



Royal College Day

—*Programme*—

I GREAT GEORGE STREET, WESTMINSTER,
LONDON SW1P 3AA

FRIDAY 8 JULY 2022



11.00

Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and Opening Address
2. AGM notification statement and approval of 2021 AGM minutes
3. Presentation of the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2021
4. Questions received from Members
5. Council elections: new members and retirements
6. Date of next AGM: 7 July 2023

RCVS Council meeting

7. Address by RCVS CEO Lizzie Lockett
8. Meeting to elect President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer

12.00

Lunch

13.00

Honours & Awards Ceremony

9. Welcome back and overview of the Honours & Awards presentations
10. Presentation of the Plowright Prize; *Veterinary Evidence* Student Award; RCVS Knowledge Awards for Quality Improvement
11. Presentation of books to the RCVS Knowledge Library from BSAVA
12. Presentation of the Mind Matters Initiative's Sarah Brown Mental Health Research Grant
13. Presentation of the RCVS Student Community Awards
14. Presentation of the RCVS Compassion Awards
15. Presentation of the RCVS Honorary Associateships
16. Presentation of the RCVS International Awards
17. Presentation of the RCVS Impact Awards
18. Presentation of the RCVS Inspiration Awards
19. Presentation of the RCVS Queen's Medal
20. Address from Chair of VN Council
21. Address from RCVS President
22. Investiture of new President and Vice-Presidents
23. Remarks from the new RCVS President
24. Talk from Guest Speaker – Jim Green, Director of Operations at the British Animal Rescue and Trauma Care Association (BARTA)

15.00 – 1600

Afternoon tea

Welcome to Royal College Day 2022

A very warm welcome to Royal College Day 2022 – our first in-person Annual General Meeting and awards celebration for three years! I cannot begin to tell you how much I have been looking forward to today, and seeing everyone face to face once more.

We have all endured so much over the past two years, striven so hard, and made many sacrifices, so it is all the more important to seize opportunities like this to get together, to celebrate our successes and to mark our achievements.

And what breadth and depth of individual and collective achievement we are recognising today!

You can read all about our suite of honours and awards on the following pages, along with full details of this year's very worthy winners. You can also read about the grants and awards made by our charity partner RCVS Knowledge, and the recipients of this year's Sarah Brown Mental Health Research Grants, presented by our Mind Matters Initiative.

As part of our AGM, we will formally present our 2021 Annual Report and Financial Statements, and hear a little more from our Chief Executive Lizzie Lockett about the College's many ongoing activities. We will also be saying thank you and goodbye to our retiring Council members, and welcoming new members to formally take up their seats on RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurses Council.

As my last official duty today, it will then be my honour to invest Melissa Donald as the 151st President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and I wish her all the very best in what I know will be a challenging, exciting and rewarding year ahead.

And finally, to round off a year in which I have been keen to highlight the importance for us all of building connections that count, I am very much looking forward to welcoming and listening to our guest speaker Jim Green, Animal Rescue Specialist and Tactical Advisor with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

I feel very privileged to be able to share this day of celebration with you, and I am particularly conscious that my predecessors, Niall Connell and Mandisa Greene, were not able to enjoy this same experience, and congratulate our award winners in person. I should like to pay particular tribute to them both, and to our CEO Lizzie, for leading and supporting the whole RCVS team throughout what has been one of the most turbulent and challenging periods in the College's long history.



Kate Richards

Dr Kate Richards *BVM&S MRCVS*
President



Changes to RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurses Council

These pages feature a list of all the retiring and incoming members of both RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurses Council, including details of their committee memberships and any other notable positions within the College.



RCVS Council

RETIRING MEMBERS

Dr Mandisa Greene: elected 2014– 2022 (eight years’ service)

President 2020 – 2021, Chair of the Advancement of the Professions Committee, Finance & Resources Committee, Nominations Committee, Registration Committee, Specialist Recognition and Advanced Practitioner Appeals Committee, Standards Committee, Primary Qualifications Subcommittee, Register and Registration Subcommittee (now Registration Committee), Chair of the Brexit Taskforce, Chair of the Covid-19 Taskforce, Chair of the Extra-Mural Studies Co-ordination Liaison Group, Chair of the Practice Standards Group, Chair of the Veterinary Graduate Development Programme, Vice-Chair of the Fellowship Board, Diversity and Inclusion Group, Estates Strategy Group, Legislation Working Party, Officer Team, RCVS Knowledge Board of Trustees, Vet Futures Project Board

Col Neil Smith: elected 2004 – 2008, 2020 - 2022 (16 years’ service)

President 2013 – 2014, Chair of the Specialist Recognition Appeals Committee, Vice-Chair of the Planning and Resources Committee, Vice-Chair of Veterinary Nurses Council, Advisory Committee, Audit and Risk Committee, Nominations Committee, Preliminary Investigation Committee, Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Committee Liaison Committee, Registration Committee, Specialisation and Further Education Committee (now Education Committee), Observer of the Education Committee, Observer of the Education Policy and Specialisation Committee (now Education Committee), Observer of the Standards Committee, Chair of the Riding Establishments Subcommittee, Certification Subcommittee, Chair of the Veterinary Cardiology Board, Legislation Working Party, Operational Board

RETURNING ELECTED MEMBERS

Dr Sue Paterson FRCVS

NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

Olivia Cook MRCVS

Dr Abbie Calow MRCVS

Veterinary Nurses Council

RETIRING MEMBERS

Liz Cox RVN: elected 2011 – 2022 (11 years’ service)

VN Council Chair (2015 – 2018), RCVS Council member, Operational Board, Communications and Public Affairs Board, Practice Standards Group, Standards Committee, Schedule 3 Working Party, Legislation Working Party, CPD Policy and CPD review groups.

