaneous            Splanchnic skeleton</p>	
5	<p><b>Demonstrate the points of venous and arterial access in a dog (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include;</i>            Veins            Jugular            Femoral            Cephalic            Lateral saphenous            Lingual            Arteries            Carotid            Palmar digital            Femoral            Metatarsal            Lingual            Coccygeal</p>	
6	<p><b>Demonstrate the points of venous and arterial access in a cat (2.1)</b></p>	

	<p><i>To include;</i>  Veins  Jugular  Femoral  Cephalic  Lateral saphenous  Lingual  Arteries  Carotid  Palmar digital  Femoral  Metatarsal  Lingual  Coccygeal</p>	
7	<p><b>Demonstrate the points of venous and arterial access in an exotic animal (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include where appropriate;</i>  Veins  Jugular  Femoral  Cephalic  Lateral saphenous  Lingual  Arteries  Carotid  Palmar digital  Femoral  Metatarsal  Lingual  Coccygeal</p>	
8	<p><b>Demonstrate the points of venous and arterial access in a horse (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include;</i>  Veins  Jugular  Lateral thoracic  Facial vein  Cephalic  Saphenous  Arteries  Carotid  Palmar digital  Transverse facial  Dorsal Metatarsal  Auricular  Brachial</p>	
9	<p><b>Identify other landmarks and structures in the dog (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include; larynx, trachea, heart, bladder, and external genitalia</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Identify other landmarks and structures in the cat (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include; larynx, trachea, heart, bladder, and external genitalia</i></p>	
11	<p><b>Identify other landmarks and structures in an exotic animal (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>To include; larynx, trachea, heart, bladder, and external genitalia</i></p>	

## VN4 - Applied animal welfare, health and husbandry for veterinary nurses

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Clean and maintain housing for a dog (2.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to;</i> <i>infection control and use of appropriate disinfectants</i> <i>safety of housing</i> <i>use of appropriate bedding</i>	
2	<b>Clean and maintain housing for a cat (2.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to;</i> <i>infection control and use of appropriate disinfectants</i> <i>safety of housing</i> <i>use of appropriate bedding</i>	
3	<b>Clean and maintain housing for an exotic animal (2.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to;</i> <i>infection control and use of appropriate disinfectants</i> <i>safety of housing</i> <i>use of appropriate bedding</i>	
4	<b>Clean and maintain housing for a horse (2.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to;</i> <i>infection control and use of appropriate disinfectants</i> <i>safety of housing</i> <i>use of appropriate bedding</i>	
5	<b>Demonstrate appropriate grooming practices for a range of species (2.1)</b> <i>To include; dog, cat, exotic animal and horse</i> <i>Selection of appropriate grooming tools and demonstration of species specific knowledge relating to basic grooming techniques</i>	
6	<b>Demonstrate basic equine foot care and examine hooves (2.1)</b> <i>To include using a hoof pick</i>	
7	<b>Calculate the nutritional needs of an animal (3.2)</b> <i>To include a dog and cat</i> <i>Recognise the difference in nutritional requirements of different life-stages and levels of activity</i>	
8	<b>Calculate the basic fluid requirements of an animal (3.2)</b> <i>To include a dog and cat</i> <i>Consider the methods of fluid loss</i>	
9	<b>Demonstrate correct techniques for approaching and catching a dog (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b> <i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. lead, harness, dog catcher</i> <i>Approach calmly, avoiding stress to the animal</i> <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
10	<b>Demonstrate correct techniques for approaching and catching a cat (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b> <i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. towel, basket, gauntlets</i> <i>Approach calmly, avoiding stress to the animal</i> <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
11	<b>Demonstrate correct techniques for approaching and catching an exotic species (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b> <i>To include rabbits, birds, rodents and reptiles</i> <i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. towel, basket, gauntlets, hook</i> <i>Approach calmly, avoiding stress to the animal</i> <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
12	<b>Demonstrate correct techniques for approaching and catching a horse (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b> <i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. head collar</i> <i>Approach calmly, avoiding stress to the animal</i> <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
13	<b>Demonstrate correct techniques for handling, holding and restraining a dog (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b> <i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. collar, lead, harness</i> <i>Restrain the dog for examination, ensuring the safety of self, others and animal</i>	
14	<b>Demonstrate correct techniques for handling, holding and restraining a cat (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b> <i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. towel, gauntlets, basket, crush cage</i> <i>Restrain the cat for examination, ensuring the safety of self, others and animal</i>	
15	<b>Demonstrate correct techniques for handling, holding and restraining an exotic species (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b>	

	<p><i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. gauntlets, towel, basket</i>  <i>Restrain the animal for examination, ensuring the safety of self, others and animal</i></p>	
16	<p><b>Demonstrate correct techniques for handling, holding and restraining a horse (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b>  <i>Use appropriate restraint equipment e.g. head collar, twitch,</i>  <i>Restrain the horse for examination, ensuring the safety of self, others and animal</i></p>	
17	<p><b>Move a dog safely (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b>  <i>Use appropriate equipment e.g. collar, lead, harness</i>  <i>Transport dog within practice, ensuring animal is kept under control</i>  <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal throughout</i></p>	
18	<p><b>Move a cat safely (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b>  <i>Use appropriate equipment e.g. basket, crush cage</i>  <i>Transport cat within practice, ensuring animal is kept under control</i>  <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal throughout</i></p>	
19	<p><b>Move an exotic species safely (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b>  <i>Use appropriate equipment e.g. basket</i>  <i>Transport animal within practice, ensuring animal is kept under control</i>  <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal throughout</i></p>	
20	<p><b>Move a horse safely (6.1,6.2,6.3)</b>  <i>Use appropriate equipment - apply a head collar</i>  <i>Transport horse within practice, ensuring animal is kept under control</i>  <i>Ensure safety of self, others and animal throughout</i></p>	

## VN5 - Infection control in veterinary practice

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Select and use appropriate cleaning and disinfectant solutions (3.2)</b> <i>Choose an appropriate disinfectant effective against relevant micro-organisms Follow manufacturers guidelines for dilution rates and usage Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self, others and animals</i>	
2	<b>Clean a consulting room (4.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to surfaces, equipment and furniture Choose appropriate disinfectant or cleaning solution Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self, others and animals</i>	
3	<b>Clean kennel accommodation (4.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to surfaces, bars and corners Choose appropriate disinfectant or cleaning solution Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self, others and animals</i>	
4	<b>Clean stabling (4.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to surfaces, bars and corners Choose appropriate disinfectant or cleaning solution Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self, others and animals</i>	
5	<b>Clean a laboratory area (4.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to surfaces, equipment and furniture Choose appropriate disinfectant or cleaning solution Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self and others</i>	
6	<b>Clean an operating theatre (4.1)</b> <i>Paying attention to surfaces, equipment and furniture Choose appropriate disinfectant or cleaning solution Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self and others</i>	
7	<b>Handle and dispose of blood and body fluids (4.2)</b> <i>Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self and others Dispose of into appropriate bin/bag</i>	
8	<b>Handle and dispose of faeces (4.2)</b> <i>Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self and others Dispose of into appropriate bin/bag</i>	
9	<b>Handle and dispose of body tissue (4.2)</b> <i>Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self and others Dispose of into appropriate bin/bag</i>	
10	<b>Handle and dispose of cadavers (4.2)</b> <i>Wear appropriate PPE and ensure safety of self and others Store according to practice policy in appropriate conditions e.g. allocated refrigerator or freezer Label and place in appropriate covering - e.g. cadaver bag Ensure cadaver is collected for disposal</i>	
11	<b>Wash hands using an effective technique (5.2)</b> <i>Use an appropriate detergent antiseptic to wash hands Wash hands in an effective manner according to WHO method</i>	
12	<b>Clean hands using alcohol gel (5.2)</b> <i>Use an alcohol gel to clean hands using the WHO method</i>	
13	<b>Use appropriate disposable clothing (5.3)</b> <i>To include gloves and aprons Change between patients and between clean and dirty tasks</i>	
14	<b>Use appropriate disposable clothing and hygiene methods to promote infection control (5.3)</b> <i>Change clothing between patients - prevention of cross-contamination Use hygiene methods e.g. footbaths, hand washing, alcohol gel, to promote infection control</i>	

**VN6 - Understanding the essentials of veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals**

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Use an assessment protocol to examine an animal (2.3)</b> <i>Use a model as a framework and systematically apply in relation to examining an animal for admission</i>	
2	<b>Use a care plan to deliver nursing care to a medically related problem (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)</b> <i>Interpret a given care plan for a medical patient Contribute to the care planning process under the direction of qualified staff Apply the care plan for patient assessment and nursing interventions</i>	
3	<b>Use a care plan to deliver nursing care to a surgically related problem (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)</b> <i>Interpret a given care plan for a surgical patient Contribute to the care planning process under the direction of qualified staff Apply the care plan for patient assessment and nursing interventions</i>	
4	<b>Record details of nursing care accurately in a care plan (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)</b> <i>Ensure records are legible and comprehensible Include relevant observations of patient and effect of nursing care</i>	
5	<b>Recognise the signs of shock and infection in a patient (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)</b> <i>Recognise and report the signs of shock and infection in a patient Suggest appropriate nursing interventions</i>	
6	<b>Recognise the signs of pain and distress in a patient (3.1, 3.2, 3.3)</b> <i>Recognise and report the signs of pain and distress in a patient Suggest appropriate nursing interventions</i>	

## VN7 - Essentials of practical veterinary nursing care for hospitalised animals

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Assess and record the overall condition and demeanour of a patient (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6)</b> <i>Assess the patient also considering appearance and behaviour</i> <i>Make accurate and relevant records</i>	
2	<b>Assess and record temperature, pulse, respiration and mucous membranes (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6)</b> <i>Ensure accurate measurement of temperature, pulse and respiration</i> <i>Make accurate records of each measurement, observation of mucous membrane colour and capillary refill time</i>	
3	<b>Assess and record levels of consciousness (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6)</b> <i>This should include patients recovering from anaesthesia and be based on the planes of surgical anaesthesia</i> <i>Ensure accurate recording of relevant parameters</i>	
4	<b>Observe and monitor excretion (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6)</b> <i>Ensure accurate observation and recording of;</i> <i>urine output, colour and smell</i> <i>faeces output, colour and consistency</i> <i>vomitus/gastric reflux</i>	
5	<b>Assess and monitor for signs of pain and/or anxiety (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6)</b> <i>Recognise the signs of pain and distress in a patient</i> <i>Make accurate and relevant records and use these to monitor progress</i> <i>Suggest appropriate nursing interventions</i>	
6	<b>Report observations of animals effectively to colleagues (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6)</b> <i>Report observations of patients to colleagues using oral communication - either face to face or over the telephone.</i> <i>Make written reports to colleagues on observations of patients</i> <i>Ensure all communication is clear and comprehensible</i>	
7	<b>Clean, prepare and maintain accommodation for a dog (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)</b> <i>Consider the clinical condition of the patient when preparing accommodation</i> <i>Select appropriate bedding material</i> <i>Ensure accommodation is cleaned appropriately and dried before patient enters</i>	
8	<b>Clean, prepare and maintain accommodation for a cat (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)</b> <i>Consider the clinical condition of the patient when preparing accommodation</i> <i>Select appropriate bedding material</i> <i>Ensure accommodation is cleaned appropriately and dried before patient enters</i>	
9	<b>Clean, prepare and maintain accommodation for an exotic species (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)</b> <i>Consider the clinical condition of the patient when preparing accommodation</i> <i>Select appropriate bedding or substrate</i> <i>Ensure accommodation is cleaned appropriately and dried before patient enters</i>	
10	<b>Groom and bathe patients to maintain hygiene (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)</b> <i>Use grooming techniques appropriate to species</i> <i>Select grooming tools appropriate to species</i> <i>Bathe and dry patients using appropriate shampoo and products</i> <i>Cleanse orifices</i>	
11	<b>Handle and dispose of soiled and infected material appropriately (2.1, 2.2, 2.3)</b> <i>Wear appropriate PPE</i> <i>Handle material to avoid risk of contamination to self, others and patients</i> <i>Dispose of material into appropriate bin</i>	
12	<b>Prepare food and fluids for patients with medical dietary requirements (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b> <i>Following written or verbal instruction, prepare appropriate food and fluids</i> <i>Ensure food and fluids are measured appropriately</i>	
13	<b>Provide food and fluids for patients, taking into account species and size of animal (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b> <i>Ensure food and fluids are appropriate for species</i> <i>Ensure food and fluids are measured and an appropriate amount for the size of the animal</i> <i>Consider the animal's ideal weight when preparing food</i>	
14	<b>Provide food and fluids to patients in accordance with normal feeding regimes (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b> <i>Establish from owner known likes and dislikes of the patient and normal feeding regimes</i> <i>Incorporate the normal feeding regime of an in-patient into the daily care plan</i>	
15	<b>Hand feed in-patients (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b>	

