

# THE IVNA CONGRESS 2026



---

23rd & 24<sup>th</sup> May

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Midlands park hotel, Portlaoise

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CVE CREDITS PENDING at time of printing—Saturday 7 credits pending, Sunday 9 credits pending. All details in this programme were correct at the time of printing. The IVNA reserves the right to change or amend the arrangements without prior notice.

**IVNA, 13 The Courtyard, Kilcarbery Park, Nangor Road, Dublin 22**  
**www.ivna.ie enquiries@ivna.ie 086-787 0092**

# Welcome

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual IVNA Congress 2026

Dear Veterinary Nurses & Student VNs,

We are delighted to announce that our 16th Annual IVNA Congress will take place in the Midlands Park Hotel on Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May 2026. Last year's Congress was a huge success, and we would like to sincerely thank everyone who contributed to making the event such an achievement.

This year, the committee has developed a comprehensive educational programme, once again featuring multiple streams and practical sessions, offering delegates an excellent variety of topics.

The Saturday programme will include two streams covering Medical and Surgical Nursing.

Following on from the positive feedback received at last year's event, we will continue with the updated practical session format. This means that all delegates will have the opportunity to participate in each of the three educational streams. Please note that places for the Sunday programme are limited, so we encourage early registration to avoid disappointment.

We would also like to extend our sincere thanks to our Gold Sponsors, Royal Canin® and Allianz, whose continued support plays a vital role in making this event possible. We are also grateful to all of our valued exhibitors who are showcasing their products and services throughout the Congress, contributing greatly to the learning and networking opportunities available.

We look forward to welcoming you all and hope to see you there!



*Kellie Pagan RVM*

IVNA Chairperson



## ROYAL CANIN STREAM

**SATURDAY 23RD MAY 2026  
(7 CVE CREDITS PENDING)**



8:30 -9.00	REGISTRATION	
9.00 -10.00	<b>THE IVNA DOES DRUGS! PREMEDICATION &amp; SEDATION DRUGS</b>	Georgina Murphy RVN Dip AVN (Surgical) PG Dip VAA
10.00 -10.30	TEA BREAK	sponsored by ROYAL CANIN® & Allianz
10.30 -11.30	<b>CHALLENGING SURGICAL CASES LESS STRESS, MORE SUCCESS</b>	Mairead Deasy Dip AVN Dip HE CVN RVN
11.30 -12.00	<b>AGM</b>	An update on IVNA activities, key developments, and future plans, with an opportunity for member questions and input.
12.00 -13.00	LUNCH	
13.00 -14.00	<b>REDUCING STRESS IN CPR</b>	Samantha Thompson RVN GradDipVN CertVN ECC DET TAQA
14.00 -15.00	<b>THE SEPTIC PATIENT: RECOGNITION AND NURSING MANAGEMENT</b>	Susan Ryan Bsc(hons)VN, CertVNECC, Ncert(anaesth), VTS(ECC)
15.00 -15.30	TEA BREAK	sponsored by ROYAL CANIN® & Allianz
15.30 -16.30	<b>ABDOMINAL EMERGENCIES – LESS STRESS, MORE STABILISATION</b>	Olivia Flanagan BSC(HONS) VNECC DIPFN NCert (TMedNsg) RVN
16.30 -17.30	DISCUSSION PANEL	

8:30 - 9.00	REGISTRATION	
9.00 - 10.00	<b>DKA MANAGEMENT AND NURSING CONSIDERATIONS</b>	Susan Ryan Bsc(hons)VN, CertVNECC, Ncert(anaesth), VTS(ECC)
10.00 - 10.30	TEA BREAK	sponsored by ROYAL CANIN® & Allianz
10.30 - 11.30	<b>CONTINUOUS INFUSION CONUNDRUMS</b>	Georgina Murphy RVN Dip AVN (Surgical) PG Dip VAA
11.30 - 12.00	<b>AGM</b>	An update on IVNA activities, key developments, and future plans, with an opportunity for member questions and input.
12.00 - 13.00	LUNCH	
13.00 - 14.00	<b>HOSPITALISATION, HANDLING AND CRITICAL CARE OF EXOTIC PATIENTS</b>	Dr Bobby Ortiz BA, BSc, MVB, GPCert/PgC (ExAP), MRCVS, RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Zoological Medicine
14.00 - 15.00	<b>VENIPUNCTURE AND IV/IO: TIPS AND TRICKS FOR SUCCESS</b>	Dr Bobby Ortiz BA, BSc, MVB, GPCert/PgC (ExAP), MRCVS, RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Zoological Medicine
15.00 - 15.30	TEA BREAK	sponsored by ROYAL CANIN® & Allianz
15.30 - 16.30	<b>COMPANSSION FATIGUE VS BURNOUT RECOGNITION &amp; MANAGEMENT</b>	Aoife Smyth BSc. Veterinary Nursing, BA. (H.Dip) Psychology, M.A. Counselling & Psychotherapy
16.30 - 17.30	<b>DISCUSSION PANEL</b>	