Jane Davidson RVN: appointed 2019 – 2022 (three years’ service)

VN Council, CPD Committees, CPD Policy and CPD Review groups, Finance and Resources Committee.

NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS

Holly Witchell RVN

Jessica Beckett RVN



RCVS Honours & Awards

Veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses are expected to meet high standards in order to safeguard animal health and welfare. However, some individuals far exceed expectations and we feel this should be recognised and celebrated through RCVS Honours and Awards. We also like to recognise the achievements of those who have contributed to the health and welfare of animals by working in fields related to the veterinary professions.



The RCVS International Award

We bestowed our International award for the first time in 2017, in order to recognise veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses or lay people who have worked internationally from within or outside the UK. This could involve, for example, raising veterinary standards, veterinary education, improving animal health and welfare, developing leadership, and/or promoting mental health and welfare. Nominations may be made by anyone, including RCVS Council members and staff, and we present up to two awards each year.



The RCVS Queen's Medal

The RCVS Queen's Medal is our most prestigious honour for veterinary surgeons and was launched in 2013 with the kind permission of Her Majesty The Queen. It recognises a veterinary surgeon who has achieved a highly distinguished career, with sustained and outstanding achievements throughout.

Nominations may be made by any Member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (MRCVS) or registered veterinary nurse (RVN), excluding current RCVS Council members. The Queen's Medal is open to all members of the RCVS, although it may be conferred upon only one person annually.



The RCVS Inspiration Award

This award was agreed by RCVS Council in 2017 and is bestowed upon a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse who has recently demonstrated the ability to inspire and enthuse others consistently throughout his or her career. It is open to those who have inspired and motivated individuals, groups or who have worked at a profession-wide level. The award recognises those who have gone 'above and beyond' what may normally be expected from a professional colleague. Nominations can be made by any MRCVS or RVN, excluding current RCVS Council members. Up to two awards may be made in any year.

Honorary Associateship

Honorary Associateship of the College is a prestigious honour that we confer on a small number of non-RCVS members each year, in recognition of their special contribution.

We are keen to recognise the full range of individuals who contribute to the veterinary sphere, for example, veterinary nurses, scientists, lecturers, charity-workers, farriers, farmers and those involved in the commercial field. There would not usually be more than three Honorary Associateships conferred annually.



The RCVS Impact Award

This award was agreed by RCVS Council in 2017 and is bestowed upon a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse who has recently made a considerable impact that has affected the profession at large, animal health or welfare, or public health. Such impact could have been made through any field of veterinary endeavour, including clinical practice, research, education or veterinary politics. Nominations can be made by any MRCVS or RVN, excluding current RCVS Council members. Up to two awards may be made in any year.





The RCVS Compassion Award

This is a new award, bestowed for the first time in 2021, for a veterinary surgeon or veterinary nurse who has demonstrated compassion towards fellow professionals and/or members of the animal-owning public, either as part of a one-off initiative or sustained over a longer period of time. The individual needs to have made a significant impact and shown genuine compassion above and beyond what might have been expected of them as part of their day-to-day work.

Nominations can be made by any MRCVS or RVN, excluding current RCVS Council and VN Council members.



The RCVS Student Community Award

Also bestowed for the first time in 2021, this award recognises a veterinary or veterinary nursing undergraduate or postgraduate student who has made a real effort to support their fellow students and the wider veterinary/veterinary nursing school community, or contributed to their wider local community. This could include, for example, a specific initiative that the student has developed; personal support they have given over a sustained period; or, an outreach programme to the local community.

Nominations may be made by anyone, excluding current RCVS Council and VN Council members, and two awards may be made in any one year.

Once again this year, we are delighted to feature the work of Illustrator Jane Spencer in our Honours and Awards.

Jane's illustrations depict a key element from each Award's criteria (for example, Honorary Associates working side by side with the professions to reach a common destination) and are also laser engraved into the awards themselves.



Presentation of the RCVS Queen's Medal

Professor Mike Herrtage

*MA BVSc DVSc DVR DVD DSAM FRCVS DipECVIM DipECVDI
RCVS and European Specialist in Small Animal Medicine*

Mike Herrtage graduated from the Liverpool University and is now Emeritus Professor of Small Animal Medicine at the University of Cambridge and a Life Fellow of St. Edmund's College, Cambridge. He was a former Dean of the Cambridge Veterinary School and was in charge of the small animal medicine and diagnostic imaging services at the Queen's Veterinary School Hospital. His clinical interests include all aspects of small animal medicine and diagnostic imaging, but he has a particular interest in endocrine and metabolic disorders.

Throughout his career, Professor Herrtage has also been involved in veterinary organisations and governance, for example, he was the first President of the European Board of Veterinary Specialisation and served as President of the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) as well as being an RCVS Council member for 21 years. He has also had an extensive research career and has provided his expertise to charities such as the Kennel Club.

Professor Herrtage has also been President of the British Veterinary Radiology Association and President of the European Society of Veterinary Internal Medicine. He is a Diplomate of both the European College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and of the European College of Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging and was President of the European College of Veterinary Specialisation Award in 2018, for 'outstanding contributions to the course of Veterinary Specialisation in Europe'. He has spoken at many national and international meetings and has published over 200 articles in refereed journals.

