



# Royal College Day

## —*Programme*—

**ONE GREAT GEORGE STREET  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, SW1P 3AA**

**FRIDAY 4 JULY 2025**



# Annual General Meeting

## 10.30am – Registration and refreshments

Open to all registered veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses

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## 11.00am – AGM starts

- Formal declaration of RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurses Council elections results and appointments
  - Presentation of Annual Report and Financial Statements 2024
  - Council Meeting to approve the new 2025-2026 Officer Team: President, Vice-Presidents and Treasurer
  - Address from RCVS Chief Executive Officer, Lizzie Lockett
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## 12.00pm – AGM closes followed by a buffet lunch in the Great Hall

# Honours and Awards Ceremony

## 1.00pm – Awards Ceremony starts

- Presentation of awards
  - Address from VN Council Chair, Belinda Andrews-Jones RVN
  - Address from outgoing RCVS President, Linda Belton MRCVS
  - Investiture of new President, Professor Tim Parkin FRCVS, Senior Vice-President Linda Belton MRCVS, and Junior Vice-President Tim Hutchinson MRCVS
  - New President's remarks
  - Guest speaker address by Dr Klara Saville MA VetMB MSc (International Animal Health) MRCVS, Veterinary Head of Exotic Diseases, Animal & Plant Health Agency (APHA):  
*'The Power of One Health; a global perspective on the role of vets in animal health, pandemic prevention and antimicrobial resistance'*
  - Afternoon tea in the Great Hall
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## 4.00pm – Royal College Day concludes



## Welcome to Royal College Day 2025

Welcome to Royal College Day 2025, our AGM and awards ceremony and a chance to celebrate some of the great work of colleagues within and allied to the veterinary professions and the RCVS.



The veterinary professions are in the midst of a time of change and uncertainty, as is much of the society we serve in our many roles.

With increased public scrutiny, we have new challenges, but ones we are well equipped to meet. It will take time and energy and a willingness to consider working in different ways – something the professions have a strong track record of successfully achieving. So much has changed in clinical practice just in my working lifetime, and has brought many benefits for animals, owners, veterinary professionals and society at large.

This year, the RCVS has moved into its new HQ. Hardwick Street provides an excellent working, meeting and events area for the RCVS team and for members, with dedicated space and facilities for visiting vets and RVNs. We now have the physical space to bring people together to facilitate the conversations we need to have amongst the professions, the wider animal-owning public and the RCVS to help shape our future.

In 2024, the RCVS published its survey of the professions and the workforce modelling reports. These contain rich data for further analysis to help us understand and inform the changes needed to build successful future veterinary professionals to not only serve but also shape animal health and welfare standards in the UK and beyond.

Our work in the public health sector is anticipated to remain under-resourced and, with the ever-increasing understanding and focus on a one-health approach, a strong, skilled veterinary voice in this field has great value. So, I'm really pleased today to be welcoming Klara Saville as our keynote speaker.

Klara is a veterinary surgeon with many years' experience working in international animal health and welfare and one health, with a varied career across farm animal practice, academia, research, civil society and as a government vet. I first met Klara when she founded the international coalition, Action for Animal Health, advocating for global recognition and investment in animal health systems.

My year as RCVS President has been busy, not just for me but for the College as a whole across the many areas of responsibility and activity which the RCVS covers. My thanks must go to the College team and Council and committee members for their work, support and challenge in setting, upholding and advancing veterinary standards. Finally, I will today be handing over the RCVS Presidency to my successor Professor Tim Parkin FRCVS, in whose capable hands this work will continue, and I wish him every success in the role.

I hope you all enjoy the day and the chance to come together and celebrate so much that is good in the veterinary world.

**Linda Belton** *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

**Mr William Wilkinson MRCVS: elected June 2022 – July 2025 (three years' service)**

Audit and Risk Committee; Examination Appeals Committee; Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Committee Liaison Committee; Standards Committee; Council Culture Working Group.