	<p><i>Only hand-feed an animal suitable to this method - i.e. not aggressive and ensure safety of self, others and patient at all times</i></p> <p><i>Use a food appropriate to species and hand feeding technique</i></p> <p><i>Take care not to force feed or stress the patient</i></p>	
16	<p><b>Syringe feed in-patients (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Only syringe feed an animal suitable to this method - i.e. not aggressive and ensure safety of self, others and patient at all times</i></p> <p><i>Use food appropriate to species and syringe feeding technique</i></p> <p><i>Take care to avoid inhalation of food by patient</i></p> <p><i>Take care not to force feed or stress patient</i></p>	
17	<p><b>Administer tube feeds to in-patients (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Check patency of tube before commencing procedure through appropriate method e.g. observation, flushing with sterile water</i></p> <p><i>Administer appropriate food for species and technique</i></p> <p><i>Ensure food is prepared to correct consistency and measured according to veterinary surgeon's direction</i></p> <p><i>Flush tube with sterile water after use</i></p> <p><i>Ensure tube is secured/covered as appropriate after use</i></p>	
18	<p><b>Administer oral re-hydration solution to in-patients (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure solution is appropriate for species as directed by veterinary surgeon</i></p> <p><i>Mix solution if appropriate according to manufacturers instruction</i></p> <p><i>Measure amount of solution offered and drunk</i></p>	
19	<p><b>Prepare equipment and materials for administration of intravenous fluid therapy (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Assemble equipment and materials for intravenous cannulation - e.g. swabs, intravenous catheter, three-way tap, heparin saline flush, tape</i></p> <p><i>Prepare appropriate fluids as directed - consider volume to be administered and temperature of fluids</i></p> <p><i>Assemble and prepare administration equipment for use - e.g. appropriate giving set, syringe driver, infusion pump</i></p> <p><i>Assemble other materials e.g. bandaging materials, tape, Elizabethan collar</i></p>	
20	<p><b>Monitor the administration of fluid therapy to in-patients and recognise problems should they occur (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Observe the rate of infusion and check this is correct at frequent intervals</i></p> <p><i>Check the fluid administration for problems - look for kinking or obstruction of drip line, bleeding back into drip line, signs of interference from patient, signs of disconnection, signs of problems at catheter site</i></p> <p><i>Take appropriate action to correct problems if they should occur</i></p>	
21	<p><b>Monitor and record fluid and dietary intake (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Measure fluid and food</i></p> <p><i>Ensure records are legible and comprehensible</i></p>	
22	<p><b>Provide care for patients with compromised mobility - positioning (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Consider appropriate positioning of patients according to species and condition</i></p> <p><i>Where appropriate use positioning aids e.g. troughs, wedges, sandbags</i></p> <p><i>Consider the effects of positioning on the respiratory and circulatory system and reposition as required</i></p> <p><i>Ensure patient has an opportunity to evacuate bowels and bladder</i></p>	
23	<p><b>Provide care for patients with compromised mobility - bedding (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Provide appropriate bedding for patient according to species and condition</i></p> <p><i>Ensure consideration is made for prevention of pressure sores, urine or faecal burns</i></p>	
24	<p><b>Provide care for patients with compromised mobility - physiotherapy (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Provide appropriate physiotherapy techniques - may include; massage, passive and active movement techniques, coupage, hydrotherapy</i></p> <p><i>Ensure safety and comfort of self and patient</i></p>	
25	<p><b>Address the psychological needs of in-patients - environment (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Adjust the environment of an in-patient according to species and condition - may include; lighting, heating, ventilation, noise levels</i></p> <p><i>Observe patient to ensure changes have a positive effect, adjust as appropriate</i></p>	
26	<p><b>Address the psychological needs of in-patients - grooming and touch (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Groom and provide physical contact with a patient</i></p> <p><i>Provide companionship for a patient</i></p> <p><i>Observe patient to ensure therapy has a positive effect</i></p>	
27	<p><b>Address the psychological needs of in-patients - addressing stress and boredom (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Provide enrichment opportunities for in-patients to minimise stress and boredom - may include; providing toys, treats, additional exercise opportunities, enhancing accommodation</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the enrichment is appropriate to species and condition and is beneficial to patient</i></p>	
28	<p><b>Apply simple wound dressings (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)</b></p>	

	<p>Prepare materials, maintaining sterility of dressing</p> <p>Apply dressings using aseptic technique - may include; dry, moist, wet, impregnated gauze, adherent and non-adherent dressings</p>	
29	<p><b>Observe and report on wound condition (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)</b></p> <p>Report to colleagues or clients on wound condition using verbal and written methods</p> <p>Observations may include; amount of debris present, discharge, level of healing, colour, smell</p>	
30	<p><b>Apply simple bandages to retain dressings (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)</b></p> <p>Apply bandages to the thorax, head and abdomen</p> <p>Ensure the bandage is not too tight and has adequate padding to maintain the comfort of the animal</p> <p>Ensure the dressing is held in the correct position under adequate pressure</p>	
31	<p><b>Apply a simple limb support bandage (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)</b></p> <p>Ensure the bandage consists of a primary, secondary and tertiary layer</p> <p>Take precautions to avoid abrasion of the skin through friction and rubbing</p> <p>Ensure limb is adequately supported and the bandage is not too tight</p>	
32	<p><b>Use strategies to prevent patient interference with dressings and bandages (5.1, 5.2, 5.3)</b></p> <p>According to species and condition, use techniques to prevent interference with dressings and bandages - may include; Elizabethan collars, neck brace, t-shirt, socks, topical applications</p> <p>Observe patient for signs of stress and discomfort and adjust strategies accordingly</p>	
33	<p><b>Interpret prescriptions and prepare oral medications (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Ensure the correct type of medication and dosage is prepared according to prescription</p> <p>Prepare oral medication according to manufacturer's or veterinary surgeon's instructions as appropriate</p> <p>Maintain safety of self and others during procedure</p>	
34	<p><b>Interpret prescriptions and prepare rectal medications (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Ensure the correct type of medication and dosage is prepared according to prescription</p> <p>Prepare rectal medication according to manufacturer's or veterinary surgeon's instructions as appropriate</p> <p>Maintain safety of self and others during procedure</p>	
35	<p><b>Interpret prescriptions and prepare topical medications (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Ensure the correct type of medication and dosage is prepared according to prescription</p> <p>Prepare topical medication according to manufacturer's or veterinary surgeon's instructions as appropriate</p> <p>Maintain safety of self and others during procedure</p>	
36	<p><b>Interpret prescriptions and prepare medicines for injection (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Ensure the correct type of medication and dosage is prepared according to prescription</p> <p>Prepare medicines for injection according to manufacturer's or veterinary surgeon's instructions as appropriate</p> <p>Ensure asepsis and accuracy of procedure</p> <p>Maintain safety of self and others during procedure</p>	
37	<p><b>Administer oral medicines (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>May include administering capsules, tablets, suspensions, solutions, syrups</p> <p>Ensure safety of self, others and patient during administration</p>	
38	<p><b>Administer rectal medicine or enema (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>May include ready to use mini-enema, water, liquid paraffin or saline enema, suppository etc.</p> <p>Ensure safety of self, others and patient during administration</p>	
39	<p><b>Administer topical medicines (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>May include application to skin, eyes or ears</p> <p>May include drops, solutions, powders, emulsions, gels, creams or spot-on</p> <p>Ensure safety of self, others and patient during administration</p>	
40	<p><b>Administer subcutaneous injections (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Ensure patient is suitably restrained</p> <p>Ensure injection is administered subcutaneously e.g. not into a vein</p> <p>Ensure safety of self, others and patient throughout</p>	
41	<p><b>Administer intramuscular injections (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Ensure patient is suitably restrained</p> <p>Ensure injection is administered intramuscularly e.g. not into a vein</p> <p>Ensure safety of self, others and patient throughout</p>	
42	<p><b>Dispose of used ampoules safely (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Dispose of used ampoules into correct container</p> <p>Ensure safety of self and others</p>	
43	<p><b>Dispose of used syringes safely (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Dispose of used syringes into appropriate bin</p> <p>Ensure safety of self and others</p>	
44	<p><b>Dispose of used needles safely (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b></p> <p>Dispose of used needles into correct bin</p> <p>Ensure safety of self and others</p>	

45	<b>Record the administration of medications and monitor its effect on the animal (6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4)</b> <i>Ensure records are complete, legible and comprehensible</i> <i>Notify veterinary surgeon or nurse if side effects, adverse reactions or problems occur</i>	
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## VN8 - Supporting the supply of veterinary medicines

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Record incoming and outgoing medicinal products (1.1)</b> <i>Take delivery of pharmaceuticals and record all stock received in line with practice policy. Assist in an audit of pharmaceutical stock in line with practice policy</i>	
2	<b>Record details of Schedule 2 controlled drugs (1.1)</b> <i>Maintain records of Schedule 2 controlled drugs when ordering, receiving delivery, using, storage or disposal in line with legal requirements and practice policy</i>	
3	<b>Dispose of unwanted medicines (1.1)</b> <i>Dispose of unwanted medicines in line with legal requirements and practice policy</i>	
4	<b>Dispense medicines into appropriate containers (2.2, 2.3)</b> <i>Select an appropriate container for a medicine - may include glass or plastic containers with a childproof lid, cartons, wallets, jars, plain or fluted glass bottles</i>	
5	<b>Label medicines to be dispensed (2.2, 2.3)</b> <i>Label a medicine to be dispensed in line with practice policy and legal requirements Take care not to cover expiry date Include a product information leaflet where appropriate</i>	
6	<b>Calculate appropriate quantities of medication (2.5, 2.6)</b> <i>Interpret a prescription and identify correct medication Calculate appropriate quantity to be dispensed, showing the formula used Check the quantity is in line with estimations Identify the correct quantity, dosage and frequency of administration Wear appropriate PPE when handling medicines</i>	
7	<b>Handle medicines safely when dispensing (2.5, 2.6)</b> <i>Wear appropriate PPE when handling medicines - may include gloves, mask, apron, goggles Avoid spillages Wash hands after handling medications Demonstrate appropriate response to splashes or spills</i>	
8	<b>Advise clients on appropriate and safe routes of administration of medications (3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>Ensure client understands the appropriate route of administration Advise client on safe handling techniques and necessary PPE Ensure client is aware of potential side effects</i>	
9	<b>Demonstrate to clients suitable techniques for administering medication (3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>Give clear instructions, check owner understanding Demonstrate administration of medication to owner Check owner is able to administer medication as demonstrated</i>	
10	<b>Give owners written guidance on administering medications (3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>Give clear written instructions at level appropriate to owner Check owner understanding Provide appropriate follow up</i>	
11	<b>Advise clients on storage and disposal of medication (3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>Advise clients on appropriate temperature and conditions of storage - e.g. refrigeration, out of direct sunlight, dry conditions Advise on health and safety considerations - e.g. keep out of reach of children Advise on disposal of medication - e.g. bring unused medication back to practice</i>	

