



Grad Cert Advanced Veterinary Nursing (Rehabilitation)

Duration 1 year (part time)

Start date September 2027

Accredited by [Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons](#) (RCVS)

Location Online/blended learning and [Harper Adams University campus](#)

This certificate will allow nurses to develop and advance their skills to enable them to critically assess the nursing and rehabilitation requirements of veterinary patients.

You will create appropriate nursing and rehabilitation plans utilising the highest professional standards, skills and knowledge to improve the health and welfare of animals.

You will be able to critically evaluate personal effectiveness and effectively and accurately communicate with peers and clients when supporting patients that require rehabilitation therapy.

During your studies, you will demonstrate the development of the skills of critical reading, critical thinking and purposeful writing to create and justify rehabilitation plans that will improve outcomes for patients.

The development of the new RCVS post-registration framework has allowed for the creation of accessible, flexible and focused areas of study, allowing veterinary nurses to further their academic skills alongside their professional skills.

A-level entry requirements

- **Entry requirements for 2027 entry are not currently available. Please contact Admissions for advice**

Accreditation



This course is accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

How will I be taught?

Delivery will be by a combination of distance learning and optional study days where guest speakers, seminars and practical classes support the modules. A range of distance learning methods will be used, including study notes, email and Harper Adams' interactive virtual learning environment 'The Learning Hub'. Access to a computer and broadband internet is essential.

Modules will be assessed by a range of methods, including assignments end of module examination, and practical exams. Support in assessment skills is available for those who have not sat an examination

recently.

What will I study?

Graduate Certificate

Year 1	
Evidence-based Nursing (A5003HF)	20
Graduate Aquatic Therapy (A6010HF)	20
Graduate Small Animal Evidence-based Physiotherapy (A6011HF)	20

Evidence-based Nursing

Year of study 1
Code A5003HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

This module encourages students to develop transferable research skills, including analysis, problem-solving, and communication. These skills will help the student gain an appreciation of research and the ability to access information from a variety of sources. Students will acquire the skills to be able to evaluate literature and to apply relevant and valid research to their current practice.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Create a literature review using a variety of sources to produce a research-based report that demonstrates accepted conventions of academic writing.
- Evaluate the validity and relevance of literature in relation to veterinary nursing practice.
- Evaluate and challenge current practice in the light of relevant research evidence.

Graduate Aquatic Therapy

Year of study 1
Code A6010HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

Aquatic therapy is becoming more commonplace as a method of treatment across a range of species. Veterinary nurses are increasingly involved in developing and implementing aquatic therapy programmes, particularly as their use for pre- and post-operative, conservative management, and performance development continues to grow. This requires a clear understanding of the concepts, treatment methods, and equipment maintenance to provide accurate advice and patient care within a safe working environment.

This module will give a firm foundation for the science behind aquatic therapy, its application in performance development and rehabilitation, and the management of the hydrotherapy environment.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Identify the principles of water-based therapy and illustrate the methods of applying such principles.
- Analyse the use of aquatic therapy in treatment programmes and evaluate their impact.
- Synthesise and justify treatment protocols for a variety of conditions requiring aquatic therapy.
- Evaluate methods of measuring patient progress.

Graduate Small Animal Evidence-based Physiotherapy

Year of study 1
Code A6011HF
Credits 20
Core/option Core
Module contact [Susan Howarth](#)

In veterinary rehabilitation, the practitioner must master several manual techniques and electrotherapy treatment modalities. All these techniques and therapies can be of great benefit to an injured or post-operative animal, and when correctly applied, can have a positive effect. The therapist must consider all these techniques and use them, together with remedial exercise prescription, to return the animal to a fully functioning, pain-free state.

Every injury can have varying consequences and each animal requires a treatment programme dynamically tailored to its needs. Treatment of secondary dysfunction, without recognition of the underlying causes, can result in a relapsing or evolving problem. The remit of the therapist is to critically assess the animal throughout the programme and adjust accordingly.

The module is centred on an evidence-based based clinically reasoned approach to treatment, along with the acquisition and application of practical skills, whilst utilising a professional clinical setting for the teaching.

Students who successfully complete this module will be able to:

- Evaluate the use of manual therapies and electrotherapies on a variety of small animal cases.
- Evaluate the use of remedial exercises on a variety of small animal cases.
- Effectively communicate home management advice, environmental advice, and collaboration with allied professionals to owners.