**Dr Louise Allum MRCVS: elected July 2021 – July 2025 (four years' service)**

Advancement of the Professions Committee; Standards Committee; Primary Qualifications Subcommittee; Chair, Mind Matters Initiative Taskforce; Chair, Public Advisory Group; Competition and Markets Authority Working Group; Content Management System Project Board.

**Judith Worthington: appointed lay member July 2018 – July 2025 (seven years' service)**

Audit and Risk Committee; Finance and Resources Committee; Preliminary Investigation Committee and Disciplinary Committee Liaison Committee; Registration Appeals Committee; VetGDP and CPD Compliance Subcommittee; Council Culture Working Group; IT Project Board.

**Dr Danny Chambers MRCVS: elected July 2017 – July 2025 (eight years' service)**

Education Committee; Nominations Committee; Registration Committee; Specialist Recognition and Advanced Practitioner Appeals Committee; Standards Committee; Certification Subcommittee; CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee; Chair, Advanced Practitioner Panel; Diversity and Inclusion Group; Environment and Sustainability Working Party; Mandatory Practice Regulation Working Group; RCVS Knowledge Trustee.



#### NEWLY- ELECTED MEMBERS

**Dr Sam Bescoby MRCVS**

**Paddy Gordon MRCVS**

**Dr Danielle Greenberg MRCVS**

#### RETURNING MEMBER

**Dr Tshidi Gardiner MRCVS**

#### NEWLY-APPOINTED LAY MEMBER

**Jo Clift**

## **Veterinary Nurses Council**

#### RETIRING MEMBERS

**Jessica Beckett RVN: elected July 2022 – July 2025 (three years' service)**

Veterinary Nurses Council; Registration Committee; CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee; Mandatory Practice Regulation Working Party.

**Holly Witchell RVN: elected July 2022 – July 2025 (three years' service)**

Veterinary Nurses Council; CPD Policy and Compliance Subcommittee; Practice Standards Group.

#### NEWLY-ELECTED MEMBERS

**Bethan Pinhey RVN**

**Hannah Welsman RVN**

#### RETIRING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Janice Shardlow**

Audit and Risk Committee Chair from July 2021 to July 2025. Member from July 2017.



# *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 the 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.

This year, we are presenting the awards described below, and you can read more about our winners on the following pages.



## **The RCVS Queen's Medal**

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

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.



### **VN Golden Jubilee Award**

The VN Golden Jubilee Award was introduced in 2011 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first veterinary nurse training course.

The award is aimed at veterinary nurses who have had a sustained and distinguished career, who can demonstrate a leadership role within the profession and who can act as an ambassador for the value of veterinary nurses and their work.

Nominees must be RVNs (excluding current VN Council members) but nominators can be RVNs or MsRCVS, also excluding current RCVS Council and VN Council members.



### **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.

### **The RCVS International Award**

The International Award recognises veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and lay people who have worked internationally from within or outside of 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.





### **The RCVS Inspiration Award**

This award 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.



### **The RCVS Impact Award**

This award 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.



### **The RCVS Compassion Award**

The Compassion Award is bestowed upon 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 over and above what might have been expected of them as part of their day-to-day work.







## Presentation of the RCVS Queen's Medal

### **Professor Simon Doherty**

*BVMS CBiol FRSB FHEA ARAgS FRCVS*

Professor Doherty, who sadly passed away in December 2024, received two separate nominations for the Queen's Medal. One from former RCVS President and current Fellowship Chair Dr Niall Connell FRCVS, the other from current British Veterinary Association (BVA) President Liz Mullineaux.

These nominations recognised his contributions to a wide variety of fields of veterinary endeavour, through his work in academia, the civil service and the voluntary sector. They highlighted his contributions to national and regional veterinary politics, for example, as a Past-President of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), a founding director of veterinary sustainability advocacy group VetSustain, and a member of the Northern Ireland Veterinary Association's council.