## VN9 - Veterinary nursing support of diagnostic imaging

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Using dosimeters (1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>The student will be required to:</i> Place and wear a film badge appropriately Send film badges or dosimeters away for reading as appropriate</p>	
2	<p><b>Observing warning lights, signage and controlled area (1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Identify the controlled area within the practice Observe warning lights in radiography area where appropriate Where appropriate, place a radiation warning sign at the entrance to the X-ray room or verbally warn others to the danger</i></p>	
3	<p><b>Wear Personal Protective Clothing (1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>The student will be required to Wear appropriate protective clothing when working in the X-ray room. May include - lead apron, lead gloves or thyroid protectors Demonstrate how to check the integrity of protective clothing</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Prepare the X-ray machine for use (2.1, 2.3)</b></p> <p><i>The student will be required to: Turn on the power supply to the machine Select the correct Kilovoltage, Milliampereage and time as appropriate to the machine and in line with practice policy</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Use cassettes and/or grid and markers (2.1, 2.3)</b></p> <p><i>The student will be required to: Demonstrate how to correctly place and use a grid where appropriate Demonstrate how to correctly choose, place and use a cassette Check for damage or faults with grid and/or cassette before use Place markers appropriately</i></p>	
6	<p><b>Assist with contrast studies (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>Assist the veterinary surgeon with a positive or double contrast study Prepare the contrast medium for administration May include barium or water soluble iodine preparations</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Prepare ultrasound equipment (3.1)</b></p> <p><i>Turn on the monitor and control panel Prepare the appropriate transducer/probe Prepare the patient for the procedure in line with practice policy - may include clipping fur, using coupling gel, using positioning aids Clean and store ultrasonic equipment appropriately in line with practice policy</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Prepare endoscopic equipment (3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare endoscope for use Prepare extra equipment - may include mouth gag, lubricant, forceps, sample pots Prepare patient for the procedure in line with practice policy - may include assisting with induction of anaesthesia, positioning patient Assist the veterinary surgeon during the examination as directed</i></p>	
9	<p><b>Clean, maintain and store endoscopic equipment (3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Clean the endoscope after use in line with practice policy Demonstrate procedures necessary for maintenance of the endoscope Store the endoscope appropriately in line with practice policy</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Demonstrate darkroom procedure (2.4, 5.1)</b></p> <p><i>Check for light leakage in a darkroom Clean and maintain darkroom, identifying common causes of film faults during processing Check the developer and fixer solutions in the processor and replenish if necessary - may include manual or automatic processing systems</i></p>	
11	<p><b>Processing a film (2.4, 5.1)</b></p> <p><i>In the darkroom, remove a film from the cassette, handling carefully to avoid damage Process the film in line with practice policy - may include film labelling Reload cassette, avoiding dust or dirt contamination</i></p>	
12	<p><b>Identifying film faults (5.4)</b></p> <p><i>On a range of radiographs, identify film faults and suggest how they might have been avoided Observe the effects of differences in exposure factors on a range of radiographs</i></p>	
13	<p><b>Recording exposures taken (5.4)</b></p> <p><i>Record details for exposures taken in line with practice policy. Should include date, patient identity and description, exposure factors, comment on result and image, details of handler if manual restraint was used.</i></p>	

14	<p><b>carpus (dorsopalmar and mediolateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the carpus</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
15	<p><b>elbow (cranio-caudal and lateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the elbow</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
16	<p><b>shoulder (cranio-caudal) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the shoulder</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
17	<p><b>cervical spine (lateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the cervical spine</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
18	<p><b>thorax-lumbar spine (lateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the thorax - lumbar spine</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
19	<p><b>lumbar-sacral spine (lateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the lumbar-sacral spine</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
20	<p><b>hips/pelvis (ventrodorsal) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the hips/pelvis</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
21	<p><b>stifle (caudo-cranial and mediolateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the stifle</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
22	<p><b>hock (dorsoplantar and mediolateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the hock</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
23	<p><b>abdomen (ventrodorsal and lateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the abdomen</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	
24	<p><b>thorax (dorsoventral or ventrodorsal and lateral) (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Position patient for radiography of standard views of the thorax</i>  <i>Use positioning aids where appropriate</i>  <i>Place identification markers where appropriate, in line with practice policy</i>  <i>Centre and collimate beam accurately on the area of interest</i>  <i>May be performed on a range of species</i></p>	

## VN10 - Veterinary nursing support of laboratory diagnostics

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Recognise damage to laboratory equipment and materials and report according to practice protocol (1.1)</b></p> <p><i>Identify nature of damage</i> <i>Report to appropriate member of staff or maintenance company according to practice protocol</i></p>	
2	<p><b>Prepare equipment and materials for blood sampling (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare suitable receptacles for blood sample with preservatives appropriate for haematology and biochemistry testing</i> <i>Prepare collection equipment e.g. clippers, swabs, skin cleanser, appropriate size needle and syringe</i></p>	
3	<p><b>Prepare equipment and materials for urine sampling (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare suitable sample container for storage of urine with appropriate preservative if required</i> <i>Prepare a collection container - may be a funnel, sterile container, sterile kidney dish</i> <i>Prepare appropriate PPE - e.g. disposable gloves</i> <i>Prepare catheter equipment if appropriate</i> <i>Assemble equipment for cystocentesis if appropriate</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Prepare equipment and materials for hair and skin sampling (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>For skin scraping prepare a microscope slide, sterile scalpel blade, liquid paraffin</i> <i>For examination of coat prepare appropriate equipment, may include; Wood's lamp, comb, wet paper, microscope slides, clear adhesive tape</i> <i>For bacteriological sampling prepare appropriate equipment, may include; sterile swab, container with transport medium</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Prepare equipment and materials for tissue biopsies (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare equipment for fine needle aspirate, 'stab' technique sampling or punch biopsy - may include; clippers, needle, syringe, punch biopsy kit, microscope slide, sample container with preservative, suture kit</i></p>	
6	<p><b>Prepare animals for blood sampling (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check wellbeing of patient</i> <i>Move and handle safely using appropriate equipment, may include; lead, harness</i> <i>Restrain patient in appropriate position ensuring comfort and safety of patient and self. Use restraint equipment if necessary - may include; muzzle, tape, towel</i> <i>Clip site</i> <i>Clean with appropriate antiseptic skin cleanser</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Prepare animals for urine sampling (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check wellbeing of patient</i> <i>Move and handle safely using appropriate equipment, may include; lead, harness</i> <i>If performing catheterisation or cystocentesis restrain patient in appropriate position ensuring comfort and safety of patient and self. Use restraint equipment if necessary - may include; muzzle, tape, towel</i> <i>If assisting with cystocentesis - as directed by a veterinary surgeon - check the patient has had analgesia. Clip and surgically scrub the area over the caudal abdomen</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Prepare animals for hair/skin sampling (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check wellbeing of patient</i> <i>Move and handle safely using appropriate equipment, may include; lead, harness</i> <i>Restrain patient in appropriate position ensuring comfort and safety of patient and self. Use restraint equipment if necessary - may include; muzzle, tape, towel</i> <i>As directed by a veterinary surgeon - clip the appropriate area</i></p>	
9	<p><b>Prepare animals for tissue biopsies (2.1, 2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check wellbeing of patient</i> <i>Move and handle safely using appropriate equipment, may include; lead, harness</i> <i>Restrain patient in appropriate position ensuring comfort and safety of patient and self. Use restraint equipment if necessary - may include; muzzle, tape, towel</i> <i>As directed by a veterinary surgeon - clip the appropriate area</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Blood sampling (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Identify vein to be sampled</i> <i>Ensure cleanliness of site</i> <i>As directed by a veterinary surgeon, take samples safely and effectively for biochemistry and haematology</i> <i>Ensure wellbeing of patient after sampling</i></p>	
11	<p><b>Urine sampling (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Wear appropriate PPE</i> <i>Collect a urine sample into an appropriate container, ensuring safety of patient and self</i> <i>As directed by a veterinary surgeon - insert a urinary catheter and remove a sample of urine, ensuring sterility throughout procedure. Collect into a sterile container for bacteriology</i> <i>Ensure wellbeing of patient after sampling</i></p>	
12	<p><b>Faeces sampling (2.3)</b></p>	

	<p><i>Wear appropriate PPE</i></p> <p><i>If collecting sample from the ground, ensure that only the top portion is removed and the collection pot filled and firmly sealed to avoid desiccation</i></p> <p><i>If collecting a rectal sample, ensure the glove is turned inside out, tied securely and labelled</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the wellbeing of the patient after sampling</i></p>	
13	<p><b>Hair/skin sampling (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Wear appropriate PPE</i></p> <p><i>If performing a skin scrape - as directed by a veterinary surgeon - use a sterile scalpel blade, perform skin scrape, avoiding cutting skin surface. Transfer scrapings onto microscope slide for examination</i></p> <p><i>Perform coat brushings, hair plucks, impression smears or tape strip sampling effectively and safely</i></p> <p><i>Ensure wellbeing of animal after sampling</i></p>	
14	<p><b>Support a special sampling technique (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare equipment and patient for a special sampling technique, may include synovial fluid, fine needle aspirates, cerebrospinal fluid - cisternal and lumbar puncture, bone marrow, thoracocentesis, abdominal paracentesis, pericardiocentesis, equine tracheal wash</i></p>	
15	<p><b>Prepare a blood smear for examination (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare an evenly spread blood smear with no grease spots or thick/thin banding</i></p> <p><i>Stain slide, dry and apply coverslip if appropriate</i></p>	
16	<p><b>Prepare a blood sample for PCV (packed cell volume) measurement (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Using a microhaematocrit tube, centrifuge the sample until separation has occurred</i></p> <p><i>Read the PCV using an appropriate scale</i></p>	
17	<p><b>Prepare a skin scrape sample for examination (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Transfer skin scrapings onto a microscope slide in an even smear</i></p> <p><i>Place a coverslip before examining</i></p>	
18	<p><b>Prepare a urine sample for examination of sediment (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Centrifuge the sample, remove most of the supernatant fluid</i></p> <p><i>Stain urine and place a few drops on a microscope slide for a wet preparation, adding a coverslip before examination</i></p> <p><i>For examination of cells and bacteria - produce a urine smear, dry and stain.</i></p>	
19	<p><b>Perform tests using haematological and biochemical analysers (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Demonstrate competency in using haematological and biochemical analysers to process blood samples</i></p>	
20	<p><b>Use a refractometer to measure specific gravity of urine (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Calibrate refractometer before use</i></p> <p><i>Wear appropriate PPE</i></p> <p><i>Take a reading of specific gravity</i></p>	
21	<p><b>Process a sample using a commercial test kit or strip (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>May include testing urine using a dipstick and recording results</i></p> <p><i>May include an in-house testing kit for detection of FeLV, FIV, Giardiasis, Heartworm, Leishmaniasis, Canine parvovirus, thyroxine</i></p>	
22	<p><b>Process a sample in a centrifuge (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Demonstrate the safe preparation and use of a centrifuge</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the sample is centrifuged at an appropriate speed and for an appropriate length of time</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate accuracy of results by comparison with other samples and calculation of a mean</i></p>	
23	<p><b>Examine a sample using a low magnification lens of a microscope (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare microscope for use, clean condenser lens, eyepieces and objectives if necessary</i></p> <p><i>Lower stage and place slide</i></p> <p><i>Move lowest objective into place and rack up the stage to highest level</i></p> <p><i>Rack down the stage using the coarse focus knob and focus with the fine focus knob</i></p>	
24	<p><b>Examine a sample using a high magnification lens of a microscope (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare microscope for use, clean condenser lens, eyepieces and objectives if necessary</i></p> <p><i>Lower stage and place slide</i></p> <p><i>Place a drop of oil onto slide and rack up until lens joins the oil</i></p> <p><i>Rack down the stage using the coarse focus knob and focus with the fine focus knob</i></p>	
25	<p><b>Record a Vernier scale reading when using a microscope (3.1,3.2)</b></p> <p><i>Record the Vernier scale reading for a landmark on a microscope slide</i></p> <p><i>Check the accuracy by relocating the landmark using the scale</i></p>	
26	<p><b>Accurately record and report test results to the appropriate clinician (3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Record test results accurately</i></p> <p><i>Report test results accurately to the appropriate clinician, face to face, over the telephone, or in written form.</i></p>	
27	<p><b>Recognise abnormal or spurious test results (3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Relate test results to normal haematological and biochemical parameters</i></p> <p><i>Recognise need for repeating test or reporting to veterinary surgeon</i></p>	