His nominator for the Queen's Medal was Webinar Vet founder Anthony Chadwick who said: "Mike has worked at the University of Cambridge from graduation to retirement, showing a great degree of concern for the students and went above and beyond during his time teaching clinical studies to a very high level, even when he became Dean of the vet school. This extended beyond the remit of undergraduates to the many postgraduates who benefitted from his excellence whilst studying for PhDs and Diplomas and Certificates.

"The list of student diplomates reads like a Who's Who of the veterinary profession. Many of these students are now working in academic institutes or referral centres in the UK and further afield. Mike's excellence and commitment as a clinician has not stopped him publishing well over 200 papers in refereed and scientific and professional journals."





Presentation of the RCVS Student Community Award

Paul Gogerty

MRCVS

Paul Gogerty has recently completed his Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery degree at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at the University of Edinburgh and is due to start his first job in mixed practice at the beginning of August. Paul's pathway into a veterinary career began aged 7 when he read about the devastation of worldwide amphibian populations by *Batrachochytrium dendrobatidis* and contacted several researchers to learn more about the issue and to find out how he could help to halt the decline.

During his time at university Paul has shown a commitment to this interest in Conservation Medicine. He has taken part in multiple wildlife pathology projects with species including golden eagles and Scottish wildcats, acted as a committee member for several years for the Dick Vet Wildlife Conservation Society during its creation, participated in a number of field projects including ringing and assessing the health of white-tailed eagle chicks in the Scottish Highlands and, most recently, has organised and helped to run a bespoke set of courses teaching nature connection and field skills to a group of veterinary students.

The nature connection courses taught a new skillset in conservation, nature connection and personal wellbeing in the outdoors to a selected group of veterinary students at the R(D)SVS. They were run with the kind help of Dan Puplett, leading conservationist and environmental educator, and Glen Cousquer, MSc Programme Coordinator in Conservation Medicine and One Health at the University of Edinburgh. Paul organised these courses with the aim of encouraging practices in nature connection within the greater student body and vet school community, championing the importance of time spent in the natural world for our own health and wellbeing.

His nominator, Dr Glen Cousquer, says: "Paul invested considerable time preparing a successful Student Experience Grant application that has allowed us to deliver three intensive and immersive, seasonal, weekend nature awareness courses for twelve undergraduate students. These weekends allowed students to experience and discover the wildlife living on campus and to learn about wildlife tracks and signs, camera trapping, campus biodiversity, species monitoring and surveying and the benefit that nature has for our own mental health and wellbeing."



Presentation of the RCVS Student Community Award

Fergus Mitchell

Fergus Mitchell is currently in his final year at the University of Nottingham and has been a passionate advocate for supporting mental health and wellbeing among veterinary students and the wider profession alike. During his time at Nottingham, he held the position of Welfare Officer and latterly President for the Vet Society. He has used these roles to try and positively impact the community around him and widen discussions around mental health. Fergus has been involved in multiple student-staff collaborations including hosting online panels and talks both virtually and in-person to increase mental health awareness.

During the pandemic, Fergus led many projects and initiatives to help his fellow students, including mental health days, creating support booklets and organising online events. He founded the National Vet Student Wellbeing Week in 2021, alongside fellow student welfare representatives across many UK veterinary schools and the AVS. The week attracted over 1,000 vet students and featured many influential members of the profession such as the RCVS and BVA Presidents. The success of the week resulted in it running for a second time in 2022.

Fergus' dissertation focussed on how physical exercise can impact the mental health and wellbeing of veterinary students, a study which was inspired by the VetFit Project. Fergus has presented the conclusions of this work at various conferences including the RCVS Mind Matters Initiative's Research Symposium and VetEd Conference last year.

His nominator is Georgina Bladon MRCVS, a teaching associate in clinical skills at Nottingham, who said: "We are fortunate at Nottingham to have a student society position of "Student Welfare Officer" – for students interested in mental health to support their peers and promote student wellbeing during their studies. However, Fergus has been an exemplary student for this role, during a challenging year for all veterinary students."





Presentation of the RCVS Compassion Award

Glen Cousquer

BSc(Hons) BVM&S CertZooMed PGDOE MSc (Outdoor Education) MSc (Education Research) PhD MRCVS IML

Glen graduated from the R(D)SVS, in 1997, after completing his BVM&S degree together with an Honours degrees in Preclinical Veterinary Science, focussing on avian respiratory physiology. He subsequently spent time in mixed general practice before specialising in wildlife medicine, working as a Wildlife Veterinary Officer for the RSPCA. In 2003, he completed his Certificate in Zoological Medicine, developing special interests in avian and wildlife medicine. He gained further experience in zoo, wildlife and exotic animal practice as well as in small animal practice and emergency medicine.

In 2007, he returned to the University of Edinburgh to pursue an MSc in Outdoor Education. This built on his existing interests in experiential education, coaching, ecology, environmental education and ethics, and led him to develop training programmes for Mountain Guides that he delivered at the national mountain guide training school, in Morocco, between 2009 and 2014. A further MSc in Education Research followed, with a focus on professionalism in the mountaineering professions. His specific research interest in the health and welfare of pack animals on expedition then led him to develop a doctoral research project on how we know and care for the pack mule in the mountain tourism industry.

He is currently lecturer and MSc programme coordinator in Conservation Medicine and One Health at the University of Edinburgh.

His nominator is Louise Buckley RVN who is Deputy Programme Director for the ChM Urology at the University of Edinburgh and has known and worked with Glen since 2005. She said: "Glen has been a champion for compassion and compassionate listening ever since I have known him. When he first returned to the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies to teach on and coordinate the One Health and Conservation Medicine MSc programmes, I asked him to deliver a unit on self-compassion and self-care for animal carers as part of the Companion Animal Behaviour MSc.