## PRACTICAL STREAMS

**SUNDAY 24TH MAY 2026  
(9 CVE CREDITS PENDING)**

### GROUP 1

9.00-9.30	REGISTRATION	
9.30-11.00	<b>ARE YOU CPR READY?</b>	Samantha Thompson RVN GradDipVN CertVN ECC DET TAQA
11.00-12.30	<b>LIFELINES IN PRACTICE: CVC PLACEMENT &amp; CARE, NG TUBE PLACEMENT, UC PLACEMENT AND MANAGEMENT</b>	Susan Ryan Bsc(hons)VN, CertVNECC, Ncert(anaesth), VTS(ECC)
12.30 -13.30	LUNCH	
13.30 -15.00	<b>HERPETOFAUNA CARE ESSENTIALS</b>	James Hennessy, BSc & Joanna Santos, BSc, MSc
15.00	CLOSE	



### GROUP 2

9.00-9.30	REGISTRATION	
9.30-11.00	<b>LIFELINES IN PRACTICE: CVC PLACEMENT &amp; CARE, NG TUBE PLACEMENT, UC PLACEMENT AND MANAGEMENT</b>	Susan Ryan Bsc(hons)VN, CertVNECC, Ncert(anaesth), VTS(ECC)
11.00-12.30	<b>HERPETOFAUNA CARE ESSENTIALS</b>	James Hennessy, BSc & Joanna Santos, BSc, MSc
12.30 -13.30	LUNCH	
13.30 -15.00	<b>ARE YOU CPR READY?</b>	Samantha Thompson RVN GradDipVN CertVN ECC DET TAQA
15.00	CLOSE	



### GROUP 3

9.00-9.30	REGISTRATION	
9.30-11.00	<b>HERPETOFAUNA CARE ESSENTIALS</b>	James Hennessy, BSc & Joanna Santos, BSc, MSc
11.00-12.30	<b>ARE YOU CPR READY?</b>	Samantha Thompson RVN GradDipVN CertVN ECC DET TAQA
12.30 -13.30	LUNCH	
13.30 -15.00	<b>LIFELINES IN PRACTICE: CVC PLACEMENT &amp; CARE, NG TUBE PLACEMENT, UC PLACEMENT AND MANAGEMENT</b>	Susan Ryan Bsc(hons)VN, CertVNECC, Ncert(anaesth), VTS(ECC)
15.00	CLOSE	



## POSTAL REGISTRATION FORM

NAME			
PRACTICE NAME			
POSTAL ADDRESS			
PHONE		MOBILE	
EMAIL			
IVNA MEMBERSHIP NO.		VCI REG NO.	

PLEASE CIRCLE CORRESPONDING BOX TO CONFIRM ATTENDANCE CHOICE

REGISTRATION COSTS	IVNA MEMEBERS		NON-MEMEBERS **		TOTAL
EARLY BIRD RATE DEADLINE 1 <sup>ST</sup> MAY 2026	EARLY BIRD	AFTER 01/05/26	EARLY BIRD	AFTER 01/05/26	
SATURDAY ONLY	€70	€85	€140	€170	
SUNDAY ONLY	€75	€95	€150	€180	
SATURDAY & SUNDAY	€125	€160	€250	€300	
SATURDAY & SOCIAL	€95	€110	€170	€200	
SUNDAY & SOCIAL	€100	€115	€180	€210	
SATURDAY, SUNDAY & SOCIAL	€150	€160	€280	€330	
SOCIAL ONLY	€40	€40	€40	€40	
CONGRESS REGISTRATION TOTAL					€

\*\*JOIN THE IVNA TO AVAIL OF DISCOUNTED RATES AND SAVE MONEY\*\*

SATURDAY STREAM SELECTION :



Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Post to: IVNA, 13 The Courtyard, Kilcarbery Park, Nangor Road, Dublin 22

ONLINE REGISTRATIONS CAN BE MADE AT [WWW.IVNA.IE](http://WWW.IVNA.IE)

For full T's & C's please visit our website or email [administrator@ivna.ie](mailto:administrator@ivna.ie)

**POSTAL IVNA MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**NAME**

**POSTAL ADDRESS**

**PHONE**

**EMAIL**

**\*PLEASE INCLUDE EMAIL ADDRESS AS ALL CORRESPONDENCE IS FORWARDED ELECTRONICALLY**

**QUALIFIED RVN (EXISTING IVNA MEMBER) - FEE €60.00  
(VCI REGISTERED NURSES AND QVN'S WITH PROOF OF QUALIFICATION)**

**VCI REG NO.**

**QUALIFIED RVN (NEW IVNA MEMBER) - FEE €65.00  
(VCI REGISTERED NURSES AND QVN'S WITH PROOF OF QUALIFICATION)**

**VCI REG NO.**

**STUDENT VN - FREE**

**STUDENT NO.**

I enclose €\_\_\_\_\_ membership fee

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Post to: IVNA, 13 The Courtyard, Kilcarbery Park, Nangor Road, Dublin 22

**ONLINE REGISTRATIONS CAN BE MADE AT [WWW.IVNA.IE](http://WWW.IVNA.IE)**

For full T's & C's please visit our website or email [administrator@ivna.ie](mailto:administrator@ivna.ie)



# CONGRESS SPEAKERS



## *Olivia Flanagan BSc (HONS) VNECC DIPFN NCert (TMedNsg) RVN*

Olivia graduated from University College Dublin with Bsc(Hons) in Veterinary Nursing and has since worked exclusively in referral settings since graduation. She initially worked as a Nurse Intern and then a Junior Rotating Nurse at the University Veterinary Hospital in UCD, followed by a stint in the Internal Medicine Departments. Olivia joined Veterinary Specialists Ireland in October 2019 and was promoted to Head Nurse in 2022.

Olivia is passionate about continuing education and empowering other Nurses to utilize their knowledge and skill. She completed her certificate in Emergency and Critical Care in March 2019, followed by an ISFM diploma in Feline Nursing in 2023 and a certificate in transfusion medicine in 2024.



## *Mairead Deasy Dip AVN Dip HE CVN RVN*

Mairead graduated with a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing from UCD in 2007. She attained a Diploma in Higher Education Clinical Veterinary Nursing from Myerscough College in 2012, followed by the RCVS Advanced Diploma in Veterinary Nursing in 2013. Mairead has worked in referral practice for over twenty years and was delighted to join the Veterinary Specialists Ireland nursing team in May 2023.

Mairead enjoys all aspects of surgical nursing and has a particular interest in anaesthesia and advanced care of spinal and orthopaedic patients. Mairead is the head nurse in Veterinary Specialists Cork.



# CONGRESS SPEAKERS

## *Dr. Bobby Ortiz, BA, BSc, MVB, GPCert/PgC (ExAP), MRCVS RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Zoological Medicine*



Dr. Bobby Ortiz is an RCVS Advanced Practitioner in Zoological Medicine at Veterinary Specialists Ireland, Ireland's most advanced multidisciplinary referral hospital. He leads the care of exotic companion animals in both referral and first-opinion settings, working with avian species, small mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish.

With a strong focus on advanced diagnostics, surgery, anaesthesia, and critical care, Bobby combines clinical depth with a practical, team-based approach to patient

management. He has completed extensive postgraduate training in exotic animal medicine and is currently an experiential resident with the American College of Zoological Medicine (ACZM). He is passionate about translating complex, evidence-based information into accessible, applicable knowledge for the wider veterinary team. Through lecturing, media work, and educational outreach, Bobby is committed to advancing standards in zoological companion animal medicine and championing the vital role veterinary nurses play in achieving exceptional patient care and outcomes

## *Georgina Murphy RVN Dip AVN (Surgical) PG Dip VAA*



Georgina qualified in the UK in 1988. After working in hospital and emergency practice there, she moved to Ireland in 2006. After a period in 1st opinion practice Georgina joined the UCDVH as Senior Anaesthesia Nurse. After 12 years in this role Georgina left to pursue, research, teaching, and mentoring roles in the Vet school and general practice clinics. She achieved the post graduate Diploma in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia from Edinburgh Veterinary School

in 2023. A previous IVNA committee member and Chairperson, Georgina is now a member of the Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists Nurse committee. Georgina is a regular speaker at Veterinary conferences and for Duggan CPD.