28	<p><b>Record laboratory results in practice records (3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Accurately record the laboratory results in the patient or practice records according to practice protocol. Ensure records are legible and/or saved correctly</i></p>	
29	<p><b>Package and label a blood sample (4.1)</b></p> <p><i>Handle sample carefully to avoid spread of infection Ensure sample is clearly and correctly labelled Package sample securely using appropriate materials</i></p>	
30	<p><b>Package and label a urine sample (4.1)</b></p> <p><i>Handle sample carefully to avoid spread of infection Ensure sample is clearly and correctly labelled Package sample securely using appropriate materials</i></p>	
31	<p><b>Package and label a tissue biopsy (4.1)</b></p> <p><i>Handle sample carefully to avoid spread of infection Ensure sample is clearly and correctly labelled Package sample securely using appropriate materials</i></p>	
32	<p><b>Package and label a microscope slide (4.1)</b></p> <p><i>Handle sample carefully to avoid spread of infection Ensure sample is clearly and correctly labelled Package sample securely using appropriate materials</i></p>	
33	<p><b>Store specimens prior to dispatch (4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Store specimens at appropriate temperature - refrigerated Store specimens in appropriate area - designated refrigerator for non-food use Where possible prevent sample deterioration</i></p>	

## VN11 - Supporting veterinary operating theatre practice

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Prepare the theatre for use (1.1)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare and lay out trolley</i>  <i>Prepare scrub equipment, sterile towels, clothing, gloves</i>  <i>Appropriate lighting</i>  <i>Ambient temperature</i>  <i>Patient restraint, positioning aids, patient warming</i></p>	
2	<p><b>Clean the operating theatre:- daily damp dusting (1.2, 6.6)</b></p> <p><i>Surfaces</i>  <i>Non portable equipment</i>  <i>Fixed lighting</i>  <i>Piped gas supply</i></p>	
3	<p><b>Clean the operating theatre:- periodic deep clean (1.2, 6.6)</b></p> <p><i>Removal and cleaning of all fixtures and furniture</i>  <i>Filter changes</i>  <i>Walls, floors, doors cleaned</i>  <i>Infection control - MRSA and bacteriology monitoring</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Clean the operating theatre:- after infected case (1.2, 6.6)</b></p> <p><i>Identification of contamination</i>  <i>Equipment, lighting, piped gas supply cleaned</i>  <i>Walls, floors, doors cleaned</i>  <i>Infection control - MRSA and bacteriology monitoring</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Plan an operating list (1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Order from clean to dirty</i>  <i>Consider routine and emergency procedures</i>  <i>Plan to prevent cross infection</i></p>	
6	<p><b>Behave appropriately in the operating theatre - Personal hygiene (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>Removal of jewellery, nail varnish, dealing with piercings</i>  <i>Observe importance of general cleanliness</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Behave appropriately in the operating theatre - Theatre clothing (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>Wear clothing according to practice protocol</i>  <i>Scrub suits</i>  <i>Non-slip, washable footwear</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Behave appropriately in the operating theatre - Movement and speech (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>Minimal verbal communication</i>  <i>Observe sterile field</i></p>	
9	<p><b>Behave appropriately in the operating theatre - Personal safety and safety of others (2.1)</b></p> <p><i>Follow practice procedure protocols</i>  <i>Follow health and safety guidelines</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Demonstrate methodical hand-hygiene:- hand washing for theatre practice (2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Use antimicrobial agent or antiseptic solution</i></p>	
11	<p><b>Demonstrate methodical hand-hygiene:- surgical scrubbing procedure (2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Use antimicrobial agent or antiseptic solution</i>  <i>Use nail pick and scrubbing brush</i>  <i>Scrub hands and arms for a minimum of 3 minutes</i>  <i>Use a sterile towel</i></p>	
12	<p><b>Demonstrate use of antiseptic gel (2.2)</b></p> <p><i>Apply antiseptic gel using correct technique to cover all surfaces of the hands</i></p>	
13	<p><b>Scrub up to assist with a surgical procedure:- wear sterile gown (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Don gown, observing sterile field and without breaking asepsis</i>  <i>Ask assistant to tie the gown</i></p>	
14	<p><b>Scrub up to assist with a surgical procedure:- gloves (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Don gloves using the open gloving technique, observing sterile field and without breaking asepsis</i>  <i>Don gloves using the closed gloving technique, observing sterile field and without breaking asepsis</i></p>	
15	<p><b>Scrub up to assist with a surgical procedure:- caps and masks (2.3)</b></p> <p><i>Wear a disposable or reusable cap during a procedure, covering all hair and facial hair if applicable</i>  <i>Wear a surgical mask during a procedure</i></p>	
16	<p><b>Scrub up to assist with a surgical procedure:- maintain sterility of self, other operator(s) and materials (2.3)</b></p>	

	<p><i>When scrubbed, observe sterile field and ensure sterility of self</i>  <i>Pass other operators in an appropriate way to maintain sterility</i>  <i>Handle, pass and track instruments in an appropriate way to maintain sterility</i></p>	
17	<p><b>Check and clean surgical instruments (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Soak instruments</i>  <i>Scrub instruments with soft bristled brush in proprietary instrument cleaner</i>  <i>Check serrations, teeth and hinges of instruments for dirt or debris</i>  <i>Dry instruments</i>  <i>Handle instruments safely</i></p>	
18	<p><b>Identify and report wear or damage to equipment and instruments (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>May include damage to teeth, serrated edges, non-alignment of tips or jaws, stiff hinges, bent ratchets, pitting, corrosion or loose screws.</i>  <i>Know who to report damage to</i></p>	
19	<p><b>Lubricate and sharpen instruments (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Dip in proprietary lubricant</i>  <i>Leave to dry</i>  <i>Use a sharpening stone</i>  <i>Send an instrument away for sharpening</i></p>	
20	<p><b>Prepare and package instruments and materials for sterilisation:- drapes and gowns (4.3)</b></p> <p><i>Check drapes and gowns are clean and free from damage and debris</i>  <i>Fold drapes, including fenestrated, correctly</i>  <i>Fold gowns correctly and neatly</i>  <i>Select appropriate packaging for sterilisation</i>  <i>Ensure correct sealing, labelling and dating of package</i></p>	
21	<p><b>Prepare and package instruments and materials for sterilisation:- single instruments (4.3)</b></p> <p><i>Select suitable packaging for sterilisation</i>  <i>Protect sharp and cutting edges</i>  <i>Protect delicate items</i></p>	
22	<p><b>Prepare and package instruments and materials for sterilisation:- instrument sets (4.3)</b></p> <p><i>Select suitable packaging for sterilisation</i>  <i>If sharps are included ensure they are protected</i>  <i>If swabs are included ensure they are counted</i>  <i>Label and date pack according to practice protocol</i></p>	
23	<p><b>Sterilise surgical equipment and instruments (4.3)</b></p> <p><i>Sterilise packs or individual items using hot air oven, autoclave, ethylene oxide, gluteraldehyde, gamma radiation, gas plasma, hydrogen peroxide or other suitable method</i></p>	
24	<p><b>Position animals on the operating table and make adjustments to:- positioning aids in accordance with the planned procedure (5.1, 7.2)</b></p> <p><i>Use ties, cradles, foam wedges, splints or other appropriate positioning aids according to practice protocol</i></p>	
25	<p><b>Position animals on the operating table and make adjustments to:- table position in accordance with the planned procedure (5.1, 7.2)</b></p> <p><i>Adjust height or angle of table, use table extensions and attachments where appropriate</i></p>	
26	<p><b>Position animals on the operating table and make adjustments to:- lighting in accordance with the planned procedure (5.1, 7.2)</b></p> <p><i>Provide extra lighting, headlamp or adjust theatre light according to surgeon's requirement</i></p>	
27	<p><b>Carry out final skin preparation (5.1, 7.2)</b></p> <p><i>Demonstrate aseptic scrubbing technique</i>  <i>Use correct PPE</i>  <i>Use antiseptic solution</i></p>	
28	<p><b>Assist the surgeon to don sterile gown and gloves (5.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check gown packaging for sterility</i>  <i>Open packaging avoiding contact with contents or inside of packaging</i>  <i>Secure ties at shoulders and waist without compromising sterility of gown</i>  <i>Check glove packaging for sterility</i>  <i>Open glove packaging avoiding contact with contents or inside of packaging</i>  <i>Place glove packaging on a sterile surface in correct orientation</i></p>	
29	<p><b>Open and pass sterile materials:- directly to a scrubbed operator (5.3)</b></p> <p><i>Avoid packaging coming into contact with sterile area</i>  <i>Pass instruments handle into hand of scrubbed operator</i>  <i>Maintain sterility of instruments</i></p>	
30	<p><b>Open and pass sterile materials:- onto a sterile field (5.3)</b></p>	

	<p><i>Avoid packaging coming into contact with sterile area</i></p> <p><i>Avoid leaning over sterile field</i></p> <p><i>Maintain sterility of instruments</i></p> <p><i>Avoid damage to instruments</i></p>	
31	<p><b>Apply a sterile wound dressing and bandage (5.4)</b></p> <p><i>Carry out initial assessment and cleaning of wound</i></p> <p><i>Use PPE</i></p> <p><i>Apply suitable dressing dry, wet to dry, moist, wet, impregnated gauze, adherent or non adherent including padding if required</i></p> <p><i>Select appropriate bandage for wounds</i></p>	
32	<p><b>Place a routine instrument set according to practice protocol (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare trolley as a sterile field using aseptic technique</i></p> <p><i>Open instrument set to avoid packaging coming into contact with sterile area</i></p> <p><i>Either as a scrubbed nurse or using Cheatle forceps, lay out the trolley in the anticipated order of use</i></p>	
33	<p><b>Handle tissue:-retraction technique (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)</b></p> <p><i>Retract tissue using a hand held or self retaining retractor according to the directions of the surgeon</i></p>	
34	<p><b>Handle tissue:- use of swabs and packs (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)</b></p> <p><i>Swab tissues according to the directions of the surgeon</i></p> <p><i>Pack a wound according to the directions of the surgeon</i></p>	
35	<p><b>Handle instruments and equipment:- passing items, including blades (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)</b></p> <p><i>Pass ring instruments into palm with points outwards and curve upwards</i></p> <p><i>Pass bladed instruments into a finger grip</i></p> <p><i>Maintain sterility of instruments</i></p>	
36	<p><b>Handle instruments and equipment:- managing powered equipment (6.1, 6.2, 6.3)</b></p> <p><i>Maintain sterility of instruments and equipment</i></p> <p><i>Pass using a safe and appropriate technique</i></p> <p><i>Connect equipment to power source</i></p> <p><i>Maintain asepsis and safety of power leads over sterile field</i></p>	
37	<p><b>Handle instruments and equipment:- mounting sutures (6.4)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure safety of self and other operators</i></p> <p><i>Select correct needle and suture material according to surgeon's direction</i></p> <p><i>Maintain asepsis of suture material as length is selected</i></p> <p><i>Maintain sterility of suture material and needle during mounting</i></p>	
38	<p><b>Handle instruments and equipment:- mounting and demounting blades (6.4)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure safety of self and other operators</i></p> <p><i>Maintain sterility of blade and handle</i></p>	
39	<p><b>Keep track of materials during surgery:- swab count (6.5)</b></p> <p><i>Perform a swab count at the beginning of a procedure, prior to suturing and at the conclusion of the procedure</i></p> <p><i>Estimate blood loss during a surgical procedure using a swab count</i></p>	
40	<p><b>Keep track of materials during surgery:- instrument count (6.5)</b></p> <p><i>Perform an instrument count at the beginning of a procedure, prior to suturing and at the conclusion of the procedure</i></p>	
41	<p><b>Keep track of materials during surgery:- blade and needle count (6.5)</b></p> <p><i>Perform a blade and needle count at the beginning of a procedure, prior to suturing and at the conclusion of the procedure</i></p>	

