

Sarah Dallinger

Improved my confidence with emergency cases...and enhanced patient care in my practice

Sarah Dallinger, from **Abbey Veterinary Group**, gained the award of Cert VN ECC with distinction in September 2012. Sarah first qualified as a VN in July 2010 from Middlesex University/The Royal Veterinary College.

For Sarah one of the biggest take homes from this training has been a reminder of the vital role of the veterinary nurse in practice.

“The course really highlighted, once again, how important the role of the veterinary nurse is during an emergency in practice,” she explains. “It has especially emphasised how important monitoring is during an emergency and how the veterinary nurse is able to detect small changes in our patients which can make a significant difference to the treatment outcome.”

“Successfully completing the Cert VN ECC has greatly improved my confidence with emergency cases in practice because of the skills, information and understanding I have gained with this course”. She adds: “I really enjoy applying this knowledge when treating patients in practice, and I do believe this course has enhanced the patient care in my practice” she says.

Sarah admits she found the Certificate challenging to complete, clocking up around 120-130 hours of study over the 18 month course and she found combining this with her day job was not an easy task.

“I felt this was actually the most difficult part of the course, as you work long hours as a veterinary nurse and it can be very tiring, so finding the time to complete assignments and revise did prove difficult at times,” comments Sarah but adds: “However, I would not let this put anyone off doing the course as a little time management with some motivation is all you need.”

Despite finding some of the subjects challenging to get to grips with Sarah was able to overcome this thanks to the help of her tutor Katherine Howie RVN VTS(ECC)

Sarah explains: **“My tutor provided invaluable support throughout the course and explained any subjects or points which I did not understand.** I was very grateful to have a tutor who gave useful feedback and provided extra information when marking my assignments; which I have been able to implement in practice – for example, taking the toe temperature. I also did background reading on the subject to further my understanding in some units such as understanding Systemic Inflammatory Response Syndrome (SIRS).”

So, after all this training would Sarah recommend it to others? Absolutely, though she is keen to point out that the course requires dedication and motivation from the student.

“I would urge people to complete this course as the knowledge gained has directly improved my practical skills and therefore the treatment of patients in practice”.

She adds: “I also feel the ECC course has helped increase my confidence as a clinical coach in practice. Our role is to support the students when completing their nursing progress log in practice, of which one unit is based on emergency care. I am able to support and teach students to a higher standard which consequently standardises and improves patient care in practice.”