# CONGRESS SPEAKERS



*Susan Ryan Bsc (hons) VN, CertVNECC,  
Ncert (anaesth), VTS (ECC)*

I'm a long time emergency and critical care fanatic. I have spent the last ten years specializing in emergency work and have had the pleasure of working in large hospitals such as the RVC with some of the most knowledgeable people with access to amazing equipment and veterinary care. I've also spent time locuming both in Ireland and the UK gaining as much exposure to ECC work in a wide variety of environments as possible. Having spent the past several years in the UK pursuing my career in ECC and ICU nursing, and gaining my ECC, and anaesthesia certificates and a VTS in ECC I have made the move back to Ireland to pursue a career as an Head Veterinary Nurse with the goal of promoting the wide variety of skills and career paths a veterinary Nurse can achieve.



*Samantha Thompson RVN GradDipVN CertVN  
ECC DET TAQA*

Sam is an experienced registered veterinary nurse with a background in teaching, training and supporting nurses within practice. She spent most of her career working in a large referral hospital, North Downs Specialist Referrals as Wards Supervisor. Previous roles include Medical Quality Manager and former RCVS PSS Assessor. In her time in practice, she overhauled induction programme supporting new joiners and developed a supportive onboarding programme for all team members. She holds her Graduate Diploma, her ECC Certificate, is a trained teacher and a level 7 in Coaching and Mentoring. She created the PetMed CPR Education Company in 2024, and it has grown to 6 trainers all RECOVER Rescuer trained. The company delivers high quality CPR training across the UK. The company is an approved training centre and provides a range of courses.



# CONGRESS SPEAKERS



*Aoife Smyth*  
*BSc. Veterinary Nursing, B.A. (H.Dip) Psychology,*  
*M.A. Counselling & Psychotherapy*

Aoife is a former RVN turned Psychotherapist with a deep commitment to supporting the mental wellbeing of Veterinary professionals. Holding a BA (H.Dip) in Psychology and an MA in Counselling & Psychotherapy, she delivers lectures and workshops to Veterinary teams and students nationwide, alongside running a thriving private psychotherapy practice. She provides one-to-one psychotherapy both in person and online, and is privileged to teach and engage with students in

UCD's School of Veterinary Medicine throughout the academic year. Passionate about widening access to mental health care & education within the profession, Aoife also hosts The Vetglow Podcast, available on all major podcast platforms, and shares evidence-informed insights and resources on both her Instagram page @athenasmindtherapy and TikTok @theveterinarytherapist.



*James Hennessy, BSc*

James Hennessy is a leading figure in Irish reptile conservation and education, and holds a BSc from the University of Oxford. By combining field experience, entrepreneurship, and a lifelong passion for reptiles, he transformed a personal collection into Ireland's only dedicated reptile zoo, helping introduce thousands of visitors each year to species that are often misunderstood.

He is involved with international conservation efforts, such as with Liana Trust in India, which enables community-led conservation and rural education in an effort to reduce human-wildlife conflict and with the National Geographic in Venezuela to monitor anacondas.



*Joanna Santos, BSc, MSc*

Joanna Santos is the Collections Manager at The National Reptile Zoo and a veterinary professional who attained a Masters in Veterinary Science at University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro, Portugal, and a Bachelor of Science in Biology at Porto University. In her role working with the zoo's animal collections, she contributes to the health management, husbandry, and welfare of a diverse range of reptiles, invertebrates and amphibians.

Through veterinary collaboration and animal-care practice, she supports the zoo's conservation, education, and public-engagement programmes, which aim to increase awareness of reptile biology and the ecological importance of the zoo's species.



**THE NATIONAL REPTILE ZOO**

CONSERVATION | EDUCATION | EXPLORATION

JOIN US FOR OUR

# GALA DINNER

7.30PM

*& Awards night*

ENJOY AN UNFORGETTABLE EVENING OF CELEBRATION AT OUR AWARDS AND GALA DINNER, RECOGNISING THE EXCEPTIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS AND COMMITMENT OF VETERINARY NURSES THROUGHOUT IRELAND.