## VN13 - Practical monitoring of small animal veterinary anaesthesia

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Prepare, check and maintain the anaesthetic machine (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check anaesthetic machine - to include; cylinders, vapouriser, flow meters, warning devices and ensure machine is ready to use</i></p> <p><i>Connect the gas supply if applicable</i></p> <p><i>Clean machine according to practice protocol and organise maintenance visits as appropriate</i></p>	
2	<p><b>Prepare, check and maintain the endotracheal tube and breathing circuit (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check the endotracheal tube for signs of wear, damage, cleanliness and patency</i></p> <p><i>Check breathing circuit for patency and faults- may include; re-breathing and non re-breathing circuits</i></p> <p><i>Connect the breathing circuit to the anaesthetic machine</i></p> <p><i>Clean endotracheal tubes and breathing circuits according to practice protocol and report damage if necessary</i></p>	
3	<p><b>Prepare, check and maintain pollution control system (scavenging) (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check system is working correctly, check for damage to tubing</i></p> <p><i>Connect scavenging system to breathing circuit prior to anaesthesia</i></p> <p><i>Weigh charcoal absorber to check if exhausted if applicable</i></p> <p><i>Clean system according to practice protocol and organise maintenance visits as appropriate</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Prepare, check and maintain monitoring equipment (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>May include; electrocardiograph, pulse oximeters, oesophageal stethoscope, arterial blood gas analysis, temperature monitoring, blood pressure monitoring, respiratory monitors, capnograph</i></p> <p><i>Ensure monitoring equipment is functioning correctly, check for damage to leads, plugs and probes</i></p> <p><i>Clean equipment according to practice protocol and organise maintenance as appropriate</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Prepare materials and equipment for induction of anaesthesia (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)</b></p> <p><i>To include equipment for intubation - selection of endotracheal tubes, laryngoscope, local anaesthetic spray, tie, syringe for cuff inflation, lubrication</i></p> <p><i>Materials and equipment for intravenous access may include - needles, I/V catheters, tape, heparin saline solution</i></p> <p><i>Other consumables may include - anaesthetic monitoring form, consent form</i></p>	
6	<p><b>Prepare drugs and intravenous fluids (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare correct induction agent according to veterinary surgeon's directions, to include selecting correct agent, strength and amount</i></p> <p><i>Prepare intra-operative analgesia to include selecting correct agent, strength and amount</i></p> <p><i>Prepare intravenous fluids - giving set, correct intravenous fluid as directed by veterinary surgeon, warm fluids if appropriate</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Restrain an animal for induction of anaesthesia and raise a vein for cannulation (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)</b></p> <p><i>Use restraint equipment e.g. towel, gauntlets if necessary and consider health and safety of self, others and animal</i></p> <p><i>Consider positioning and well being of animal according to condition or procedure</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Prepare for and assist with intubation (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)</b></p> <p><i>To include equipment for intubation - selection of endotracheal tubes of appropriate diameter and length, laryngoscope, local anaesthetic spray, tie, syringe for cuff inflation, lubrication</i></p> <p><i>Check tube for patency, cuff inflation, signs of wear and splitting</i></p> <p><i>Present animal for intubation considering health and safety of self, others and animal.</i></p> <p><i>Consider positioning and well being of animal according to condition or procedure</i></p>	
9	<p><b>Demonstrate safe and effective intubation technique (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)</b></p> <p><i>Protect the frenulum of the tongue and teeth</i></p> <p><i>Introduce tube gently using visualisation of vocal cords where possible</i></p> <p><i>Ensure tube is correctly placed</i></p> <p><i>Secure tube and connect to breathing circuit</i></p> <p><i>Inflate cuff</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Safely transfer anaesthetised animals into the operating theatre (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)</b></p> <p><i>Maintain anaesthesia during transfer</i></p> <p><i>Use appropriate equipment - may include stretcher, trolley, hoist or use of extra staff</i></p> <p><i>Consider positioning of animal, protecting airway and equipment</i></p>	
12	<p><b>Monitor and accurately record depth of anaesthesia during the course of an anaesthetic (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p><i>Use anaesthetic monitoring charts to record data</i></p> <p><i>Monitor stages of anaesthesia, observing eye position, cranial nerve reflexes and muscle tone</i></p>	
13	<p><b>Set up and safely use a pulse oximeter (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p>	

	<p>Correctly set up the equipment ensuring safety in the anaesthetic area e.g. - avoid wet areas, ensure no leads trailing</p> <p>Connect equipment to patient and ensure it is working effectively by checking pulse manually</p> <p>Ensure equipment is placed in an effective position where it can be easily accessed and observed without compromising sterility</p>	
14	<p><b>Set up and use a capnograph (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Correctly set up the equipment ensuring safety in the anaesthetic area e.g. - avoid wet areas, ensure no leads trailing</p> <p>Connect equipment to patient and ensure it is working effectively by calibrating the machine where appropriate and/or testing with own breath and observing wave form</p> <p>Ensure equipment is placed in an effective position where it can be easily accessed and observed</p>	
11	<p><b>Monitor and accurately record temperature, pulse and respiration during the course of an anaesthetic (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Use anaesthetic monitoring charts to record data</p> <p>Observe sterile field and personnel</p> <p>If monitoring equipment is used, check accuracy manually periodically, check pulse quality</p>	
15	<p><b>Set up and use an ECG (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Correctly set up the equipment ensuring safety in the anaesthetic area e.g. - avoid wet areas, ensure no leads trailing</p> <p>Connect equipment to patient and ensure it is working effectively by observing the resulting trace</p> <p>Ensure the equipment is placed in an effective position where it can be easily accessed and observed</p>	
16	<p><b>Set up and use an oesophageal stethoscope (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Measure the length of tube to be advanced against the patient</p> <p>Ensure the tube is correctly placed by listening to heart sounds</p> <p>Ensure the stethoscope does not compromise sterility and is easy to access</p>	
17	<p><b>Make appropriate and accurate routine reports of observations to the directing veterinary surgeon (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Use anaesthetic monitoring charts to record observations</p> <p>Make reports on depth of anaesthesia, temperature, respiratory effort and heart/pulse activity of patient</p>	
18	<p><b>Make appropriate and accurate reports of relevant or significant changes to the directing veterinary surgeon (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Use anaesthetic monitoring charts to record observation</p> <p>Report on relevant or significant changes to depth of anaesthesia, temperature, respiratory effort and heart/pulse activity of patient</p>	
19	<p><b>Monitor breathing circuits and endotracheal tube during anaesthesia (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Ensure tube patency is maintained during anaesthesia</p> <p>Check connections between breathing circuit and endotracheal tube and anaesthetic machine</p> <p>Observe function of reservoir bag, condition of patient and/or capnograph readings to establish efficacy of breathing system</p>	
20	<p><b>Monitor gases and volatile agents during anaesthesia (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Check connections between breathing circuit and endotracheal tube and anaesthetic machine</p> <p>Ensure scavenging system is connected</p> <p>Check levels of gases and volatile agents regularly and arrange for replacement if necessary</p> <p>Ensure gases and volatile agents are delivered at the required rate</p>	
21	<p><b>Observe patient monitoring equipment during anaesthesia (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Check connections between monitors and patient</p> <p>Check power supply and cables to monitors</p> <p>Observe read outs of monitors, check against normal parameters for animal and report abnormalities to veterinary surgeon</p>	
22	<p><b>Monitor intravenous fluids during anaesthesia (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Check patency of catheter and giving set</p> <p>Observe level of remaining fluid and arrange for replacement if necessary</p> <p>Ensure fluid is being delivered at the required rate</p> <p>Ensure drip line does not compromise sterility</p>	
23	<p><b>Calculate and administer gaseous anaesthesia under direction of a veterinary surgeon (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Calculate the fresh gas requirement, proportion of oxygen to nitrous oxide and consider the circuit factor</p> <p>Administer appropriate levels of volatile agent and vary as directed by veterinary surgeon</p>	
24	<p><b>Prepare a recovery area for patients (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Ensure area is safe, warm and quiet according to practice protocol</p> <p>Ensure there is suitable access to the patient for monitoring</p>	
25	<p><b>Disconnect patient from anaesthetic equipment (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p>Remove anaesthetic monitoring equipment as appropriate and according to practice protocol</p> <p>Disconnect breathing circuit and turn off anaesthetic gases as directed by a veterinary surgeon</p>	

26	<p><b>Position patients for recovery as appropriate for species and condition (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p><i>Position to maintain airway and optimum respiration</i></p> <p><i>Consider procedure undergone and comfort of patient</i></p> <p><i>Allow for patients regaining consciousness</i></p>	
27	<p><b>Extubate patients at appropriate stage of recovery and maintain airway (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p><i>Monitor level of consciousness and extubate at time appropriate to species and according to practice protocol</i></p> <p><i>Position patient to maintain airway, using positioning aids if necessary e.g. foam wedge</i></p>	
28	<p><b>Monitor patients during anaesthetic recovery (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p><i>Record observations</i></p> <p><i>Ensure body temperature is maintained</i></p> <p><i>Observe wounds and dressings for signs of bleeding</i></p> <p><i>Monitor and recognise signs of pain and/or abnormalities and report to veterinary surgeon</i></p>	
29	<p><b>Report on anaesthetic recovery progress to the supervising veterinary surgeon (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5)</b></p> <p><i>Using the record of observations made during recovery, communicate the animal's progress to the veterinary surgeon</i></p> <p><i>Communication may be face-to-face, over the telephone or in writing</i></p>	

