

evetalent

Vicki's the UK's top vet student nurse

A St Annes girl has gained the highest marks for working with animals.

WORKING with animals is just magic for victorious Vicki Barlow who has just achieved the nation's top marks in her veterinary nursing exams.

Vicki who gained the highest marks of any student at NVQ level three, and also top marks for combined level 2 and 3 studies, will receive a specially engraved nurse's watch to mark her high score from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association at its 2009 awards. Vicki, 32, of St Annes has only ever wanted to work with animals and after leaving Queen Mary School, Lytham, went on to Hartbury College, Gloucestershire, to take a degree in equine studies.

She has been one of the team at Moy Farm Vet Practice in Out Rawcliffe for 10 years, working as a nursing assistant before deciding to train as a nurse. "Now I would like to go on to train as an equine nurse as well," said Vicki, whose daily life in a rural practice brings in all creatures, great and small, as her patients.



AT WORK: Vicki Barlow (left) and Kim French with a dog for X-rays and (right) Vicki rides high

"I have always loved animals which is why I wanted to work with them."

A keen horsewoman she has two horses of her own, Arky and Axle, which she stables in Ballam. "I go to see to them before and after work, it works out well for me," added Vicki, who competes in the showing and dressage arena.

Her vocational nurse training was practice based with day-release to Myerscough College, Bilbottle, and included dealing with basic medication, assisting with radiography, taking blood samples etc.

"It is a job with lots of variety and very rewarding," said Vicki "It's nice to see an animal going out of here happy and healthy, with a happy owner."

When she's not nursing animals back to health, Vicki spends most her time with her own horses but also enjoys running and reading.

Vet Michelle Lingard, who runs Moy Farm in partnership with her husband, Mark, said: "Vicki has worked at Moy Farm Vets for over 10 years. She has always proven herself to be hardworking, intelligent and able to learn quickly. She started with no experience and is now a qualified veterinary nurse who is extremely experienced working with both horses and small animals."

