

Session theme: Day in the Life of an RVN

You can use this approach to help your students follow a patient through its admission, stay and discharge, and help them to learn about the function of veterinary practice and the role of the veterinary nurse.

You can use as many or as few of these stages/activities as you wish, and add in other procedures that RVNs might do during the day. If you are holding a shorter session, then you may need to only use key stages in the patient journey.

It's important to clarify that the work of a veterinary nurse is done under the direction of a veterinary surgeon.

You can use images or illustrations to depict various aspects of the journey, and then talk them through it, ask questions and hold discussions.

Sections have been left blank for you to complete.

Stage of procedure	Role of RVN (can appear as text somewhere alongside image)	Any wording to go with image
RVN admitting patient with owner / signing consent form	Ward Nurse	
Taking pet to wards (hand over possibly with other RVN / other staff) and settling into kennel	Ward Nurse	
TPR / dosage calcs / drawing up and giving premed	Anaesthesia Nurse	
Pre-Op bloods, IV fluids, keeping warm	Phlebotomist	
Getting prep and theatre ready	Theatre Nurse	
Prep Room: Holding for induction, monitoring GA	Anaesthesia Nurse	
Preparing surgery site: clipping, cleaning		
Moving to sterile theatre, careful positioning, warming aids and final prep		
Scrubbing up, gowning and gloving with theatre nurse helping		

Getting sterile kits out for surgeon		
Monitoring GA during procedure / showing GA record sheet / waking patient up		
Monitoring in recovery /hand over to ward staff		
Showing TLC and feeding		
Getting ready for home ... removing IV /checking sx dressing		
Back with the client for discharge		
See in consults 3 - 10 days later for wound check / stitches out		
Suggested further images for other possible tasks / procedures going on with other RVNs on same day	Role of RVN (can appear as text somewhere alongside image)	Any wording to go with image
Tube feeding	Intensive Nursing	
Cleaning/packing instruments	Theatre Nurse	

Pharmacy duty	Pharmacist	
Diagnostics eg Xray, dental Xray, U/S, endoscopy, CT/MRI etc..	Diagnostic Imaging Nurse	
Doing a dental scale and polish	Dental Nurse	
Scrubbed assistant	Theatre Nurse	
Consulting	Consulting Nurse	
Emergency Triage	Emergency and Critical Care	
Training student nurses	Trainer / Clinical Coach	
Reception task	Receptionist	
RVN Rep coming in	Pharmaceutical Rep	
Home visiting	Community Nurse	
Community visit e.g. school	Community Nurse	
Running puppy club	Behaviour Nurse	

Clock:

Putting a time scale (using a clock) against each part of the day will help offer a time perspective.

<https://www.visnos.com/demos/clock> is an online clock where you can adjust the time of the clock to what you need. Simply right click and copy the image to use in a presentation or elsewhere.

Suggested activities related to a Day in the Life:

- Making up a Buster Collar or fitting a medical T-Shirt
- Bandaging
- Setting up a fluid bag
- Gloving and gowning
- Packing up instruments
- Preparing an ET tube
- X-ray identification
- Using stethoscope and finding pulse / recording it
- Identifying body language in chosen species
- Body Condition Scoring
- Identify foreign body in a closed box
- Scrubbing up (person)
- Mimic some of OSCEs

Suggested procedures related to a Day in the Life:

- Bitch/cat spay
- Lump removal
- Orthopaedic surgery
- In-patient care
- Dental treatment

You could also offer an overview of the day in the life of a veterinary nurse from the perspective of a different role, such as the ward nurse, anaesthesia nurse or consulting nurse.

Remember: Any images used must have been obtained with the informed consent of the animal owner, the client/owner and other staff members.