## VN15 - Practical peri-operative veterinary nursing support for small animals

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Receive animals from owner when admitting for surgery (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check when animal was last fed</i>  <i>Check from when water was withheld if appropriate</i>  <i>Label animal's personal possessions according to practice policy</i>  <i>Check if any medication has been administered and when</i></p>	
2	<p><b>Check owner consent when admitting animals for surgery (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure the person is the owner or the owner's agent and is over 18 years of age</i>  <i>Check the consent form with the owner</i>  <i>Ensure the client understands the nature of the proposed procedure</i>  <i>Answer or refer any questions or queries</i></p>	
3	<p><b>Record contact details when admitting animals for surgery (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Inform owner of when to phone/when they will be phoned regarding the procedure and progress</i>  <i>Recording and updating owner's and animal's details including contact details regarding surgery and progress</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Create a nursing record when admitting animals for surgery (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Record any changes to normal behaviour, eating, drinking, elimination, allergies, reactions to anaesthetic procedures, blood transfusions</i>  <i>Establish base line parameter observations</i>  <i>Update records</i>  <i>Weigh animal</i>  <i>Administer and record pre-med according to veterinary surgeon's instructions</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Safely use clippers when preparing operation sites (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Check clippers and blades for cleanliness, damage and function</i>  <i>Fit and adjust blades</i>  <i>Ensure minimum skin trauma when clipping sensitive or delicate areas</i></p>	
6	<p><b>Identify operation sites (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Identify operation site using case notes, nursing care plans and/or referring to supervising veterinary surgeon</i>  <i>Clip area around proposed incision site dependent on proposed procedure and species</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Perform first skin scrub when preparing operation sites (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure site is hair/fur free</i>  <i>Prepare skin using suitable detergent and antiseptic agents and appropriate scrubbing technique</i>  <i>Follow practice protocols regarding use of PPE</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Apply a foot bandage when preparing an operation site (1.1, 1.2)</b></p> <p><i>Apply foot bandaging in line with veterinary surgeon's guidelines, surgical procedure and practice protocols</i></p>	
9	<p><b>Handover patients from the operating theatre to a colleague and give detail of the surgical procedure (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p><i>Outline the details of the procedure, specifying any problems or complications encountered</i>  <i>Give details of surgical wounds and drainage</i>  <i>Explain post operative requirements as detailed by veterinary surgeon and dependent on the procedure</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Handover patients from the operating theatre to a colleague and give detail of the anaesthetic (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p><i>Outline the duration of the anaesthetic and time of induction</i>  <i>List the anaesthetic drugs administered, route and dose</i>  <i>Describe any significant changes in vital sign parameters</i>  <i>Give detail of any anaesthetic complications</i></p>	
11	<p><b>Handover patients from the operating theatre to a colleague and give detail of the observations to be made at handover (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure animal is to be transferred to a suitable environment</i>  <i>Explain the need for ongoing checking of vital signs, maintenance of airway, level of consciousness, body temperature, wound drainage, dressings and casts</i>  <i>The effect of analgesia administered, reaction to pain</i></p>	
12	<p><b>Handover patients from the operating theatre to a colleague and give detail of the ongoing treatment instructions (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p><i>Give detail of the veterinary instructions for continued monitoring and recording of vital signs and effective analgesia regime</i>  <i>Explain post operative feeding and fluid requirements</i>  <i>Ensure any other specific instructions are communicated</i></p>	
13	<p><b>Prepare a suitable nursing environment for post operative patients taking into account species (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p>	

	<p>Consider lighting, heating, ventilation, humidity and noise levels Consider bedding requirements and appropriate bedding materials Consider provision of adequate observation of patient</p>	
14	<p><b>Prepare a suitable nursing environment for post operative patients taking into account condition (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Consider lighting, heating, ventilation, humidity and noise levels Consider bedding requirements and appropriate bedding materials Consider provision of adequate observation of patient</p>	
15	<p><b>Prepare a suitable nursing environment for post operative patients taking into account procedure (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Consider lighting, heating, ventilation, humidity and noise levels Consider bedding requirements and appropriate bedding materials Consider provision of adequate observation of patient</p>	
16	<p><b>Record post-operative observations of vital signs (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Observations may include temperature, pulse, respiration, mucous membrane colour and CRT, level of consciousness, hydration status, response to stimuli, signs of shock, discharges, any vomiting or diarrhoea Respond appropriately Records should be clear and comprehensible</p>	
17	<p><b>Record post-operative observations of pain (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Record responses to pain - requirement for analgesia - vocalisation, restlessness Assessment of pain score, analgesia already given - dosage, route, time and effect Respond appropriately Records should be clear and comprehensible</p>	
18	<p><b>Record post-operative observations of urine output (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Monitor colour, amount and smell Respond appropriately Records should be clear and comprehensible</p>	
19	<p><b>Maintain and record intravenous fluid intake (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Maintain I/V catheter site and line Warm fluids if appropriate or directed by veterinary surgeon Monitor hydration levels, urinary output and indications of hypovolaemic shock Records should be clear and comprehensible</p>	
20	<p><b>Maintain and record oral fluid intake (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Measure fluid intake and ensure measurements are as accurate as possible Records should be clear and comprehensible</p>	
21	<p><b>Recognise pain and stress and position patient to reduce these (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Where appropriate use positioning aids and bedding materials Position to allow for optimum cardiopulmonary function</p>	
22	<p><b>Recognise pain and stress and provide a suitable environment to reduce these (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Provide an appropriate, easily viewable area and accessible recovery area, dim lights where possible Use careful and appropriate handling techniques</p>	
23	<p><b>Recognise pain and stress and provide analgesics to reduce these (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5)</b></p> <p>Administer analgesia via recommended route and method as prescribed and according to veterinary surgeon's instructions Reassess and monitor pain relief (physiological signs of pain) and stress</p>	
24	<p><b>Plan, implement and evaluate care plans to address core nursing requirements during post-operative convalescence to include fluid and nutrition (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Assess patient needs taking into account procedure Create a care plan and implement, taking into account factors such as; dehydration, trauma, shock and metabolic disease, appropriate feeding methods Evaluate implemented care plan</p>	
25	<p><b>Plan, implement and evaluate care plans to address core nursing requirements during post-operative convalescence to include elimination (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Assess patient needs taking into account procedure Create a care plan and implement, taking into account factors such as; urine output, bowel movements, diarrhoea, constipation, presence of blood and mucous Evaluate implemented care plan</p>	
26	<p><b>Plan, implement and evaluate care plans to address core nursing requirements during post-operative convalescence to include mobility and exercise (3.1, 3.2)</b></p>	

	<p>Assess patient needs taking into account procedure</p> <p>Create a care plan and implement, taking into account factors such as; the need for repositioning and turning patient, physiotherapy and massage, supported exercise</p> <p>Evaluate implemented care plan</p>	
27	<p><b>Plan, implement and evaluate care plans to address core nursing requirements during post-operative convalescence to include pain relief and alleviation of stress (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Assess patient needs taking into account procedure</p> <p>Create a care plan and implement, taking into account factors such as; pain score assessment, appropriate analgesia, toys to alleviate boredom, positioning of accommodation</p> <p>Evaluate implemented care plan</p>	
28	<p><b>Plan, implement and evaluate care plans to address core nursing requirements during post-operative convalescence to include wound management (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Assess patient needs taking into account procedure</p> <p>Create a care plan and implement, taking into account factors such as; swelling, discharge, haematoma, bruising, wound drains insitu, casts, wound interference</p> <p>Evaluate implemented care plan</p>	
29	<p><b>Care for surgical wounds to include observation (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Make routine observations of animal and for signs of discomfort, pain, swelling, discharge</p> <p>Check for wound interference</p> <p>Where appropriate record and report observations according to practice protocol</p>	
30	<p><b>Care for surgical wounds to include management of drainage (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Recognise normal and abnormal drainage</p> <p>Identify colour, amount and smell</p> <p>Where appropriate record and report observations according to practice protocol</p>	
31	<p><b>Care for surgical wounds to include dressings and bandages (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Maintain dressings, bandages and casts</p> <p>Observe patient for signs of discharge, bleeding, swelling, impaired circulation or other complications around the site of the dressing or bandage</p> <p>Where appropriate record and report observations according to practice protocol</p>	
32	<p><b>Care for surgical wounds to include removal of drains and closures (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Remove drains as directed by veterinary surgeon</p> <p>Remove sutures/staples as directed by veterinary surgeon</p> <p>Where appropriate record and report observations according to practice protocol</p>	
33	<p><b>Care for surgical wounds to include preventing patient interference (3.1, 3.2)</b></p> <p>Ensure comfort of patient</p> <p>Use appropriate aids such as an Elizabethan collar or bandaging</p> <p>Where appropriate record and report observations according to practice protocol</p>	
34	<p><b>Deliver species specific peri-operative nursing care to patients including cats, dogs and exotics, to include minor surgery (4.1)</b></p> <p>Deliver specific management of pain, ensuring minimal wound interference</p> <p>Encourage feeding and fluid intake according to species</p> <p>Provide opportunity for elimination</p>	
35	<p><b>Deliver species specific peri-operative nursing care to patients including cats, dogs and exotics, to include abdominal procedures (4.1)</b></p> <p>Deliver species specific peri-operative nursing care taking into account septic shock</p> <p>Monitor vital signs to include temperature, pulse, signs of nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain</p> <p>Maintain intravenous fluid therapy where appropriate and introduce oral fluids according to practice protocol</p>	
36	<p><b>Deliver species specific peri-operative nursing care to patients including cats, dogs and exotics, to include orthopaedic procedures (4.1)</b></p> <p>Monitor vital signs of wounds and dressings, casts and affected limbs for signs of discolouration, impaired circulation, swelling and pain</p> <p>Maintain environment to include bedding and environmental enrichment</p> <p>Deliver species specific peri-operative nursing care to include physiotherapy and monitoring of bladder and bowel function where appropriate and according to practice protocol</p>	
37	<p><b>Demonstrate effective care planning for discharge taking into consideration the condition of the patient (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p>Consider the care of wounds and dressings, administration of medications, exercise regime and physiotherapy as appropriate for the condition of the animal</p> <p>Plan for observations of patient to include general condition, response to pain, feeding, watering and elimination</p>	
38	<p><b>Demonstrate effective care planning for discharge taking into consideration the home circumstances of the client (5.1, 5.2)</b></p>	

	<p><i>Consider care in the home environment to include changes in daily routine, other animals in the household and adaptations required in the home</i></p> <p><i>Consider the availability of assistance, guidance and advice if required</i></p> <p><i>Ensure owner is given details of out of hours procedure and follow up appointments</i></p>	
39	<p><b>Demonstrate effective oral communication with patients' owners (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>Verbally detail care plans to owners in a clear and concise manner</i></p> <p><i>Assess owners' capabilities and time restrictions to provide care required and outline alternatives</i></p> <p><i>Ensure owner's understanding of instructions</i></p>	
40	<p><b>Demonstrate effective written communication with patients' owners (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>Provide legible and comprehensible written care plans to owners</i></p> <p><i>Ensure care plan is suitable for owners' capabilities and time restrictions to provide care and outline alternatives</i></p> <p><i>Ensure owner's understanding of instructions</i></p>	
41	<p><b>Demonstrate effective teaching of practical techniques to patients' owners to include giving medication (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>Teach client to administer medications, physiotherapy techniques, handling and restraint as appropriate and according to practice protocol</i></p> <p><i>Ensure owner understanding of instructions and ability to administer medications etc. as taught</i></p>	