As his nominator Niall says: "Simon Doherty was a veterinary surgeon in the fullest sense, working for animals right across all fields, and for society, making a massive contribution to One Health, which is so critical. His interests spanned sustainable animal agriculture and aquaculture – including animal welfare, environmental impact and antimicrobial resistance – One Health approaches to global health challenges and novel vaccine design.

"Simon made tremendous contributions in so many areas in our veterinary world and beyond with teaching, delivery of many scientific papers and presentations at conferences and seminars. His work engaged with the education of young people, undergraduates, our professions and the public. He also shared widely with our professions and the public on a variety of social media platforms, providing information and encouragement of worthy projects."

In her nomination for Simon, Liz Mullineaux praised his time at the BVA, saying: "Sustainability and One Health came to feature prominently on the BVA agenda. His leadership saw the publication of BVA's UK sustainable animal agriculture position, which recognised the veterinary profession as a key stakeholder in the One Health agenda, and a position on sustainable fish aquaculture."





## Presentation of the RCVS VN Golden Jubilee Award

### **Perdita Welsh**

*DipAVN (Surg) PGCertVetEd RVN*

Perdita's career has been defined by commitment to advancing veterinary nursing education, with a focus on making learning accessible, practical, and relevant. Since becoming Director of Veterinary Nursing at the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in 2023, she has continued to lead and collaborate with colleagues across the sector to create opportunities that support and challenge veterinary nurses at all stages of their careers.

A key theme throughout Perdita's work has been the development of structured, progressive learning opportunities that reflect the realities of clinical practice. She was instrumental in launching the RVC's Graduate and Postgraduate Certificates in Advanced Veterinary Nursing in 2020, following the introduction of the Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing in 2008. These programmes reflect her long-standing dedication to building confidence, competence, and career progression.

Perdita is also a champion of skills-based learning. In 2003, she set up the UK's first veterinary Clinical Skills Centre at the RVC - a pioneering environment where both veterinary and VN students can build essential clinical skills in a supportive setting. This led to her role as Veterinary Skills Developer for the RVC's LIVE (Lifelong Independent Veterinary Education) project, leading the creation of the BVetMed Day One Skills, setting clear, practice-ready expectations for veterinary graduates.

Earlier in her career, Perdi combined teaching with clinical experience, lecturing in veterinary nursing and serving as a Senior Examiner for RCVS veterinary nursing qualifications.

Perdi's professional journey began in the late 1980s at the RVC, where she qualified and then helped establish the RVC's first VN school working in collaboration with the College of Animal Welfare. She later supported the development of VN training programmes in Northern Ireland and became Northern Ireland's RCVS External Verifier - initiatives that reflected her early commitment to creating and supporting flexible, accessible education. Perdi is a member of the RCVS VN Education Committee and serves as an editor for *The Veterinary Nurse*.





## Presentation of Honorary Associateship

### **Joanne Gibson**

Joanne is Secretary General of Veterinary Northern Ireland (VetNI), the secretariat for the veterinary profession in the province. She started the role in 2007 with some insight into the profession – as she is married to a vet – but no direct veterinary background.

On joining, Jo's intention was to shape and embed the new secretariat within the NI veterinary community and secure its ongoing financial stability. She planned to stay for three-to-five years, but the role and working with forward-thinking vets transformed a stop-gap job into a passion.

Her career started in engineering, working at Sellafield on fast-reactor fuel production and reactor decommissioning. She worked in engineering when she first moved to Northern Ireland, too, before taking a short career break to start a family. On returning to work before joining VetNI, her career could, at best, be described as “portfolio” – television production, computer building, book-keeper, stable-worker, clerk, personal assistant and events organiser. This diverse range of jobs has fed into her role at VetNI. For example, her logical, engineering approach has come in handy as no two days are alike at VetNI.

