

# Is your delegation

# SUPERB?

**A six-point checklist for veterinary surgeons wishing to delegate work to registered/student veterinary nurses under Schedule 3\***

## S

### PECIFIC PROCEDURE?

**Is the procedure medical treatment or minor surgery, not involving entry into a body cavity?**

- a. Remember, certain things are off-limits, including: independent medical treatment or minor surgery, major surgery, diagnosis, certification, castrations, spays, and dental extractions using instruments.



## U

### NDER CARE?

**Is the animal under your care?**

- a. Has the client given you responsibility for the animal's health?
- b. Have you seen the animal immediately before delegation, or recently enough to have personal knowledge of its condition?



## P

### ERSON?

**Can you delegate to this person?**

- a. Under Schedule 3, you can only delegate medical treatment and minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity) to RVNs and SVNs, not to lay people.



## E

### XPERIENCE?

**Does the RVN/SVN feel capable, and have sufficient competence and experience?**

- a. Are they familiar with the species?
- b. If they have not done this procedure before, have they had the right training and will they be supervised?
- c. If there is a problem, do they know what to do?



## R

### ISKS?

**Have you considered the risks specific to this case?**

- a. How difficult is the procedure?
- b. How likely is it that something could go wrong?
- c. Does the RVN/SVN understand the associated risks?



## B

### E THERE!

**Are you available to direct or supervise, as necessary?**

- a. RVNs must work under your direction, ie you have provided the necessary instructions about the task to be performed, but you do not have to be on the premises.
- b. SVNs must work under your supervision
  - i. For medical treatment, you need to be on the premises and available to assist.
  - ii. For minor surgery (not involving entry into a body cavity), you must stay with the SVN and give them your undivided personal attention



[www.rcvs.org.uk/schedule3](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/schedule3)

\*Under Schedule 3 to the Veterinary Surgeons Act, only registered veterinary nurses and student veterinary nurses have the privilege to perform certain procedures in veterinary practice, as delegated to them by you, a veterinary surgeon colleague employed in the same practice. Make sure your delegation is SUPERB!

**RCVS** SETTING VETERINARY STANDARDS