## VN17 - Practical veterinary nursing support of small animal patients

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<p><b>Plan, deliver and evaluate care for animals with circulatory or respiratory conditions using an appropriate model and framework (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Apply a standard framework for patient assessment - e.g. Orem's self-care model or Roper, Logan and Tierney's model</i></p> <p><i>Understand and implement a given care plan in the management of inpatients as directed by qualified staff</i></p>	
2	<p><b>Plan, deliver and evaluate care for animals with urinary tract or endocrine disorders using an appropriate model and framework (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Apply a standard framework for patient assessment - e.g. Orem's self-care model or Roper, Logan and Tierney's model</i></p> <p><i>Understand and implement a given care plan in the management of inpatients as directed by qualified staff</i></p>	
3	<p><b>Plan, deliver and evaluate care for animals with alimentary tract or reproductive tract disorders using an appropriate model and framework (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Apply a standard framework for patient assessment - e.g. Orem's self-care model or Roper, Logan and Tierney's model</i></p> <p><i>Understand and implement a given care plan in the management of inpatients as directed by qualified staff</i></p>	
4	<p><b>Plan, deliver and evaluate care for animals with neurological or sense organ disorders using an appropriate model and framework (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Apply a standard framework for patient assessment - e.g. Orem's self-care model or Roper, Logan and Tierney's model</i></p> <p><i>Understand and implement a given care plan in the management of inpatients as directed by qualified staff</i></p>	
5	<p><b>Provide an appropriate nursing environment taking into account the patients' species (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Provide species specific environment considering light, humidity, temperature, ventilation, noise</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the environment is suitable for maintaining the welfare of the animal</i></p>	
6	<p><b>Provide an appropriate nursing environment taking into account the patients' age (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Provide an age appropriate nursing environment considering light, humidity, temperature, ventilation, noise</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the environment is suitable for maintaining the welfare of the animal</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Provide an appropriate nursing environment taking into account the patients' condition (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Consider light, humidity, temperature, ventilation, noise, treatment regime and medication requirements, isolation or barrier nursing, medical or surgical condition</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the environment is suitable for maintaining the welfare of the animal</i></p>	
8	<p><b>Provide an appropriate nursing environment taking into account the patients' normal routines (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>Consider light, humidity, temperature, ventilation, noise</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the environment is suitable for maintaining the welfare of the animal</i></p>	
9	<p><b>Communicate with the veterinary team in relation to the evaluation and review of nursing care (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b></p> <p><i>To include written and verbal communication which should be clear, concise and comprehensible</i></p> <p><i>SOAPIER model - Subjective, Objective, Assessment, Plan, Implementation, Evaluation and Reassessment</i></p>	
10	<p><b>Demonstrate accurate wound assessment (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Identify types of open wound e.g. incised, lacerated, punctured, abrasion, abscess</i></p> <p><i>Identify types of closed wound e.g. contusion, haematoma</i></p> <p><i>Identify other types of wound e.g. skin graft, ulcer, tumour</i></p> <p><i>Use appropriate PPE and patient restraint techniques</i></p>	
11	<p><b>Demonstrate swab taking as part of wound management (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Select appropriate equipment and PPE according to practice protocols</i></p> <p><i>Take bacterial swabs and smears</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate appropriate staining technique</i></p> <p><i>Perform culture and sensitivity test - inoculate agar culture plates impregnated with antibiotic sensitivity discs</i></p> <p><i>Use appropriate PPE and patient restraint techniques</i></p>	
12	<p><b>Demonstrate irrigation as part of wound management (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Demonstrate effective irrigation or lavage techniques to remove dirt and debris as per practice protocols and veterinary surgeon's instructions</i></p> <p><i>Use appropriate PPE and patient restraint techniques</i></p>	
13	<p><b>Select and apply dressings as part of wound management (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Dressing techniques should include at least two of the following; dry, moist, wet, adherent, non-adherent, impregnated gauze</i></p> <p><i>Use appropriate PPE and patient restraint techniques</i></p>	

14	<p><b>Select and apply retaining bandages (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Apply primary, secondary and tertiary layers, ensuring patient comfort and well-being, bandage security</i>  <i>Use appropriate PPE and patient restraint techniques</i></p>	
15	<p><b>Provide client education on wound management (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Give verbal and written instruction on displacement of dressing and bandage, areas of soreness, discharge or smell through dressing or bandage, swelling of limb or area</i>  <i>Give advice and demonstration where required on wound and dressing management and prevention of self trauma or wound interference techniques</i></p>	
16	<p><b>Administer infused medications (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Select and prepare equipment and PPE</i>  <i>Check patency of I/V catheter</i>  <i>Draw up medication as prescribed by veterinary surgeon</i>  <i>Update records</i></p>	
17	<p><b>Administer intravenous bolus medications (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Select and prepare equipment and PPE according to practice protocols</i>  <i>Check patency of I/V catheter</i>  <i>Draw up medication as prescribed by veterinary surgeon</i>  <i>Update records</i></p>	
18	<p><b>Place or assist with placement of feeding tubes (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Feeding tube technique may include; orogastric, naso-oesophageal, oesophagostomy, pharyngostomy, gastrostomy, dependent on condition, species and length of time remaining in situ</i>  <i>Select and prepare equipment and PPE according to practice protocols</i></p>	
19	<p><b>Manage feeding tubes (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Feeding tube technique may include; orogastric, naso-oesophageal, oesophagostomy, pharyngostomy, gastrostomy, dependent on condition, species and length of time remaining in situ</i>  <i>Select and prepare appropriate amount and type of food</i>  <i>Prevent patient interference with tube</i>  <i>Take precautions to avoid blockage of the tube or complications</i>  <i>Maintain health, safety and welfare of the animal and self</i>  <i>Maintain hospital records</i></p>	
20	<p><b>Place or assist with placement of indwelling urinary catheters (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Select and prepare equipment and PPE according to practice protocols</i>  <i>Catheter types may include; Jackson's cat, conventional dog, latex, plastic, silicone foley with or without stylet, Tiemans</i>  <i>Ensure aseptic technique is adhered to</i>  <i>Take precautions to minimise stress, iatrogenic trauma and infection</i></p>	
21	<p><b>Manage indwelling urinary catheters (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Take measures to prevent patient interference as appropriate</i>  <i>Monitor and clean area around attachment of catheter in accordance with practice protocol</i>  <i>Monitor urine output - amount, colour, smell</i>  <i>Replace or remove catheter dependent on type, condition, species, veterinary surgeon's instructions and sex</i></p>	
22	<p><b>Manage bowel function by administering laxatives (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Administer correct dose and using appropriate technique as directed by veterinary surgeon</i></p>	
23	<p><b>Manage bowel function by administering enemata (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare equipment, appropriate agent and PPE</i>  <i>Ensure patient is correctly restrained</i>  <i>Administer enema as directed by veterinary surgeon</i>  <i>Ensure well-being of self, others and patient</i></p>	
24	<p><b>Provide physiotherapy to include thoracic coupage (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Perform thoracic coupage as directed by veterinary surgeon</i>  <i>Monitor patient before, during and after procedure and keep records according to practice protocol</i></p>	
25	<p><b>Provide physiotherapy to include passive limb exercises (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Warm the joint and perform effleurage</i>  <i>Perform passive limb exercises, ensuring patient comfort, as directed by a veterinary surgeon</i>  <i>Monitor patient before, during and after procedure and keep records according to practice protocol</i></p>	
26	<p><b>Provide physiotherapy to include active exercise (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Provide patient with appropriate physical support</i>  <i>Encourage patient to actively participate</i>  <i>Monitor patient before, during and after procedure and keep records according to practice protocol</i></p>	
27	<p><b>Provide alternative methods of physiotherapy (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6)</b></p> <p><i>Provide patient with alternative physiotherapy and rehabilitation technique such as hydrotherapy, cold therapy, heat therapy, contrast bathing or petrissage</i>  <i>Monitor patient before, during and after procedure and keep records according to practice protocol</i></p>	

28	<p><b>Prepare isolation accommodation for an admission (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Prepare accommodation applying principles of isolation or barrier nursing and animal taking into account species, animal's welfare and importance of limiting contact with patients in isolation</i></p> <p><i>Where necessary carry out adjustments relating to environmental conditions of an isolation unit dependent on species, condition and practice protocol</i></p>	
29	<p><b>Prepare and wear protective clothing for barrier nursing (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Ensure adequate supplies of PPE for all staff involved in barrier nursing</i></p> <p><i>Wear appropriate protective clothing to include gloves, aprons, masks</i></p> <p><i>Wear appropriate disposable or reusable clothing such as overalls or uniforms</i></p> <p><i>Wear appropriate foot covering and use disinfectant footbaths on entry or exit</i></p>	
30	<p><b>Practice effective hand hygiene when barrier nursing (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Remove hand and wrist jewellery</i></p> <p><i>Select and use appropriate hand washes, scrubs and gels dependent of condition and species following practice protocols</i></p> <p><i>Wear disposable gloves as required</i></p> <p><i>Follow disposal methods for gloves and towels in accordance with practice protocols</i></p>	
31	<p><b>Recognise and manage fomites when barrier nursing (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Identify fomites and ensure they are restricted to the isolation area</i></p> <p><i>If fomites need to be moved out of isolation area ensure they are cleaned appropriately or disposed of in correct manner</i></p>	
32	<p><b>Address the special needs of isolated patients (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Take measures to reduce stress for patients</i></p> <p><i>Provide patient contact including hands on human contact in line with barrier nursing and isolation nursing protocols</i></p> <p><i>Provide stimulation and environmental enrichment</i></p>	
33	<p><b>Clean isolation accommodation (3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4)</b></p> <p><i>Wear appropriate PPE to avoid zoonotic infection</i></p> <p><i>Select and use appropriate cleaning and disinfectant agents, following practice protocols and manufacturer's guidelines</i></p> <p><i>Carry out daily cleaning regime to include using separate or disposable items including PPE, bedding and substrate</i></p> <p><i>Dispose of waste using appropriate method</i></p> <p><i>Carry out terminal disinfection of isolation area</i></p>	
34	<p><b>Prepare an effective home care plan for a chronically sick animal (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Liaise with veterinary surgeon/team and owner</i></p> <p><i>Consider feeding, exercise, medications, care of dressings, wounds, follow up appointments and possible complications</i></p> <p><i>Consider home circumstances to include type of accommodation, time, finances, assistance available, species and condition</i></p>	
35	<p><b>Communicate effectively with owners of chronically sick animals (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Provide written and oral guidance regarding care requirements in an easy to understand format and in line with practice policy</i></p> <p><i>Provide effective and evaluated practice and teaching of practical techniques to include medication, disposal of waste, handling and restraint and nursing care</i></p>	
36	<p><b>Provide emergency contact information for owners of chronically sick animals (4.1, 4.2)</b></p> <p><i>Give information regarding condition and potential problems that could occur</i></p> <p><i>Inform owners of follow up appointments and supportive therapy available</i></p> <p><i>Give veterinary contact details and out of hours procedure in case of emergency</i></p>	
37	<p><b>Identify suitable candidates for a nursing clinic (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>In consultation with a veterinary surgeon and according to practice policy, identify suitable candidates for a nursing clinic to include weight management, preventative care, wellbeing, education</i></p>	
38	<p><b>Conduct effective consultations to include effective history taking (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>Owner details - owners name, address and contact details</i></p> <p><i>Patient general details - name, date of birth, description, temperament, sex and neutering status of animal</i></p> <p><i>Patient health details - weight, vaccination status, preventative care status, allergies, previous health problems, medications currently used or prescribed, purpose of visit</i></p>	
39	<p><b>Conduct an appropriate examination of a patient in a nursing clinic (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>In line with the purpose for attending the clinic</i></p> <p><i>Ensure the health and safety of self, client and patient</i></p>	
40	<p><b>Identify cases in a nursing clinic for referral to a veterinary surgeon (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>In line with practice policy, identify cases for referral to a veterinary surgeon through discussion with owner, examination and recognition of own limitations</i></p>	
41	<p><b>Conduct treatments in a nursing clinic (5.1, 5.2)</b></p>	

	<p><i>In line with practice policy and veterinary surgeon's instructions, conduct treatments to include pre and postoperative care, wound care, administration of medications, suture or staple removal, health and wellbeing checks, blood sampling, examinations and administration of appropriate treatments</i></p> <p><i>Ensure safety of self, client and patient</i></p> <p><i>Wear PPE where appropriate</i></p>	
42	<p><b>Communicate effectively with clients in a nursing clinic (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>May include written or oral communication</i></p> <p><i>Check for owner understanding</i></p> <p><i>Ensure owner confidentiality</i></p>	
43	<p><b>Keep records of a nursing clinic (5.1, 5.2)</b></p> <p><i>In line with practice protocol, purpose of visit, examination and treatment provided</i></p> <p><i>Ensure client confidentiality and data protection</i></p>	