"He delivered this in collaboration with the University Chaplaincy team with whom he collaborates tirelessly to promote a compassionate culture across the wider university. Shortly after this, he became a founding member of the Campus Mental Health and Wellbeing Committee that he has now been chairing since 2020. In this role, he has led and supported a team that provides a regular programme of events to promote staff and student mental health and wellbeing."



Presentation of the RCVS Compassion Award

Katie Moore

BSc (Hons) BVSc (Hons) VN MRCVS

Katie's work embodies compassion, through understanding, empathy and tireless action. Since 2015, Katie has served as a Trustee of the charity, Vetlife, which provides support to veterinary professionals. As the Chair of both Vetlife Health Support and Vetlife Helpline, she provides strategic leadership and governance.

Katie's role in Vetlife has been transformative. She commissioned and pioneered the development of the award-winning Vetlife Health Support service, which offers professional mental health support to vets, veterinary nurses and students. Her energy, commitment, passion for quality and attention to detail are incredible, and evident in the high-quality clinical service now being delivered. From commissioning in 2016 and its launch in 2017, Katie has overseen the Vetlife Health Support delivery.

Further demonstrating the action part of empathy that defines her work, Katie has also been a Vetlife Helpline volunteer for six years, volunteering both as a listening volunteer and supporting leadership of the Helpline. She provides support on safeguarding, governance, training, and management. The difference Katie has made to the veterinary profession is significant, through compassionate leadership and service, and powerful and effective support.

Katie has served in this voluntary role alongside her work as a Claims Advisor for the Veterinary Defence Society, and is also a researcher at the University of Edinburgh as part of a project team investigating veterinary suicide prevention.

Her nominator is Rosie Allister, Vetlife Helpline Manager, who said: "Katie's work embodies compassion, through understanding, empathy and tireless action. She has achieved change which has touched the lives of many veterinary professionals. With the humility that is characteristic of her, this contribution is substantial but largely unseen. Katie's role in Vetlife has been transformative. She commissioned and pioneered the development of the award-winning Vetlife Health Support service, which offers professional mental health support to vets, veterinary nurses and students. Her energy, commitment, passion for quality and attention to detail are incredible, and evident in the high-quality clinical service now being delivered."





Presentation of the RCVS Honorary Associateship

Norma Chapman

While reading zoology at London University Norma joined the Universities Federation for Animal Welfare. After attaining a Postgraduate Certificate in Education her first employment was with UFAW, a role that included supporting the student branches in six universities and arranging their annual congress.

From UFAW she moved to natural history and educational work in museums until 1968 when she married her husband Donald and then taught in Newmarket. Donald, a biochemist, was employed at the Horse Racing Forensic Lab, then part of the Animal Health Trust. He was a keen naturalist and they were already observing the fallow deer on a private estate and ear-tagging newly born fallow and red deer in Richmond Park. This tagging continued for 12 seasons: they collected heads and lower limbs of culled deer and whole road kills. In large enclosures at home, they kept muntjac to gain information on reproduction, antler cycle and behaviour and obtained road accident muntjac at a time when virtually nothing was known of this species.

Following Donald's tragic death in 1982, their friends gave amazing support so that their field study in the King's Forest, Suffolk could continue. This research involved netting muntjac, some being fitted with radio-collars, and a large band of volunteers was needed on catching days and at weekends much of the radio tracking was carried out by two key members.

Three PhD students, under the supervision of Stephen Harris of Bristol, carried out their field work.. Norma continued to carry out post-mortem examinations on scores of road casualty muntjac from various localities. Data from organs and tissues of fallow and muntjac have resulted in more than thirty papers to date. All red and fallow skeletal material from Richmond Park and Essex is now in the National Museum of Scotland.

Her nominator is Professor John Cooper FRCVS who says: "Throughout her life Norma has been an advocate for the profession. She has collaborated with veterinary practitioners, academics and those working in pharmaceutical companies, including anatomists, epizootiologists, pathologists, parasitologists and toxicologists. She has always willingly and unstintingly provided material (tissues and scientific data) for veterinary and biological research projects."



Presentation of the RCVS Honorary Associateship

Joyce Wason

Joyce has worked at the University of Glasgow for the past 34 years – initially in the Radiation Protection Service before moving to the Senate Office and in 1994 she joined the School of Veterinary Medicine. She was the Director of Admissions and Student Support Manager until her recent retirement in May 2022. A unique role which has allowed Joyce to be involved in so many veterinary journeys from admission to graduation, and beyond.

As well as UK and overseas recruitment, her role involved being a source of help and advice for applicants, students, and graduates and, as a mental health advocate, she has championed student resilience training, suicide awareness and mental health first aid for staff across the school. In her time in the school, Joyce has seen many positive outcomes with more students coming forward for help and advice, safe in the knowledge that they will receive a non-judgemental, consistent, and sensitive approach to the management of their situations. Staff also feel more comfortable when dealing with students who find themselves in difficulty.

Joyce is heartened to see so many veterinary schools committed to supporting student wellbeing and recognising that a positive approach to the management of physical and mental health is crucial to student learning and academic achievement.

In his nomination for Joyce, Professor Ewan Cameron MRCVS, Head of Glasgow Vet School, said: "Over the years, Joyce has been 'mum', confidant, and support to thousands of vet students. This can mean being a supportive ear or providing hard-hitting truths delivered with honesty and compassion that made them take note. Joyce has consistently exceeded what might be expected, showing exceptional dedication, often at the expense of her own personal time."