The secretariat engages with vets working in all areas of the profession, as well as veterinary nurses, lay people and the wider agricultural and local community, in Northern Ireland. VetNI has grown steadily from one employee to four, and the way that services are delivered has evolved over time, but the core mission – to serve and support the vet community in NI – hasn't altered. VetNI tries to keep an eye on the health and wellbeing of the vet and agricultural community too, and looks for opportunities to improve both. For example, it provided support during the tricky Covid years and developed a local locum database to help practices cope with staff shortages. Thanks to Jo's hard work, problem-solving skills and connections, VetNI has become well placed to deliver such initiatives.





## Presentation of Honorary Associateship

**Rita Dingwall** *CMgr MCMI CVPM MIoL*

Rita has worked in the veterinary sector for more than three decades, making a profound impact in various roles since 1994. Her journey began as a practice secretary at Culverden Veterinary Group, where her foundational experience ignited a passion for veterinary management. She quickly advanced to practice manager positions at St. Anne's Veterinary Group and Anvil Equine Veterinary Clinic, honing her skills in operational efficiency and team dynamics.



Rita's career trajectory led her to become a Business Development Manager at AT Veterinary Systems Ltd, before assuming the role of President of the Veterinary Practice Management Association (VPMA) from 2005 to 2007. Her leadership not only promoted practice management but also fostered a supportive community among veterinary professionals. Rita's commitment to excellence was recognised in 2008 when she received the Veterinary Business Journal Practice Manager of the Year Award.

In recent years she has become a consultant, helping veterinary practices achieve their RCVS Practice Standards Scheme accreditation and serving as a BVA Great Workplace Assessor. Her extensive knowledge and experience have made her a sought-after mentor, guiding new graduates as they begin their careers. Rita's contributions extend beyond practice management, for example, as a member of the RCVS Practice Standards Group, advocating for inclusivity and teamwork within the veterinary field by changing terminology from "staff" to "team."

Rita is a dynamic communicator with a flair for engaging a wide audience. Her recent foray into media, where she discussed the CMA investigation, showcases her willingness to embrace new challenges and promote vital animal healthcare messages.

Rita's unwavering commitment to the veterinary profession, her compassionate approach, and her exceptional leadership skills have solidified her reputation as an ambassador for veterinary practice management. As she continues to inspire colleagues and mentees alike, Rita's legacy is one of innovation, mentorship, and advocacy, leaving an indelible mark on the people and causes she champions.



## Presentation of Honorary Associateship

### **Stuart Pope** *HND BSc*

Stuart is a dedicated and highly experienced Operations Manager at the University of Bristol's Veterinary School, based at the Langford Campus. With over three decades of service, his career reflects a journey of personal growth, leadership, and lasting contributions to veterinary education.



Having left agricultural college at 21, Stuart joined Bristol as a junior research technician where he supported critical research into animal empathy and cognition, with a particular focus on pigs and chickens. His published work with Professor Christine Nicol contributed to greater public awareness of empathy in chickens, including coverage on the BBC. This increased awareness played a part in the eventual legal reforms around battery hen farming.

Over the years, Stuart progressed through a range of roles. After moving into a research assistant post, he continued his work on animal behaviour across a broader range of species. A highlight during this time was an RSPCA-funded project exploring the welfare of elephants in British zoos.

In 2010, Stuart became Technical Manager, reshaping the school's technical services, placing a strong emphasis on team development and support for teaching delivery. In 2015, he was appointed Operations Manager—a pivotal role in which he has since overseen numerous capital projects. These include the development of the anatomy wet lab and postmortem suite within a single facility, enhancements to the clinical skills infrastructure, and expansion of farm facilities. More recently, he has led on sustainability initiatives across the 105-hectare campus.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Stuart maintained safe and continuous operations. As the only constant staff presence on-site, he ensured compliance with evolving regulations while supporting student learning.

Throughout Stuart's time at Bristol, he has always put students first to ensure their educational experience is the highest quality, through the facilities and through his own ethos of professional service. His impact has touched generations of students and colleagues, earning respect within the university and the wider veterinary profession.



