



### Anne Nonny RVN

Anne is an experienced veterinary nurse who has worked in a variety of clinical and non-clinical settings. She is passionate about a range of veterinary nursing related topics, including dog welfare. The fee for this article has been used to support the welfare of street dogs in Romania, by providing much needed veterinary care. She can be contacted via the BVNA if you would like further information.

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# It could NEVER happen to a Veterinary Nurse ... A bizarre tale of avoided fractures and un-avoided embarrassment!

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Clients. Sometimes the veterinary nurse's mind boggles at the bizarre situations that clients seem to find themselves IN. This would never happen to us, we often think. Think again! This is the true story of how one veterinary nurse gained a new appreciation for how misfortune can beset our clients ...

### Night nurses like to read ...

Summer 2004. A summer of promise, sun and good times. Alas, for our veterinary nurse these were not forthcoming. Match.com. Most people meet soul mates and partners, our veterinary nurse met eccentrics, crazies and men with a fetish for Barbara Windsor and the Carry On movies. She cursed and wondered about the wisdom of writing a dating profile while under the influence of the red and egged on by the next-door neighbour. She sighed, placed the copy of *Hot Sex* (by the aptly named Tracy Cox) on the coffee table, ready to return to her neighbour. The book was about as much use now as a walking stick is to a boa constrictor. She could have it back. Not now though, today she needed to race off to her locum emergency clinic night job a 2-hour drive away, where she was working one week on, one week off and staying away from home. *Hot Sex* could wait. She grabbed her away bag, her three dogs and her B&B reading for that week: *Stiff*, a humorous anthology of options for the dead body. Highly recommended, the author has a delicious wit, as our veterinary nurse learnt that week as she pondered whether she wanted her body to be a crash car

dummy or a medical school aid. Night vet nurses: warped humour besets them all (Figure 1).

### Coffee tables: a novel way to restrain dogs

One week later she returned, exhausted, and fell through the front door. She dumped her away bag, released the dogs and placed the now read copy of *Stiff* on the coffee table. She then took a shower. While showering the doorbell rang. Zombie-like, she clambered out of the bath, wrapped a towel around her and opened the front door to meet her best friend Lisa. Fun-loving and just a bit crazy, everyone loved Lisa, even the dogs, who immediately began to jump all over her, desperate for some fuss. With every leap a bit higher and a bit more manic, Dyson, the elderly arthritic Border collie slipped on the laminate flooring, somersaulted into the air, and crashed back down to the floor. Slightly more problematic was the contact he made with the coffee table. A heavy wrought iron affair, with a glass top and ornate metal curls as feet, Dyson managed to slip his leg through a wrought iron curl, and wedged his carpus firmly within the metal curl. With that he panicked – badly. Very badly. As he twisted and turned, the imagination saw what only a veterinary nurse working in emergency medicine could see: a fracture, nay a comminuted fracture, nay, a comminuted open fracture, ... an amputation, ... She quickly grabbed her dog and pinned him to the floor doggy-style to immobilise the leg and prevent disaster from striking. Lisa and our veterinary nurse then tried

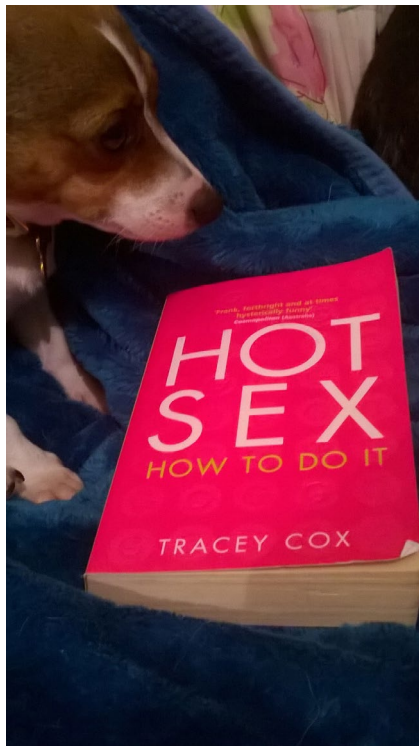


Figure 1. *Hot Sex* – it's not for everyone ...

to free the leg but, try as they might, the coffee table would not budge and the leg was beginning to swell (Figure 2).

## Swimming in a faecal soup is not good

Finally, our veterinary nurse had a brain-wave. "There is a vet practice just down the road, pass me the phone and I will call them. Explain the situation. Ask for a sedative. You run down there in the meantime." Lisa nodded and passed the veterinary nurse the phone, and left the house. With that Dyson began to panic again and started to eliminate. Faeces and urine began to spill out across the laminate flooring as the dog and veterinary nurse



Figure 2. Coffee table legs are not recommended for restraining dogs

couplet began to slip and slide in a quagmire of eliminatory soup. Undeterred, our quick-thinking veterinary nurse whipped her towel off to soak up the waste. She was now totally naked, restraining the dog doggy-style, with the copies of *Hot Sex* and *Stiff* sat on the coffee table beside them ....