Presentation of the RCVS Honorary Associateship

Jane Wilson

Jane has been a volunteer with Vetlife Helpline for 25 years and during that time has provided listening support to the veterinary and veterinary nursing professions throughout thousands of hours of volunteering. Vetlife Helpline is available 24 hours a day, every day, and Jane has covered shifts including nights, weekends and holidays.

Since Vetlife Helpline was established in 1992, demand for the service has grown, and the team of over 100 volunteers that Jane is part of now provide support for on average ten contacts per day. Jane's nine-year career background in retail management, training and Human Resources for Boots the Chemist, alongside her experience as a veterinary practice manager have given her the opportunity to develop a skill set that proves invaluable in the role of a Vetlife Helpline volunteer.

Jane always respects the core principles behind Helpline, which are to provide a listening service that is confidential, non-judgemental and non-directive. She is able to demonstrate empathy and effective listening towards all callers, even in the most serious situations. The ability to confidently 'walk alongside' others as they talk through what is troubling them, and to make a difference, is one of the most humbling experiences Helpline has given Jane.

Jane's commitment to Helpline extends beyond supporting callers, and includes mentoring new volunteers, producing a volunteers newsletter, assisting with selection and training of potential volunteers, and holding various leadership support roles. Additionally, Jane is involved with the Financial Support sector of Vetlife, being an Area Representative and link to financial beneficiaries, as well as being a member of the Grants Award Panel that manage and distribute financial support to beneficiaries.

In her nomination, Dr Rosie Allister, Vetlife Helpline Manager said: "Jane Wilson has supported the veterinary and veterinary nursing professions quietly, diligently, and sometimes in a life-saving way for 25 years, always with huge compassion, attention to detail and commitment to callers that has inspired other volunteers for decades."



Presentation of the RCVS International Award

Miranda Luck

RVN

Raised on a ranch in Canada, Miranda's passion for travel and working with animals was ignited during her formative years when her parents and three siblings embarked on an 18-month journey around the world. Encounters with species varied as dassies and dingos helped her develop a lifelong interest in all creatures and their wellbeing.

Living on a farmstead in New Zealand, Miranda was surrounded by livestock and observed the processes of farm to fork in detail. Pets were numerous. Eventually settling in London, she followed in the footsteps of a great uncle who sat his first Dick Vet exam in 1885. Miranda qualified in 1995 and has enjoyed roles as staff nurse, clinical and practice manager and RSPCA Centre Manager. Identifying a need to improve conditions in rescue establishments in both the UK and abroad, she set up her own business as an animal welfare consultant.

Miranda has worked and volunteered with numerous individuals, charities, NGOs, municipalities and governments worldwide and has delivered workshops and services in over 15 countries on three continents. As lead trainer for the RSPCA International outreach veterinary and shelter assistance programme, Miranda assisted in the development of legislation and shelter standards in the UAE and South Korea. The considerable improvements in animal welfare in these countries demonstrate the effectiveness of this work.

Volunteering her services, Miranda gets great satisfaction from involvement with feline trap-neuter-return projects, street dog population management and disaster relief operations. Much of her focus is on the principles of Human Behaviour Change, encouraging and motivating participants to resolve animal welfare issues independently and sustainably at a local level.

Her nominator is Kay Gibbins, Managing Director of MDC Exports, a manufacturer of animal handling equipment, and who first met Miranda at an animal welfare conference over ten years ago. She said: "As an experienced veterinary nurse and educator, Miranda introduces shelter medicine and humane handling to many organisations worldwide. Veterinary clinics, animal rescue and rehoming, pounds and stray and feral populations have benefited from Miranda's hands-on help, training and mentorship."





Presentation of the RCVS International Award

Professor Holger Volk

DVM PGCAP PhD Dip ECVN FHEA MRCVS

Holger is currently Professor of Small Animal Diseases and the Head of Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery, University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover as well as Honorary Professor of Veterinary Neurology and Neurosurgery, Royal Veterinary College, London and Affiliate Professor of Veterinary Neurology, University of Copenhagen.

He graduated from the University of Veterinary Medicine Hanover in 2001, where he also did his PhD in Neuropharmacology studying basic mechanisms of drug-resistant epilepsy. He then completed his specialist clinical education doing an internship and a residency in Neurology and Neurosurgery at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). The RVC also provided him with the chance to not only excel academically and clinically, but also in his leadership skills, going through the reins from lecturer to head of service, clinical director of the Small Animal Referral clinic and last as head of department of clinical science and services.

Holger is internationally known for his work in the field of SARS-CoV-2 Medical Scent Detection Dogs, neuropathic pain and epilepsy. He was President of the European College of Veterinary Neurology and active in the Executive Board of Veterinary Specialisation as Treasurer. Holger has been chairing the International Veterinary Epilepsy Task Force, which published seven consensus statements for canine and feline epilepsy and was a co-chair of the recent published ACVIM consensus statement about medical treatment of epilepsy and ECVN consensus about movement disorders. He has been a recipient of several Jim Bee educator in teaching awards, the prestigious Bourgelat Award from BSAVA, and the International Canine Health Award from the Kennel Club. He has published multiple books and book chapters, over 250 articles, over 170 conference abstracts, and is a frequent flyer on the international conference circuit.

His nominator is Professor Richard Meeson FRCVS, Head of Orthopaedic Surgery and Professor of Orthopaedics at the Royal Veterinary College, who says that while Holger has had a very distinguished career in basic and clinical research, it is during the coronavirus period that it has had a very clear societal impact.

He said: "Through his ability to bridge the gap between basic and clinical science he has been able to create impact into society, animal welfare and clinical practice."