## Presentation of the International Award

### **Dr Luke Gamble *BVSc DVM&S FRCVS***

Luke is a first-opinion mixed practice veterinary surgeon whose career has been focused on making veterinary care accessible to underserved communities around the world. After graduating from Bristol University in 1999, he completed a clinical scholarship in large animal medicine and surgery at Cambridge. In 2005, he founded Pilgrims Veterinary Practice in the New Forest, which he ran for over a decade.

While proud of his clinical roots, Luke's true calling has been global veterinary development. In 2003, he founded Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS), followed by Mission Rabies in 2013. As CEO, Luke has helped grow these organisations into international leaders in animal and public health. Today, WVS operates in over 50 countries with 300+ staff, seven training centres, and taskforce teams that treat an animal every five minutes. In 2024 alone, WVS trained nearly 3,000 vets and delivered thousands of life-saving treatments to animals in need.

Mission Rabies, the flagship disease-control initiative, is now a global leader in the fight against canine-transmitted rabies. In 2024, operating in over 20 countries, its teams vaccinated 1.2 million dogs and educated 3.5 million people in rabies-endemic regions, helping to drastically reduce human deaths in areas such as Goa and Malawi. These efforts have been recognised in *Nature* and *The Lancet*, and by the World Health Organization, which invited Luke to join its expert panel on neglected zoonotic diseases.

Luke has raised over £18 million to support sustainable, locally-led programmes worldwide. He is passionate about designing practical solutions — from mobile surgical units to overland operating theatres — that empower veterinary teams working in the toughest conditions.

His efforts have been recognised with honours including the Blue Cross J.A Wight Award, the WSAVA Global One Health Award, and the BVA's Trevor Blackburn Award. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2018.





## Presentation of the International Award

### **Professor Paweł Bęczkowski**

*PhD DipECVIM-CA DAiCVIM FRCVS*

Paweł is a board-certified small animal internist, virologist, educator and academic leader. He received his DVM from Lublin University of Life Sciences, Poland, in 2008. He holds a Wellcome Trust-funded PhD from the University of Glasgow. His collaborative international research has deciphered important aspects of virus evolution in the progression of natural feline immunodeficiency virus infection.

Paweł has completed a clinical rotating internship at the Animal Health Trust and a residency in small animal internal medicine at the University of Glasgow. He is an Asian, EBVS European, and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Specialist in Small Animal Internal Medicine. In 2024, he was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in recognition of his meritorious contributions to clinical practice.

Currently, Paweł serves as a Clinical Associate Professor at the City University of Hong Kong, providing clinical service and teaching to veterinary students. As a former Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning at the same university, he played a role in delivering dual Australasian Veterinary Boards Council and Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons accreditation of the first Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine programme in Hong Kong. His contributions to undergraduate teaching of small animal studies were recently recognised by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association Amoroso Award (2025).

Paweł also leads several science research projects, including the development of novel molecular technology for the diagnosis of infectious diseases at the point of care. He is a volunteer for the Animals Asia Veterinary Welfare Training Programme in China and serves as a World Small Animal Veterinary Association Therapeutics Committee Member. He is passionate about antimicrobial resistance and stewardship and the removal of barriers in veterinary therapeutics accessibility worldwide.





## Presentation of the Impact Award

### Dr Daniel O'Neill

*MVB BSc MSc GPCert(SAP) GPCert(FeIP) GPCert(Derm)  
GPCert (B&PS) PGCertVetEd FHEA MSc (VetEpi) PhD FRCVS*

Following 22 years in general practice, including 12 years running a small animal practice in Kent and four years in industry, Dan became increasingly concerned about the paucity of relevant veterinary primary-care evidence, and also the limited role of the veterinary profession, in ending the suffering of companion animals caused by extreme conformation.



To help redress these deficiencies, Dan left frontline veterinary care in 2009 to undertake an MSc in Veterinary Epidemiology at the RVC. This was followed by a PhD exploring common disorders and breed-related disorders of dogs and cats, during which he developed the VetCompass Research Programme along with his PhD supervisors. Dan has remained at the RVC where he is now Associate Professor in Companion Animal Epidemiology and senior lead for the VetCompass™ Programme. This programme indexes, shares and analyses veterinary clinical records to help understand disorders and improve the welfare and treatment of companion animals.

