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Where can an EVN take me? Opportunities in the industry

Sarah Baillie, BSc(Hons) REVN DipAVN(Equine)

Equine Veterinary Medical Center, Al Shaqab, Education City, Doha, Qatar. Email: sarahloubaillie@gmail.com

Obtaining a veterinary nursing qualification and joining the RCVS register of veterinary nurses is an exciting and significant achievement and the first step in what can be a long and rewarding career. But what next? Where can this qualification lead and what opportunities are available to equine veterinary nurses?

Progression routes may venture into areas within clinical practice and management roles or diversify into areas such as sales, technical support, education, research or charity. The role of the equine veterinary nurse is ever-evolving and exciting, and developing areas such as ambulatory nursing are showing us that the traditional clinic-based role is not the only way to use the EVN qualification. Opportunities to undertake further education are becoming more accessible and relevant to our industry allowing equine nurses to challenge themselves academically and opening up further avenues for progression.

As with any career, veterinary nursing comes with challenges and drawbacks in contrast to the rewarding elements and

job satisfaction. Equine veterinary nursing is a vocation that most enter with a passion for improving their patients' lives and advocating for horses in need of care. The sense of satisfaction that comes from utilising clinical skills, knowledge and experience to nurse animals is motivation to go to work each day. But what happens when that motivation is no longer enough?

For some, finding the area of practice which interests them the most and staying within that area to grow and develop as a nurse is the best pathway. Others may wish to move between the many options available to an equine veterinary nurse in a way that allows them to find new challenges and refresh their passion for the industry. What is best for one nurse may be the worst approach for another and taking time to self-reflect regularly can ensure that you understand your personal preferences and motivations to allow you to continue to thrive in equine veterinary nursing.