Presentation of RCVS Impact Award

Dr Liz Barton

MA VetMB MRCVS

Liz has enjoyed a varied career, from mixed practice in the Lake District to small animal internship, night vet, shelter medicine and GP small animal practice. She became increasingly concerned about the mental and physical health challenges facing many colleagues and began curating and collating wellbeing resources to make them more accessible to veterinary teams. This grew into co-founding the not-for-profit WellVet initiative, hosting in-person and virtual events.

A strong believer in collaboration, she has worked with Vets: Stay, Go, Diversify, SPVS and Mind Matters to develop a host of resources around health and wellbeing – including topics from mindfulness to menopause and CrossFit to change management. A new WellVet website is due to launch imminently with more events in the planning.

Experiencing the challenges of balancing parenting with professional work, Liz co-founded the Vet Mums Facebook Group to provide an empathetic space for open discussion and peer support. As a result of promoting her various initiatives, she began diversifying into PR and marketing alongside editing Veterinary Woman. She helped organise women in leadership events and raised awareness about women's health challenges and gender equality.

During the pandemic Liz organised a 'Home-Not-School' initiative. This included regular online perinatal yoga, parenting support groups, toddler singing groups, and fun sessions including baking and crafts. These were delivered free with Liz organising sponsorship to pay for trained session leaders, donating the excess to Vetlife and Médecins Sans Frontiers. Working with Veterinary Woman and SPVS she conducted a survey of the impact of menopause within the professions. Since the publication of the report, she has sought to increase awareness and support for women affected. She is currently exploring partnerships to research workplace interventions.

Her nominator is Dr Catriona Curtis MRCVS who has worked with Liz through organisations such as the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS), Vets: Stay, Go, Diversify (VSGD), WellVet and Veterinary Woman. She said: "Throughout, Liz has worked full-time, supported her family and survived personal challenges and tragedies. She has triggered systematic change across the profession, always involving female leaders. We know from her co-founders and groups she set up that lives have been saved, countless significant wellbeing and mental health challenges have been helped and overcome, agile working practices adopted and brave career decisions have been made."





Presentation of RCVS Impact Award

Professor Clare Rusbridge

BVMS PhD DipECVN FRCVS

RCVS and European Specialist in Veterinary Neurology

Over the last 25 years, Clare has provided solutions for the painful disease Chiari-like malformation and syringomyelia (a disease characterised by disproportion between the size of the brain and skull resulting in cerebrospinal fluid pathway obstruction and spinal cord cavitation). Following her discovery of this problem in cavalier King Charles spaniels in 1997, she delivered the first comprehensive description and has continued to refine understanding of the pathogenesis, genetics and treatment. While being self-employed in referral practice, she researched the disease in her 'spare' time which eventually culminated in a PhD from Utrecht University.

Of the 160 scholarly articles she has authored or co-authored, 59 have been on Chiari-like malformation and syringomyelia (CMSM) in addition to book chapters and co-editing a textbook on the human disease. She provides extensive online resources for the veterinary profession, breeders and dog owners. The most impactful is her CMSM treatment algorithm first developed in 2006. This is translated into several languages, updated yearly, and enables dogs without easy access to veterinary neurologists to receive optimal care.

Clare has lectured on CMSM in five continents and to all stakeholders from dog owners to human neurosurgeons. A recent Facebook live talk had over 14,000 views. She was instrumental in establishing the Kennel Club/BVA CMSM Health Scheme and she developed breeding guidelines in a breeder-friendly 'traffic light' format - a style which has been copied for other canine health schemes.

At the University of Surrey, Clare is working with researchers whose primary discipline is engineering and maths. This exciting and rewarding multidisciplinary approach has pioneered veterinary studies in computer modelling and machine learning. The Canine Chiari group are currently developing an AI approach that will objectively screen breeding dogs for this disorder using facial recognition technology (the Head Space Project).

Her nominator is Shona McIntyre MRCVS, Head of the Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences at Surrey Vet School, who said: "Clare has had a massive impact on the welfare of dogs affected by this disease and their owners. Following her discovery of this problem in cavalier King Charles spaniels in 1997, she delivered the first comprehensive description and has continued to refine understanding of the pathogenesis, genetics and treatment of this disorder."



Presentation of the RCVS Inspiration Award

Dr Alex Davies

BVetMed BSc (Hons) MRCVS

Alex graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2020 and has since worked at Shepherds the Vets, an independent primary care small animal practice in South Wales. He has a passion for surgery and is completing a postgraduate small animal surgery certificate. Alex also enjoys practice-based research and is currently in the review process for a RCVS Knowledge Summary exploring feline hyperthyroidism.

Alongside Alex's clinical commitments, he is the President of Vet Mentor, a non-profit organisation dedicated to students aspiring to study veterinary medicine. During his time at Vet Mentor, Alex has innovated numerous educational programmes aimed at inspiring, informing and preparing future vets for their university application and veterinary career. Under his leadership, Vet Mentor has been able to achieve its organisational aims of providing quality mentorship, raising veterinary career aspirations, advocating inclusivity and diversity and collaborating with the wider veterinary profession to inspire future vets.

The most notable programme lead by Alex was a free-to-access virtual work experience programme, VetWex, which was developed to mitigate the reduced availability of work experience opportunities for school students as a result of pandemic restrictions. The high-fidelity programme virtually followed clinicians interacting with clients and patients, so students felt they were in the room shadowing the vet. Students witnessed first hand what transferable skills were needed to be a vet, learned about career pathways and understood the wider professional responsibilities of a vet. Sessions included small animal practice, equine practice, mixed and exotic practice, lambing, surgery, and professionalism teaching in collaboration with the RCVS. Alex received the British Veterinary Association Young Vet of the Year Award in 2021 for developing VetWex and making it freely accessible to thousands of students across the country.

