The main professional body for Vets is the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

Who has to do it and why?
There are around 20,000 Vets and Veterinary Nurses working in the UK. All practising veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses (VNs) listed on the RCVS Register must complete the minimum CPD requirement, regardless of whether they are working full-time or part-time.

The RCVS Codes of Professional Conduct state that all vets and VNs are obliged to maintain and continue to develop their professional knowledge and skills. CPD is therefore mandatory for all vets and VNs and should be seen as the continuous progression of capability and competence in order to effectively deliver veterinary services to animals.

How much do you need to do?
Vets need to undertake a minimum of 105 hours of CPD in any three-year period with an average of 35 hours per year.
VNs need to complete a minimum of 45 hours of CPD in any three-year period with an average of 15 hours per year.

What counts as CPD?
Most vets and VNs engage in a wide range of CPD activities. Any activities undertaken in order to further professional competence as part of a planned development programme can be counted towards CPD.
THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES CAN COUNT TOWARDS FORMAL CPD FOR VETS:

- Attending organised courses, lectures or seminars
- Shadowing someone or being mentored in your own practice or in another practice
- Participating in ‘learning sets’ – informal networks of colleagues who learn together, for example, by comparing and discussing case reports
- In-house training
- Secondments to other practices
- Critical reading of veterinary journals and other relevant publications – keeping a reading diary/notes
- Research, including research in preparation for giving lectures/seminars/presentations

OTHER PROFESSIONAL BODIES...

There are many professional bodies and associations for Vets and Veterinary Nurses, below lists a few of the main ones. Professional bodies are also CPD course providers and a good source of information to find out how to meet annual CPD requirements

- British Veterinary Association (BVA) – The BVA has a membership base of over 16,000 and offer a range of courses to complete CPD. Their comprehensive national CPD programme, developed in association with In Practice, features clinical courses across disciplines and a range of non-clinical courses to develop businesses and personal skills.

- Royal Veterinary College (RVC) – The RVC’s CPD Unit is the UK’s largest academic provider of educational services to the veterinary community and the courses offered range from seminars, lectures, interactive case-based discussions, practical hands on sessions and courses based entirely online.

- British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) – Already Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) will be complying with the RCVS required amount of CPD. This states that RVNs should complete an average of 45 hours of continuing professional development (CPD) over a three-year period.

- British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) – The BSAVA offers a range of courses to complete CPD and members can also book onto a webinar and take part in our Professional Key Skills online CPD.
Here is a list of resources and events that the CPD Standards Office recommend Vets and Veterinary nurses attending to help complete CPD annual requirements:

**The London Vet Show**

The London Vet Show is being held on the 15th-16th November 2018. It is for veterinary professionals involved in all aspects of small and large animal veterinary work. Offering world class CPD at a fraction of the cost of typical events, the London Vet Show is conveniently located in London over two days. Annual show that tours around the world stopping in London, Paris, Koln and New York.

**The British Veterinary Association**

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) has a section on their website which lists all the upcoming events and CPD events for the year. This is a good way to see a selection of what’s on and to fulfil your CPD requirements for the CPD year.

**Vet Festival**

Vet Festival is being held in Loseley Park in Surrey on the 8th-9th June 2018. It is an annual event for the veterinary world to come together to hear, learn and network with the very best practitioners, visionaries and thought leaders of the world to discuss small animal veterinary medicine. This event is certified by the CPD Standards Office. If you attend the 2-day conference it is 14 CPD hours and if you attend just 1 day it is 7 CPD Hours. Certificates are issued onsite at the event, which can then be kept by the individual to show the CPD hours gained from attending.

**MAGAZINES FOR VETS**

There are a variety of magazines that Vets can read and provide some CPD reading. Here is a list of the best ones:

- Veterinary Practice
- Vets Times
- Official Vet Magazine
MARKETING FOR VETS 🐾

Veterinary Marketing Association – The Veterinary Marketing Association is the representative body for professionals who make it their business to stay in touch with what’s happening in animal health marketing today, and to achieve excellence in their marketing of animal health products and services.

The VMA is a national non-profit membership organisation comprised of marketers from over 50 companies, dedicated to enabling VMA members to achieve marketing excellence by:

- Increasing the standards in marketing through the provision of bespoke animal health marketing training
- Bringing veterinary marketers together, providing networking opportunities
- Recognition and celebration of marketing excellence

TRAINING PROVIDERS AND VETS CPD 🐾

- Vets and Veterinary Nurses are a great profession to train. CPD is not topic specific and have annual/regular reviews, so there is a big demand for it.
- New forms and delivery markets are being developed for CPD activities, e.g. Vets Festival. So the Professional Development Consortium encourages training providers to think outside traditional models.
- As a training provider, you may well know a local vet, so don’t hesitate to have a conversation and find out their training and CPD needs.
- Every Vet Practice is a mini business with sales, operational and financial needs. How can your training help out?