As well as over 170 papers since 2012 covering the epidemiology of all companion animal species, but with a specific focus on extreme conformations in dogs, he has also co-authored the books *Breed Predispositions to Disease in Dogs and Cats* and *Health and Welfare of Brachycephalic (Flat-faced) Companion Animals*. He chairs the UK Brachycephalic Working Group and is a founding and board member of the UK Legal Advisory Group on Extreme Conformation in Dogs and the International Collaborative on Extreme Conformation in Dogs.

He is part of the Veterinary Humanities UK group that created and disseminated the contextualised care concept. He was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2018, the BSAVA Blaine Award for Advancement of Small Animal Science in 2019, the International Canine Health Award from the Kennel Club Charitable Trust in 2021 and the UK All Party Parliamentary Group 'Phillippa Robinson Dog Welfare Award' in 2024.





## Presentation of the Impact Award

### **Professor John Innes** *BVSc PhD CertVR DSAS(Orth) FRCVS*

Born in London, John is now a director of 'Movement Referrals: Independent Veterinary Specialists', a two-site veterinary practice, founded in 2023, that offers small animal orthopaedics and neurology referrals in the Northwest and Midlands of England.

John is an RCVS Specialist in small animal orthopaedics and spent 22 years in clinical academia, initially at the University of Bristol, and latterly as professor of small animal surgery at the University of Liverpool. Whilst at Bristol, he undertook a PhD in the Rheumatology Unit of Bristol Royal Infirmary, where he was exposed to the challenges and progress of research in human osteoarthritis. His own research has focused on canine osteoarthritis and comparative orthopaedics. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and 15 textbook chapters. Funded by Wellcome Trust, John was visiting professor at University of Sydney's Kolling Institute in 2010. During his time at Liverpool, John was part of the leadership team that delivered a new small animal teaching hospital at 'Leahurst'. From 2013-2022, John was Referrals Director and then Chief Veterinary Officer for a large veterinary group. Throughout all his leadership roles, John has always maintained a clinical commitment and has been keen to translate research into clinical practice.

John has endeavoured to highlight the importance of osteoarthritis as a very common condition in dogs that causes chronic pain. Improving the assessment of osteoarthritis and ways to manage the condition have been key themes throughout his clinical research.

John was president of the European Society of Veterinary Orthopaedics 2014-2016 and elected Chair of the RCVS Fellowship from 2019-2022. He lives in Wirral with his wife and three daughters.





## Presentation of the Inspiration Award

### **Kerry Flynn** *RVN*

Kerry is the founder of Protected Paws Animal Rescue, a registered charity based in London and the surrounding areas.

Animals have always been a huge part of her life and, as a child, she was constantly rescuing injured pigeons and trying to care for them. Over the years she has looked after and owned birds, fish and dogs. Her most important pets were Max and Keano. Max, her first dog, lived to 18 and was a constant companion, while Keano, a Staffie-Boxer, passed away at just 8. She says Keano opened her heart to bully breeds and inspired her belief in a 'deed, not breed' attitude towards responsible pet ownership.

She founded Protected Paws just over two and a half years ago. Since then, the charity has helped over 2,000 animals find safety, receive medical care, and go on to loving, forever homes. The charity focuses on animals that are often overlooked, for example, animals that are unwell, elderly, abandoned, or at risk.

Protected Paws is entirely volunteer-run by trustees, foster carers, and Kerry herself. Every adoption is carefully matched to ensure the best outcome for both the animal and the adopting family. It's incredibly hard work, but Kerry says that watching these animals heal and thrive makes every bit of it worthwhile.

Kerry recently had surgery to remove a brain tumour, an experience that gave her an even deeper understanding of vulnerability and strengthened her connection to animals in end-of-life care. One day, she hopes to open a non-profit animal hospital that supports all species, with a focus on palliative and hospice care.