His nominator is Teri-Ann Baldwin RVN who previously worked with Alex at a veterinary practice in Bridgend. They said: "Alex has been steadfast in his mission to nurture and inspire students through their journey into vet school and beyond. It is no secret that the application process into veterinary school can be a daunting and complicated experience for students, parents and even teachers. Alex has innovated, strategised and played a leading role in the creation of multiple educational programmes designed to enthuse, inspire and inform students on what the role of the vet is, raise aspirations towards veterinary medicine and promote accessibility to the profession for a more diverse cohort of students."





Presentation of RCVS Inspiration Award

Brian Faulkner

BSc (Hons) BVM&S CertGP(SAM) CertGP(BPS) MBAMSc(Psych) FRCVS

Brian has had an extensive and varied career during his 27 years within the veterinary profession. Alongside his work as a first-opinion practitioner, Brian has championed the impact non-clinical skills play in delivering a range of successful outcomes in veterinary practice by speaking at veterinary conferences all around the world. Brian co-founded Colourful CPD which has become a leading provider of non-clinical CPD in the UK. In 2020 he became an FRCVS in recognition of his work in developing non-clinical skills within all roles within the veterinary team.

Brian has set up and developed six start-up veterinary practices and currently works as a clinician at his practice, Aldeburgh Vets in Suffolk. Brian's 'everyone is equal' philosophy to veterinary practice has earned him great respect from his teams, past and present, an ethos which has consistently created positive and inclusive working environments.

Brian co-founded the British Veterinary Receptionist Association in 2017 whose mission is to recognise and raise the status of veterinary receptionists. He is the creator of the Accredited Veterinary Receptionist Award which has been undertaken, at least to some degree, by over 7,000 receptionists since it was launched in 2017.

Alongside his academic and professional achievements, Brian has also raised over £200,000 for charity by organising and participating in cycling and running events. For example, in August 2020, Brian ran from John O'Groats to Lands End, a distance of 31 marathons in 31 consecutive days, arriving on his 50th birthday.

His nominator is Richard Holborow MRCVS who worked with Brian as a member of the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS) Council where they bonded over shared views on the importance of non-clinical skills. He said: "He has put his theories into practice, developing and implementing innovative and highly effective practical ways of overcoming many of the obstacles faced, especially by new and recent graduate vets. He has expanded this focus to include the similar issues faced by veterinary nurses and support staff, with evidence-based training in communication skills, wellbeing, and sustainable and ethical commercial development of veterinary practice."



To read more about our Honours and Awards, and how to nominate someone, turn to pages 6-8.

Presentation of the Sarah Brown Mental Health Research Grant

The Sarah Brown Mental Health Research Grant was founded in 2019 in memory of RCVS Council member Sarah Brown, who passed away in 2017. The grant is awarded on a yearly basis, to fund research into the mental health and wellbeing of those working within the veterinary professions.

This year's grant has been awarded to a research team at the University of Surrey, led by Dr Katherine Wakelin. In clinical practice, the high number of moral challenges faced by veterinary professionals is thought to contribute to poor mental health. In addition to this, due to the rigorous academic requirements needed to enter the profession, perfectionistic traits and self-criticism are common amongst veterinarians and are associated with a range of self-injurious behaviours and psychopathology. Furthermore, they are seen to enhance veterinarians' vulnerability to moral distress in response to moral challenges.

The study will be investigating the use of Compassion Focussed Therapy (CFT) intervention on veterinarians, which has been developed to target individuals with high levels of self-criticism, who tend to benefit less from traditional therapy. Having already completed a successful online CFT intervention feasibility study of 128 veterinarians back in 2021, the funding will be used to run a Randomised Control Trial (RCT) to establish definitively the effectiveness of this type of intervention.

Participants for the RCT will be recruited through The University of Surrey and via social media, and any student, new graduate or qualified veterinarian will be able to take part, providing they haven't already participated in the previous feasibility study and are not currently receiving a cognitive or CFT intervention.

The research is led by Katy Wakelin a UK Council for Psychotherapy-registered Gestalt Psychotherapist and supervisor who works in private practice as well as teaching on the BA in Counselling at Surrey. Her interests include how to assess the effectiveness of therapy, comparing different modalities and authenticity.





RCVS KNOWLEDGE

Presentation of RCVS Knowledge Awards

The Plowright Prize

The biennial Plowright Prize recognises an individual who has made significant contributions to the field of infectious diseases in animals.

The 2022 Plowright Prize has been awarded to Dr Herman Barkema, Professor in Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases from the University of Calgary, for his research on Mastitis, Johne’s disease and antimicrobial resistance.

Antimicrobial resistance is a major global health concern in both animal and human health. Dr Barkema researches the pathogenesis, prevention, control, and treatment of infectious diseases, focusing on dairy cattle.

He uses epidemiology to study disease pathogenesis, improve management to prevent and control infectious diseases, promote health and wellbeing, ensure the integrity and safety of the food supply, and support animal agriculture and society. His research has many positive implications for both animal and human health.

Dr Barkema is a globally-recognised leader in both these areas. His work involves developing, implementing, and evaluating farm-specific disease reduction strategies for cost-effective and sustainable disease control on dairy farms.

