

Ashley Wemple

"I love the way it's created a sense of unity in one field of nursing"

One of the very first cohort to complete the Certificate, **Ashley** began her nursing training onsite in an American practice in 2001, gaining her Bachelor's degree in Animal Science in 2003. She then became an RVN through the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2008 and now works in **Vets Now Gateshead clinic**.

After completing the Certificate, **the biggest take home for Ashley, has been the incredibly positive impact it has had on her and her nursing colleagues.**

She explains: "Personally I love seeing the nursing profession specialise in this way. It's taking something I have devoted my life to and creating a 'real' profession out of it. Now there's a group of nurses out there who are interested in the same things as I am. **I love the way it's created a sense of unity in one field of nursing.**"

One particular case stands out for Ashley and provided a great opportunity to put her learning into action.

She remembers: "I was involved with a whole blood transfusion in a cat. It's not something I'd ever done before; I had only read about it and with oxyglobin out there for the majority of my training, it was never really needed. I referred back to my notes on typing and crossmatching, refreshing my memory about donor cat requirements and amounts of blood to take and give, etc. It was a big success."

Like many of her fellow graduates, **Ashley's training has increased her confidence as an ECC nurse and she urges any nurses thinking of joining this training course to do it.**

She adds: "It has given me that official 'specialty' that I had always felt before as I had a specific interest in ECC medicine, but never really had anything on paper to make it official.

"I think the ECC training could be useful to a nurse even if they don't intend to work in ECC permanently. Day practices deal with emergencies where a nurse with a few extra skills could come in handy."

Ashley has in the last few months become a tutor for the Cert VN ECC students and hopes to pass on some of her learning, knowledge and encouragement as she mentors new intakes of Cert VN students.