Though Protected Paws has grown faster than she ever expected, she is proud of what it has achieved and grateful to everyone who supports its mission. She says her goal has always been to give a voice to animals who have no one else and that she will continue to fight for them every step of the way.





## Presentation of the Inspiration Award

### **Dr Nicola Jarvis**

*BVetMed CertAVP (EM) CertAVP (ESST) MRCVS*

Nicola qualified from the Royal Veterinary College in London in 1990 and started her career in mixed practice in Norfolk, where her passion for equine work began. In 1993, Nicola joined Rossdales Equine Veterinary Surgeons in Newmarket to complete a two-year internship with a focus on anaesthesia, care of hospitalised patients and radiography. She then went on to locum at equine and mixed practices for a year before joining Redwings Horse Sanctuary in 1996.

Redwings Horse Sanctuary is the largest horse welfare charity in the UK, with 1,500 resident horses, donkeys and mules and a further 700 equines in guardian homes. The charity specialises in rescue, rehabilitation, rehoming and education and is entirely funded by public donations.

Nicola is now Head of Veterinary and Care at the charity and works with a large, experienced team of veterinary surgeons and nurses to provide medical and surgical care for equine residents. She gained her certificate of Advanced Veterinary Practice in Equine Medicine in 2012 and the Equine Surgery Soft Tissue certificate in 2013.

Redwings Horse Sanctuary cares for a significant number of older equines, many of whom require specialist care, management and feeding, which is where Nicola's interest in geriatric medicine and nutrition began. She has published articles in both peer-reviewed journals and books, and regularly lectures at conferences and on courses for veterinary surgeons, equine nurses and horse owners alike.





## Presentation of the Compassion Award

### **Dr Murray Corke** *BVetMed MA PhD MRCVS*

Murray graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 1976 and worked in mixed and equine practice in Devon, Warwickshire and Norfolk for six years. He joined Cambridge Veterinary School in 1982 as a farm animal and equine clinician, with increasing involvement in teaching.

He left Cambridge after seven years to work as a boatbuilder for two years, subsequently working in small animal practice. Learning to meditate and spending time at the monastery of Vietnamese Zen Master Thich Nhat Hanh provided stability and meaning to his life. Murray became a helper with Vet Helpline in 1997 and volunteered until 2024. He returned to Cambridge in the late 1990s to complete a PhD with Professor Donald Broom on the welfare of sheep with sheep scab.

He has since worked on the indicators of pain in sheep, and continued to teach farm animal medicine at Cambridge, with a strong commitment to student welfare. Regular contact with the natural world has been a great support in times of difficulty. Murray keeps a sailing boat on the Norfolk Broads and is involved with conservation and monitoring work for a number of wildlife groups.

He is now retired as a veterinary surgeon and university teacher but continues to find ways to integrate mindfulness practice into his personal life. He also facilitates retreats in the UK and Poland, to help other people find meaning and happiness in their lives.





## RCVS Knowledge Award Winners 2025

**The RCVS Knowledge Awards celebrate achievements across the veterinary professions for activities that contribute to advancing the quality of veterinary care.**

There are three categories of award winners this year:

- Antimicrobial Stewardship Award
- Quality Improvement to Lead Organisational Change
- Quality Improvement in Practice Award

### Antimicrobial Stewardship Award

**The RCVS Knowledge Antimicrobial Stewardship Award showcases practical examples where teams are improving responsible antimicrobial prescribing using recognised Quality Improvement methods.**

#### 2025 Champions: Animal Trust Dewsbury, CIC

The practice team focused on the responsible use of highest priority critically important antibiotics (HPCIA) after baseline auditing showed that HPCIA were used in 3.05% of all consultations. The team reduced inappropriate use of HPCIA by using QI techniques to make change in the practice, introducing measures such as team education on evidence-based alternatives, stock control measures, and prioritising culture and sensitivity testing to guide appropriate prescribing. These changes helped the team reduce HPCIA prescriptions from 3.05% to 0.46%.





