



On your marks, get set.....

- rehab course gets off to a flyer

Enjoying the July sunshine, the first cohort of nurses attending the new Veterinary Nurse Rehabilitation Therapist (VNRT) course take a well deserved break between lectures with their dogs.

The course, which has been designed by small animal veterinary physiotherapist Brian Sharp, and run by CPD Solutions, is already proving a popular study option for nurses who are looking to develop their skills and knowledge in small animal rehabilitation. The course has a high practical element, with only one intake of 16 nurses available each year, so early booking is required to achieve a place on the course.

Brian Sharp has been providing veterinary nurses with high quality introductory courses in physiotherapy and rehabilitation for over 2 years, and it was as a result of requests from many of the nurses who attended these courses that the more advanced VNRT course has been developed. The collaboration of CPD Solutions and Brian Sharp in this exciting new project brings together high quality CPD provision together with a wealth of physiotherapy and rehabilitation knowledge and experience of 17 years working as a qualified physiotherapist in both human and animal care. Fellow tutor Ben Keeley, a vet from North West Surgeons is supporting Brian on the neurology and orthopaedic modules to offer specific expertise from the veterinary perspective.

The course, which has been specifically designed for the needs of the veterinary nurse, is run over a series of modules, each dealing with a different aspect of rehabilitation. Flexibility forms an important aspect of the course, allowing nurses to complete modules in any order and timeframe that best suits their learning needs. Continued support is provided throughout the study period which can span from 2 years to 5 years depending on the particular requirements of the individual nurse. A pre-requisite for beginning the course is prior attendance on one of Brian's introductory physiotherapy courses which many nurses have already completed, and continue to be available from several CPD providers.

The VNRT course is unique in many aspects, and the taught element forms just one small part of the overall programme. Extensive course notes, together with online facilities and the opportunity for placements provides a total learning experience. Accreditation is currently being sought to ensure the course maintains high standards, and assessment is achieved via coursework, theory and practical examinations.

Despite an intense anatomy module, the first group of nurses remain enthusiastic about continuing the course:

'Very enjoyable. Good knowledge on subject that can be used in my practice and will benefit me.'

'Well explained topics by a great speaker.'

'Excellent info, very in-depth - over all a highly informative 2 days.'

'Very good and was what I expected. Excellent course notes with diagrams and pictures.'

Further details about the VNRT course can be obtained by contacting CPD Solutions on 0151 328 0444 (www.vnrt.co.uk) or Brian Sharp on 07960 091698 (caninephysio@yahoo.co.uk).