## A genuine emergency call?

Still restraining the dog and unable to move she rang the vets. Explained – most – of the situation to the vet at the end of the phone. It started promising. But then he said "I am sorry, I know you say you are veterinary nurse, but I don't know this. I will have to do a house visit." "Ah" said the veterinary nurse, "there is something else you need to know, I am totally butt naked and restraining the dog doggy-style." There was silence, then some laughter, then a lot of laughter, then the vet's cackles were punctuated by Dyson's howls as he began to struggle again. "I am on my way" the vet announced, finally appreciating that this was not a crank wind-up call from his colleagues. This was a serious veterinary emergency. A genuine need for an immediate house visit.

## An unlikely house visit

It seemed like a lifetime before Lisa reappeared but finally the door opened. "The vet is outside" she said, before volunteering she had come in first to save the veterinary nurse's dignity. Her idea of dignity saving was not that of the veterinary nurse's. A luxurious fake animal fur throw was thrown over the shoulders and back of the nurse, adding an air of "porn star in the making" to the whole affair (although with the added effect of engrained real

dog hair lavishly woven through the fake fur). With that, the front door was thrown opening revealing not only a male vet, but another veterinary nurse, and the chaos of any busy pedestrian-occupied inner-city road. The humiliation was now complete (Figure 3).

## Do even porn stars have cellulite?

The veterinary nurse thought rapidly about how to handle this situation. After all, she was currently restraining her dog porn-star style, appropriate literature at the ready, and a boob comfortably dangling down each side of her dog's scapulas, nestled gently in the ruff of neck fur. "Perhaps even porn stars have cellulite and hairy legs" she thought hopefully, while trying to not to be too devastated that the dashing young veterinary assistant should see her under such unfortunate circumstances. It was perhaps a bit forward for a first "date". She even saw images of her mother. Her mother. Her mother with her pearls of wisdom. Wisdom like, "Always wear a clean pair of knickers. You never know when you will get run over by a bus." Advice that was not going to save her this time. This time she would be grateful for any pair of knickers. Greying, boob-hugging, elastic fraying, granny jobs would do perfectly. Granny knickers are the new black, but our veterinary nurse was no trendsetter and her bottom was still bare and cold. And, she still needed to communicate with the vet.

Eventually she elected for the "act normal" approach, thanked the vet for coming, and asked about his ops list for that day. It seemed appropriate. One veterinary professional to another. A bonding session. He played along (as did his veterinary nurse assistant), holding back all evidence of amusement as he tried, face parallel with the "interesting reading material", to unfruitfully to release "Dyson" the dog. The veterinary nurse learnt all about the rabbit that they were about to sedate when the call for help was received. She tried hard to sound fascinated by this important clinical conversation. It was a useful diversion from reality. "How bad is the rabbit's dentition?", she enquired.

## Firemen to the rescue!

Finally, it was agreed: the fire brigade were needed. The only way to free this swollen carpus was with the assistance of the local firemen who would cut him free from the table. These were duly called and, as they



▲ **Figure 3.** Dyson (and friends) reclining on the infamous fake fur throw

made their way to the veterinary nurse's house, a sedative administered. The boobs still bravely tried to restrain Dyson within their grip as he started to slip into a

domitor-induced sleep, but eventually had to admit defeat and take their leading role on the catwalk of humiliation. As the fire engine mounted the pavement outside,

our veterinary nurse was finally able to salvage what little remained of her dignity. She wrapped the fur throw firmly around her and vacated the room to identify more appropriate (and easily available) attire. It is amazing how quickly a used scrub suit can be repurposed.

Dyson was eventually freed without needing to cut him free from the table. The vet and his veterinary nurse were each provided with a bottle of wine to show the veterinary nurse's gratitude (and to buy their silence). A third bottle of wine was drunk that lunchtime by Lisa and the veterinary nurse. It seemed appropriate. And needed – badly.

The moral of the story? Unfathomable mishaps can happen to us all so clemency and understanding is a worthy virtue in a veterinary nurse. Oh, and mother is wrong, sometimes just a pair of knickers will do. They don't need to be clean, just big and capable of covering a lot. Oh, and the veterinary nurse that this tragedy beset? The author of this article. Never say never, it may one day happen to you.

## Exciting News.....BVNA Needs Your Vote!

### BVNA Council Nominations 2017/2018

For the first time since 2013, BVNA have received more nominations than available council seats and asking all full members to cast their votes for no more than two (2) candidates that they wish to be elected onto BVNA Council.

BVNA have received 10 nominees in total for the full (RVN) seats in the coming term and so with just six spaces available are inviting members to have their say on who's representing them!

All candidates' profiles and manifestos along with an online voting form can be found on our website at [www.bvna.org.uk](http://www.bvna.org.uk)

Voting closes on the 16<sup>th</sup> July.....so don't delay have your say on who's representing you & vote online today!