Mastitis, an inflammation of the mammary gland, is the most common and economically significant disease in the dairy industry worldwide. The condition is the leading cause of antimicrobial use in dairy cows and affects impaired animal welfare. Dr Barkema is currently conducting leading-edge studies in reducing the use of antibiotics to treat mastitis in lactating cows.

Johne’s disease is an intestinal disease caused by *Mycobacterium avium subsp. paratuberculosis* (MAP). Dr Barkema has designed a novel MAP eradication program, which is currently being evaluated in a large on-farm field trial. The outcomes of controlling this disease are enormous, due to



the devastating effects of Johne’s disease on dairy cows and the potential associations with Crohn’s disease in humans.

Dr Barkema leads the Alberta-wide AMR - One Health Consortium and One Health at the University of Calgary. Both organisations use a transdisciplinary, multisectoral One Health approach. The vision of the AMR – One Health Consortium is to preserve antimicrobial effectiveness by preventing AMR, and One Health at the University of Calgary brings together to address global challenges impacting the health of people, animals, and the environment.

Dr Barkema’s future research plans include developing, implementing, and evaluating farm-specific disease reduction strategies for cost-effective and sustainable disease control on dairy farms. This includes a performance-based surveillance system which will provide disease control strategies to lower the burden of endemic infectious diseases that will benefit the dairy industry in many ways for years to come.

"Dr Barkema’s future research plans include developing, implementing, and evaluating farm-specific disease reduction strategies for cost-effective and sustainable disease control on dairy farms"

The Veterinary Evidence Student Awards

The *Veterinary Evidence* Student Awards were launched in 2019 to recognise and support students’ engagement with evidence-based veterinary medicine (EBVM) and its application into practice.

First Place

The winner of the *Veterinary Evidence* Student Awards 2022 is Sarah Daphne Foo. Whilst studying for a Bachelor of Veterinary Biology at the University of Sydney, Sarah submitted the winning Knowledge Summary titled ‘Comparison of supraglottic airway devices versus endotracheal intubation for achieving a patent airway and maintaining a stable anaesthesia in rabbits’.

Sarah focused on this topic as rabbits are becoming more popular as pets. Her paper found evidence to support the use of both devices in maintaining a stable anaesthesia in rabbits, but for those practitioners who are untrained in endotracheal intubation in rabbits, supraglottic devices may be an alternative.





Knowledge Awards for Quality Improvement

The RCVS Knowledge Awards for Quality Improvement showcase the implementation of Quality Improvement (QI) techniques which drive improvement within the profession.



Donview Veterinary Centre

Donview Veterinary Centre demonstrated a strong learning culture for their QI initiative for post-operative temperatures in practice. Working together, the team used clinical audit to identify where and how they could make improvements. They made changes across the practice, with investments in new equipment where needed. The team applied a psychologically safe learning environment to improve patient journeys.



Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists

Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists were inspired through team discussions and by the aviation industry to introduce a Notice to Anaesthetists (NOTAN). This electronic notice highlights any changes within the practice that could have safety implications for the team and their patients. A simple, yet effective initiative has increased team confidence, showed measurable improvements, and demonstrates how simple initiatives can have a big impact.



Eloise Collins

Eloise Collins, Head Veterinary Nurse at Beech House Veterinary Centre, used checklists, auditing, benchmarking, team meetings and journal clubs to help improve practice culture, and patient care. Eloise used an honest and open approach, to help bolster psychological safety amongst the team, creating a positive change across the whole team.



Vets Now

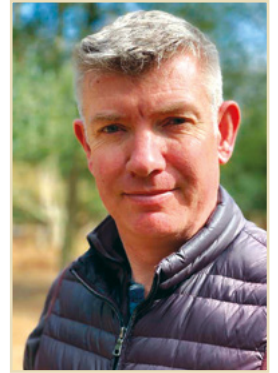
Vets Now used QI techniques to help their team provide care for the increased number of dystocia cases they were seeing. They began by forming a working group and running an organisation-wide audit. Using the data from the audit, the team established their own outcome benchmarks, and created resources, guidelines, and specialised training. These evidence-based tools help their clinicians in their decision-making process, resulting in improved patient welfare. Their high engagement levels in the QI activities have highlighted their team-wide commitment to improving patient outcomes.



Guest Speaker

Jim Green

*BARTA Director of Operations
Animal Rescue Specialist & Tactical Advisor, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service*



Jim began his career as a forest manager, working in private and state-managed forests including a season as a first-attack forest firefighter in Australia.

In 1996 Jim joined Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service as a firefighter where his rural background was instrumental in developing awareness of a range of rural issues, including response to animal rescues, agricultural fire safety and wildfire.

Jim led a local and national drive to improve knowledge and skills, orchestrating teams within Hampshire and training rescue team leaders and veterinarians throughout the UK and further afield.

Jim has been keynote speaker and coordinator of conferences in the UK, Turkey, USA, Australia and Europe. He is recipient of national awards for his work through the RSPCA, National Equine Forum and British Horse Society. He supported the vet services team at the 2012 Olympics and lectures at veterinary universities throughout the UK.

In 2017, Jim worked at the University of California School of Veterinary Medicine, helping promote joint understanding within veterinary and fire-fighting communities in preparation for the needs of animals during rescues or disasters.

Jim co-founded the British Animal Rescue & Trauma Care Association in 2012 and in 2019 left his full-time fire service career to become BARTA Director of Operations. BARTA is a stakeholder organisation and seeks to collaborate with partners internationally to develop global standards for preparedness and response to incidents involving animals.

Jim continues to respond operationally to animal incidents through his role as an Animal Rescue Specialist and Tactical Advisor with Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.