WE ARE PROUD TO PRESENT TWO DISTINGUISHED AWARDS ON THE NIGHT

**IRISH VETERINARY NURSE OF THE YEAR**  
**STUDENT VETERINARY NURSE OF THE YEAR**

THESE AWARDS ARE MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR MAIN SPONSORS, ROYAL CANIN AND ALLIANZ, WHOSE CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP HELPS SHINE A LIGHT ON THE VITAL ROLE OF VETERINARY NURSES IN ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE.



WE ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE THAT FOLLOWING THIS YEAR'S CONGRESS DINNER, WE WILL CONTINUE THE CELEBRATIONS WITH BINGO LOCO AS OUR ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE EVENING.

OUR PRE-DINNER DRINKS HAVE BEEN KINDLY SPONSORED BY MSD.





# JOIN THE EQUINE VETERINARY NURSE SUB-COMMITTEE

## OBJECTIVES OF THE COMMITTEE



### CREATE CPD CONTENT

Develop engaging and informative Continuing Professional Development (CPD) resources tailored specifically for equine veterinary nurses.



### ASSESS PROFESSIONAL NEEDS

Identify key areas for improvement within the equine veterinary nursing profession.



### EXPAND SCOPE

Advocate for the expansion of roles and responsibilities for equine veterinary nurses in Ireland.

Are you passionate about equine healthcare? Do you want to play a vital role in shaping the future of equine veterinary nursing in Ireland?

# REASONS TO JOIN

- **Networking Opportunities:** Connect with fellow equine veterinary nurses, veterinarians, and industry experts.
- **Impactful Contribution:** Be part of a proactive committee dedicated to making a difference in the lives of equine patients and Nurses.
- **Share Your Expertise:** Contribute your knowledge, skills, and experiences to help us develop relevant CPD content and identify areas of improvement within the profession.
- **Visibility and Recognition:** Joining the committee offers a platform to champion the vital role of equine nursing, raise awareness of the unique challenges and opportunities within the profession.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Get in touch with any of the ivna committee members or contact [dominiqueivna@gmail.com](mailto:dominiqueivna@gmail.com)



Join Us Today and Be a Catalyst for Change in  
Equine Veterinary Nursing!



# Testimonials

Legal  
Support  
Scheme



#### **Contract issue**

Eoin was very helpful pointed out all the reasons not to sign that contract and I've had a meeting with my bosses since and I have to give it all in writing to them and they will put it to the HR company and see about getting things changed.



#### **Bullying & Harrasment**

I do believe this is a vital service and even just to be part of the ivna and know this service is available gives you some peace of mind and support.



#### **Disciplinary Issue**

I firmly believe that veterinary nurses should be better supported with access to legal resources, so they are not left feeling that resignation is their only option.

We are pleased to highlight the continuation of the free legal support scheme available to veterinary nurses within our organisation. This scheme provides access to essential legal guidance and support in professional matters.

It is vital that veterinary nurses join and support the association to ensure the continuation of this important service.



Provided by

**Powderly**  
— SOLICITORS LLP —

Powderly Solicitors LLP is a full-service, multi-branch law firm with offices located in Clane, Kilcock, Maynooth, and Prosperous in County Kildare, as well as in Rathmines, Dublin.

HELP SUPPORT OUR  
**CHARITY  
OF THE  
YEAR**



**Kildare  
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**KILDARE WLDLIFE RESCUE ARE A VOLUNTEER-RUN CHARITY ORGANISATION DEDICATED TO THE RESCUE, REHABILITATION, AND RETURN OF INJURED, SICK AND ORPHANED WILDLIFE IN KILDARE AND BEYOND. THEIR DEDICATED TEAM OF OVER 100 VOLUNTEERS WORK HARD TO MINIMISE THE SUFFERING OF IRELAND'S WILDLIFE. THEIR AIM IS ALWAYS TO RETURN ANIMALS IN THEIR CARE TO THE WILD.**

***AS OUR CHARITY OF THE YEAR, WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WORK CLOSELY WITH KILDARE WILDLIFE RESCUE TO SUPPORT AND AMPLIFY THE INCREDIBLE WORK THEY DO. OVER THE COMING YEAR, WE WILL BE COLLABORATING ON A RANGE OF FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO RAISE BOTH VITAL FUNDS AND AWARENESS OF THEIR SERVICES WITHIN THE VETERINARY NURSING COMMUNITY.***

REGISTERED CHARITY NUMBER  
20206578

# OUR SPONSORS





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