## VN18 - Principles of small animal veterinary nursing emergency and critical care

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Demonstrate first aid treatment for unconsciousness (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b> <i>Where appropriate, use simulation or a first aid mannequin in the interests of animal welfare Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
2	<b>Demonstrate first aid treatment for a compromised airway including CPR (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b> <i>Where appropriate, use simulation or a first aid mannequin in the interests of animal welfare Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
3	<b>Demonstrate first aid treatment for haemorrhage and wounds (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b> <i>Where appropriate, use simulation or a first aid mannequin in the interests of animal welfare Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
4	<b>Demonstrate first aid treatment for fractures (1.1, 1.2, 1.3)</b> <i>Where appropriate, use simulation or a first aid mannequin in the interests of animal welfare Ensure safety of self, others and animal</i>	
5	<b>Triage unconscious patients (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Gather information quickly and effectively from owner or lay person if applicable Conduct an effective primary survey, major body system assessment and secondary survey</i>	
6	<b>Triage patients with a compromised airway (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Gather information quickly and effectively from owner or lay person if applicable Conduct an effective primary survey, major body system assessment and secondary survey</i>	
7	<b>Triage patients with a haemorrhage (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Gather information quickly and effectively from owner or lay person if applicable Conduct an effective primary survey, major body system assessment and secondary survey</i>	
8	<b>Triage patients with a fracture (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Gather information quickly and effectively from owner or lay person if applicable Conduct an effective primary survey, major body system assessment and secondary survey</i>	
9	<b>Prepare a consulting room for the admission of an emergency case (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Clear working space, prepare diagnostic tools e.g. ophthalmoscope, needles, syringes, blood tubes Ensure adequate lighting, heating and ventilation</i>	
10	<b>Prepare equipment for the admission of an emergency case (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Prepare equipment as appropriate and according to practice protocol to include; emergency box, anaesthetic machine/oxygen supply, endotracheal tubes</i>	
11	<b>Prepare consumables for the admission of an emergency case (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Prepare consumables as appropriate and according to practice policy to include; drugs, intravenous catheters, intravenous fluids, swabs, dressings</i>	
12	<b>Prepare an operating theatre for the admission of an emergency case (1.5, 2.1, 2.2, 2.4)</b> <i>Damp dust theatre Ensure adequate lighting, heating and ventilation Prepare sterile instruments and surgical kit, anaesthetic machine Prepare scrubbing facilities, sterile towels, gowns and gloves for surgical team</i>	
13	<b>Introduce a peripheral intravenous catheter into a dog (3.1, 3.2)</b> <i>Ensure patient is adequately restrained Ensure cleanliness of site and technique Secure intravenous catheter after placement in line with practice policy</i>	
14	<b>Introduce a peripheral intravenous catheter into a cat (3.1, 3.2)</b> <i>Ensure patient is adequately restrained Ensure cleanliness of site and technique Secure intravenous catheter after placement in line with practice policy</i>	
15	<b>Demonstrate effective intravenous catheter site care (3.1, 3.2)</b> <i>To include; clipping, hygiene, antiseptic solutions, catheter fixing, bandaging and prevention of patient interference</i>	
16	<b>Demonstrate maintenance of patency for an intravenous catheter (3.1, 3.2)</b> <i>To include; use of heparinisation, dealing with a blocked catheter, positioning, bandaging or splinting to avoid kinking.</i>	
17	<b>Demonstrate maintenance of an intravenous catheter for ongoing fluid therapy (3.1, 3.2)</b> <i>Ensure catheter remains patent Observe catheter site for signs of catheter related sepsis, extravasation or other complications</i>	
18	<b>Prepare accommodation for critically ill patients to include; types of accommodation (4.1, 4.2)</b>	

	<i>To include a range of species and conditions Ensure accommodation is safe and meets the welfare needs of the patient</i>	
19	<b>Prepare accommodation for critically ill patients to include; environment (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species and conditions Consider lighting, heating, ventilation, noise levels and humidity</i>	
20	<b>Prepare accommodation for critically ill patients to include; access for observation and nursing (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species and conditions Allow access for emergency resuscitation, medical interventions, feeding and watering and toileting requirements</i>	
21	<b>Prepare accommodation for critically ill patients to include; bedding (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species and conditions Consider warmth, hygiene, comfort and absorbability</i>	
22	<b>Prepare accommodation for critically ill patients to include; proximity of electrical supply and oxygen (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of accommodations Consider extension leads, trip hazards or potential kinking of oxygen supply</i>	
23	<b>Prepare accommodation for critically ill patients to include; observation charts (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species and conditions</i>	
24	<b>Provide nursing care for a critically ill animal to include; breathing and cardiovascular function (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species, age ranges and conditions To include positioning in relation to respiratory function, oxygen therapy, respiratory physiotherapy</i>	
25	<b>Provide nursing care for a critically ill animal to include; nutrition and fluid balance (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species, age ranges and conditions Demonstrate tube or parenteral feeding, calculation of nutritional requirements, assisted feeding techniques, encouraging eating and increasing palatability of food Maintain fluid therapy and use of infusion pumps</i>	
26	<b>Provide nursing care for a critically ill animal to include; assisting with mobility (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species, age ranges and conditions Position patient to provide optimal comfort and turn, alter positioning as necessary Where appropriate provide pressure relief, support or slings Provide physiotherapy as directed by veterinary surgeon and in line with practice policy Support exercise where necessary</i>	
27	<b>Provide nursing care for a critically ill animal to include; hygiene (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species, age ranges and conditions Provide skin care to avoid maceration, grooming to prevent matting and bathing to prevent urine scalding</i>	
28	<b>Provide nursing care for a critically ill animal to include; maintaining body temperature (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species, age ranges and conditions Use warming or cooling techniques and appropriate bedding</i>	
29	<b>Provide nursing care for a critically ill animal to include; pain and stress (4.1, 4.2)</b> <i>To include a range of species, age ranges and conditions Take measures to reduce and manage pain and stress</i>	
30	<b>Observe and monitor critically ill patients to include; blood pressure monitoring (4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.1)</b> <i>Monitor blood pressure using invasive or non-invasive methods and accurately record results Observe trend in blood pressure readings</i>	
31	<b>Observe and monitor critically ill patients to include; neurological function (4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.1)</b> <i>Monitor neurological function to include level of consciousness and function of cranial nerves Observe changes in neurological function</i>	
32	<b>Observe and monitor critically ill patients to include; urine output (4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.1)</b> <i>Monitor urine output and accurately record results Observe colour and turbidity of urine</i>	
33	<b>Observe and monitor critically ill patients to include; pulse oximetry (4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.1)</b> <i>Monitor pulse oximetry using appropriate methods Check accuracy of pulse manually and recognise equipment failure where applicable</i>	
34	<b>Administer oxygen therapy (4.3, 5.1, 5.3, 6.1)</b> <i>Provide oxygen supplementation to include endotracheal intubation, face masks, oxygen tents/oxygen rich environment Ensure safety of self, others and patient</i>	

## AD1 - Additional registration rules applicable from 1 September 2016

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1.1	<p><b>Report injuries in line with legislation and practice protocols (1)</b></p> <p><i>Reporting of injuries that have occurred, following legislative guidelines (to include RIDDOR) and in line with practice protocol.</i></p> <p><i>Submit a minimum of ONE piece of evidence. A professional discussion is an acceptable method of assessment for this task.</i></p>	
1.2	<p><b>Interpret and explain the requirements for reporting suspected notifiable disease (1)</b></p> <p><i>Professional discussion to include identification of notifiable diseases and reporting procedure, including legislative requirements.</i></p> <p><i>Health and safety considerations.</i></p> <p><i>Submit at least ONE piece of evidence.</i></p>	
1.3	<p><b>Recognise common notifiable and zoonotic diseases and undertake strategies to prevent the spread of infection (1)</b></p> <p><i>Be able to recognise clinical signs.</i></p> <p><i>Use appropriate PPE.</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate effective hand hygiene.</i></p> <p><i>Demonstrate effective cleaning and disinfection of contaminated clinical areas of practice.</i></p> <p><i>Submit at least ONE piece of evidence for zoonotic disease AND at least ONE piece of evidence for notifiable disease. A professional discussion is an acceptable method of assessment for this task.</i></p>	
2.1	<p><b>Implant a microchip and complete relevant paperwork (2)</b></p> <p><i>Implant a microchip in line with legislation and practice protocols.</i></p> <p><i>Complete relevant paperwork.</i></p> <p><i>Submit a minimum of ONE piece of evidence.</i></p>	
2.2	<p><b>Assist clients and colleagues in the process of seeking second opinion or referrals (2)</b></p> <p><i>Assist with the organisation of relevant information for second opinions and referrals, including diagnostic services.</i></p> <p><i>Follow legal and RCVS guidelines.</i></p> <p><i>Submit a minimum of ONE piece of evidence. A professional discussion is an acceptable method of assessment for this task.</i></p>	
3.1	<p><b>Carry out faecal analysis (3)</b></p> <p><i>Wearing appropriate PPE, carry out faecal analysis, such as gross visual analysis, microscopic analysis, quantitative examination, Baermann technique and commercial test kits.</i></p> <p><i>Dispose of materials appropriately.</i></p> <p><i>Submit a minimum of ONE piece of evidence.</i></p>	
4.1	<p><b>Assess anaesthetic risks (4)</b></p> <p><i>To include use of ASA guidelines, assessment of behaviour and temperament and formulating a plan based on these factors.</i></p> <p><i>Submit a minimum of ONE piece of evidence.</i></p>	

## AD2 - DipVN Professional Behaviours and attitudes

Ref	Task Guidance & Further Information	
1	<b>Applies knowledge and skills (1)</b> <i>Good application of knowledge, awareness of areas to improve</i>	
2	<b>Demonstrates reliability and adaptability (1)</b> <i>Is usually dependable in all areas of work Adjusts well to change</i>	
3	<b>Works within legal and ethical limits (1)</b> <i>Always conforms to approved procedures of the practice, college, awarding body an RCVS in particular Professional competence Honesty and integrity Independence and impartiality Client confidentiality and trust Professional accountability Demonstrates an understanding of ethical and legal responsibilities of the veterinary nurse in relation to patients, clients, society and the environment Uses professional standards of practice to self-assess performance demonstrates application of ethical issues to their work in veterinary practice</i>	
4	<b>Demonstrates initiative and confidence (1)</b> <i>Is able to plan ahead on most occasions Is confident in most tasks Recognises own limitations Demonstrates that they recognise personal and professional limits, and knows how to seek professional advice, assistance and support when necessary Seeks advice, assistance and support when necessary Manages time effectively</i>	
5	<b>Demonstrates time management and ability to organise own work (1)</b> <i>Is rarely ever late for shift Work well organised, carrying out tasks with minimal supervision Demonstrates that they recognise personal and professional limits, and knows how to seek professional advice, assistance and support when necessary Seeks advice, assistance and support when necessary Manages time effectively</i>	
6	<b>Communication skills (1)</b> <i>Develops good relationships with all staff and clients Demonstrates good communication skills both with colleagues and clients</i>	
7	<b>Attitude to feedback and guidance (1)</b> <i>Usually responds well to suggestions, and seeks clarification Recognises own limitations. Demonstrates that they recognise personal and professional limits, and knows how to seek professional advice, assistance and support when necessary Seeks advice, assistance and support when necessary Manages time effectively</i>	
8	<b>Professional accountability (1)</b> <i>Shows increasing ability to take responsibility Works to high standards Adheres to the practice, college, awarding body and RCVS codes of conduct</i>	
9	<b>Professional development (1)</b> <i>Demonstrates an intelligent interest in individual and group animal welfare Asks good, relevant questions, keen to know about the whole business and to contribute to day-to-day decisions Demonstrate a commitment to learning and professional development, both personal and as a member of a profession actively engaged in work-based learning. This includes recording and reflecting on professional experience and taking measures to improve performance and competence. Identify onus's own professional development needs by engaging in, and on, practice and lifelong learning Develop a professional development plan (personal, professional and organisational needs) Contribute to creating a climate conducive to professional development</i>	
10	<b>Professional and clinical appearance (1)</b> <i>Usually maintains a professional appearance and follows PPE protocols Adheres to practice, college, awarding body and RCVS guidelines</i>	