

BVNA Honorary Membership awarded to deserving VN's

The British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) awarded two of its member's honorary membership during their recent award's ceremony held at the BVNA Congress.

Both Joy Howell and Jill Nute were elected BVNA Honorary Membership for all their hard work and support in the profession over the years.

Joy Howell

Joy qualified as a veterinary nurse back in 1985 from the RVC in London, she then moved on to private practice and then the PDSA in the midlands. During this time Joy spent time as a BVNA Regional Co-ordinator and was a BVNA Council Member from 1988 – 1991.

She studied and gained her Diploma in Advanced Surgical Nursing in 1992 and spent a term of office on the RCVS VN Committee. She then took on a number of roles including locum nursing, pet sitting, VN lecturer and D32/33 trainer and was an examiner for the VN practical exams for a number of years.

Joy has also been part of the veterinary team at Crufts since 1989 and has helped to co-ordinate the microchipping event at the show.

Her CPD continued as she developed interests in homoeopathy and was amongst the first Veterinary Nurses allowed to attend the first year of the Veterinary Course and after having successfully achieved her PHCE (VN) exams became eligible to enrol as an associate member of the faculty of Homoeopathy.

Joy has worked as a lecturer for Bayer Animal Health and took up her present role as Customer Relations Co-Ordinator at the head office in Newbury in 2002.

Jill Nute

Jill Nute graduated from Liverpool University in 1970 and has spent all her working life in mixed practice, first as an assistant in the Lake District, then Hereford and Worcester, before starting a new practice in Wadebridge, Cornwall, with her husband, Geoff, in 1976.

Part of starting a new practice with no staff is that you have to do everything yourself, so scrubbing floors, developing x-rays, doing accounts, prepping, operating and clearing up as well as cleaning the toilet and washing coffee mugs were all part of it. As the practice grew, so staff were gradually acquired, but it was not until the move to new purpose built premises in 1998 that the practice was able to start VN training.

During her time as RCVS President and as a member of VN Council Jill has tried to raise the profile of Veterinary Nursing, encourage the involvement of VNs in different aspects of veterinary life, such as Vet Helpline and the VSHSP, and show that successful Veterinary Practice depends on properly qualified staff who are happy in their work, valued for their contribution, respected for their professionalism, and ENJOY what they are doing!



Joy Howell (left) and Jill Nute