

Nurses Certificate in Small Animal Nutrition NCert (SAN)



The science of small animal nutrition has advanced significantly during recent years.

It is now well recognised, both by veterinary staff and pet owners, that optimal feeding plays a vital role in helping to reduce the risk of common health problems at different life stages, as well as helping in both convalescence and the nutritional management of a wide range of clinical conditions.

Providing the correct nutritional advice is now considered to be a very important aspect of pet care. The task of formulating a feeding plan is often delegated to nursing staff who are directly involved with the care of hospitalised patients. Veterinary nurses also play an important role in communicating with owners and providing feeding advice for pets at home. This programme involves a careful examination of small animal clinical nutrition as a tool to answer nutritional enquiries from pet owners and for improving the nutritional status of both healthy pets and clinical cases. This course is ideal for healthcare professionals who wish to increase the depth of their nutritional knowledge and understanding in order to demystify the subject of nutritional names and numbers.

Module 01

Anatomy, physiology and biochemistry relating to small animal nutrition

The first module of this small animal nutrition programme will review the anatomy and physiology of the canine and feline gastrointestinal tract and the biochemistry of digestion. There will also be a brief study of the anatomy and physiology of the kidneys and liver, followed by the physiology of calcium and phosphorus homeostasis. The first module of this small animal nutrition programme will review the anatomy and physiology of the canine and feline gastrointestinal tract and the biochemistry of digestion. There will also be a brief study of the anatomy and physiology of the kidneys and liver, followed by the physiology of calcium and phosphorus homeostasis.

Module 02

Basic nutrition and life-stage feeding of cats and dogs

In the second module, you will study the principles of basic nutrition and life-stage feeding. There are naturally some important differences between the nutritional requirements of cats and dogs to consider. This module includes case studies so that you will have an opportunity to practise nutritional calculations.

Module 03

Types of pet food and commercial pet food labelling

The topics for consideration will include pet food analysis and labelling. Pet owners are often bewildered by the information on pet food packaging and veterinary staff require the knowledge and skills to translate this data into everyday language. You will also review pet food choices, discuss raw diets and the impact of feeding on behaviour. This module includes case studies and a wet-lab so that you will have an opportunity to practise nutritional calculations using a wide range of commercial pet food products.

Module 04

Exotic pet nutrition

This module will cover basic anatomy and physiology of rabbits, herbivorous and omnivorous rodents and ferrets. Time will also be spent discussing psittacines and the commonly encountered reptiles and chelonians. The optimum diets of rabbits, herbivorous and omnivorous rodents, ferrets, psittacines and the common reptiles will be discussed and the problems that may occur with incorrect nutrition highlighted.

Clinical nutritional support for the generally ill patient and particular disease conditions will be covered.

Module 05

Key nutritional factors and their importance in clinical cases (part 1)

Using a logical and step by step approach, you will study the key factors involved in the nutritional management of a wide range of frequently encountered clinical conditions in cats and dogs. The topics for consideration will include diseases of the gastrointestinal tract, the pancreas and the skin, anorexia, critical illness, post op feeding and neoplasia. Workshops and case studies will provide you with an opportunity to practise the application of key nutritional principles.

Module 06

Key nutritional factors and their importance in clinical cases (part 2)

This module will cover the nutritional management of major organ failure (liver, kidneys, heart and brain), urolithiasis, lower urinary tract disorders, skeletal and periodontal problems, obesity and some of the common endocrine disorders. Workshops and case studies will provide you with an opportunity to practise the application of key nutritional principles.

For specific learning objectives or further information about this or any of our Nurse Certificate programmes, please visit our website www.improveinternational.com or refer to our Frequently Asked Questions.

Course Modules

Module	Session	Venue	Date & Time	Speakers
Module 01: Anatomy, physiology and biochemistry relating to small animal nutrition Module 02: Basic nutrition and life-stage feeding of cats and dogs	1	Alexandra House, Swindon	24 & 25 September 2018	Kirsty Gwynne (RVN, Cert Ed, C-SQP, V1, MifL, S.A.C. Dip) Claire Derry (VN, C+G SACN)
Module 03: Types of pet food and commercial pet food labelling Module 04: Exotic pet nutrition	2	Alexandra House, Swindon	21 & 22 February 2019	Claire Derry (VN, C+G SACN) Richard Saunders (BVSc BSc CertZooMed DZooMed(Mammalian) MRCVS)
Module 05: Key nutritional factors and their importance in clinical cases (part 1) Module 06: Key nutritional factors and their importance in clinical cases (part 2)	3	Alexandra House, Swindon	09 & 10 May 2019	Clare Spencer (BVetMed MRCVS)

Course Fees

	Net Price	VAT	Total cost
All six modules	£750.00	£150.00	£900.00*
Two consecutive modules	£262.50	£52.50	£315.00
Individual modules	£137.50	£27.50	£165.00

We have various payment methods available, including credit card, online payment, bank transfer or we can invoice your practice on receipt of an email from an authorised person.

The amounts for direct debit are:

Net Price	VAT	Total cost	12 monthly payments
£750.00	£150.00	£900.00*	£75.00

*If you want to enrol for the exam there is a fee of £250 (no VAT) payable to the European School of Veterinary Postgraduate Studies (ESVPS) for those sitting the exam.

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What's the easiest way to register?

If you are paying by credit card the easiest way to register is online through our website or by phone. We can take all the details and process your card payment there and then.

To book your place call 01793 759159 or visit www.improveinternational.com

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