

# Spring 2026 Small Animal Newsletter

Hope everyone is having a happy and healthy 2026!!

In this edition we are introducing our newest member of staff, Jenny Bissex- Carter.

Jenny started at Hafren Vets in March and has fitted right in with our crazy bunch 😊

Jenny has been nursing for 21 years in total, and qualified as Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) in 2021 at Lynwood School of Veterinary Nurses, Dorchester. Previous to this Jenny was a zoo keeper for several years.

Having recently moved from Hampshire, England with her husband John and two teenage children, Jenny keeps busy with her own small holding consisting of a variety of rescue animals including a blind sheep, tortoise, cats and donkeys.

Jenny works mainly in our Newtown branch and loves all aspects of nursing but in particular enjoys one to one with clients and their pets, helping with exotics, wildlife and most recently was involved in rehabilitating a young tawny owl back to the wild.

## What is an RVN, how do they train and what do they do?

Training to be an RVN usually takes about 3 years. Once they have completed their veterinary nursing studies, passed their exams and qualified, they apply to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). As an RVN, they follow the professional standards set by the RCVS. RVNs also need to keep their skills and knowledge up to date and must complete at least 15 hours of continuing professional development every year. Their care, skill, and compassion are critical to everything we do, from surgical prep to patient comfort, and from client education to medical treatments.

Every wagging tail and purring patient owes a big thank you to the nurses who make their recovery smoother and their visits less stressful.

Veterinary nurses enjoy a huge amount of variety in their work. They perform lots of different duties, supervised and directed by our vets, including:

- Providing expert nursing care to animals, including monitoring temperature, pulse, breathing, pain, and ensuring they are receiving the correct medication.
- Assisting with surgical procedures and performing certain minor surgeries.
- Conducting consultations and providing healthcare advice to owners.
- Taking blood samples.
- Handling animals for examinations and procedures.
- Running blood tests and other diagnostic tests using complex laboratory machines.
- Wound care, including applying bandages and dressings.
- Analysing parasites and other clinical samples under a microscope.
- Monitoring animals under anaesthesia.
- Preparing the operating theatre for a variety of surgeries.
- Taking X-rays of animals and performing other diagnostic imaging procedures, such as ultrasound scans.

## Hafren Veterinary Group

### Newtown

01686 625344

### Llanidloes

01686 413475

### Knighton

01547 528292

### Cross Gates

01597 851500



They also run our nurse clinics – admitting your pets for operations, puppy checks, dental checks, weight clinics and post-operative care checks just to name a few.

Our Nurses also provide an invaluable role teaching and mentoring student veterinary nurses (SVN) and pet care assistants (PCA). No two days are the same for a veterinary nurse. The daily duties can differ depending on the type of patients they are caring for, the amount of care they need and they also have to be ready for any emergency at any time.



### Meet the Team

#### Newtown

- Elle
- Lee
- Georgia
- Jenny
- Nitya (SVN)

#### Llanidloes and Crossgates

- Kayleigh
- Charlie
- Meg

#### Knighton

- Hollie
- Cassie
- Jassy

May is Veterinary Nurse Awareness Month. A month to celebrate and raise awareness of our highly skilled nurses.

If you or any one you know are interested in finding out more about Veterinary Nursing, please phone the surgery and speak to one of our RVNs. Newtown, Llanidloes and Knighton branches are approved training centres for Veterinary Nurses and as a practice we work very closely with Aberystwyth University, providing placements for their students on the Veterinary Nursing Degree Course.

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