## Quality Improvement to Lead Organisational Change Award

**The RCVS Knowledge Quality Improvement to Lead Organisational Change Award showcases practical examples where organisations demonstrate using recognised Quality Improvement methods to develop and embed organisational-wide frameworks and structures that aim to lead to measurable improvements for patients and teams.**

### 2025 Champions: Linnaeus Medical Quality Team

The Linnaeus Medical Quality Team supported practices within the group to embed cultures of psychological safety through the reporting of near misses and safety incidents, using the data they gathered to inform new guidance to improve patient safety at the group level. Practices were empowered to make improvements in their local practice setting using QI, and support was offered to team members that were involved in near misses to assist with their wellbeing. Encouraging open discussions of incidents resulted in a shift towards a learning focused culture, with an increase in the proportion of practices within the group submitting incident reports, rising from 86% to 100%. Additionally, the percentage of practices conducting a full significant event audit and review improved from 55% to a sustained minimum of 80%.



***The Linnaeus Medical Quality Team, from left to right: Kathrine Blackie, Arti Hogan, Samantha Thompson***



## Quality Improvement in Practice Award

**The RCVS Knowledge Quality Improvement in Practice Award showcases the implementation of recognised Quality Improvement (QI) techniques that drive improvement within the profession, aiming to lead to better outcomes, better care, and better learning.**

### 2025 Champions: Paragon Veterinary Referrals, Linnaeus

Inspired by techniques from human healthcare, the Paragon Veterinary Referrals team used the safety data facilitated through the Medical Quality Team to identify areas for improvement in their setting. The team focused on enhancing teamwork and communication to prevent medication administration and dispensing errors in hospitalised patients. The team held



daily 'Huddle Up for Safer Care (HUSH) huddles' for five months – an idea they took from the NHS and adapted to their needs. These daily huddles to share information and learnings resulted in 10 error-free weeks in five months compared to 10 error-free weeks over the previous 12 months. Additionally, they saw a 10% reduction in total medication errors.

### About RCVS Knowledge

We are RCVS Knowledge, a charity working towards a vision of healthier animals, people and planet.

We empower and support veterinary teams to provide evidence-based, quality care and improved animal health and welfare outcomes.

RCVS Knowledge is the charity partner of the RCVS.



## Guest Speaker

### **Dr Klara Saville**

*MA VetMB MSc (International Animal Health) MRCVS*  
Veterinary Head of Exotic Diseases, Animal & Plant Health  
Agency (APHA)

*'The Power of One Health; a global perspective on the role of vets in animal health, pandemic prevention and antimicrobial resistance'.*



Dr Klara Saville is a veterinary surgeon with 18 years' experience working in international animal health and welfare and One Health, with a varied career across farm animal practice, academia, research, civil society and as a government vet. In her role as Veterinary Head of Exotic Diseases at the Animal & Plant Health Agency, Klara leads teams of veterinary experts co-ordinating the response to outbreaks of notifiable animal disease. Her work includes engaging with APHA senior veterinary inspectors, Defra policy teams and the Chief Veterinary Officer to respond to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, Bluetongue virus and to develop preparedness plans for a portfolio of exotic notifiable diseases, including Foot and Mouth Disease.

In previous roles, Klara has led UK government international engagement on antimicrobial resistance as part of the AMR team at the Veterinary Medicines Directorate. As Head of Department at Brooke the international equine welfare charity, she implemented large-scale animal health system strengthening projects in low- and middle-income countries. In 2020, Klara founded the international coalition Action for Animal Health, advocating for global recognition and investment in animal health systems.

She graduated from Cambridge Veterinary School and has an MSc in International Animal Health from the University of Edinburgh.





## Introducing our new Registrar

### Clare Paget

At the end of March this year, we were excited to welcome Clare Paget as the new RCVS Registrar and Director of Legal Services, following the retirement of Eleanor Ferguson last summer.

As Registrar and Director of Legal Services, Clare has a dual role as the senior legal officer for the RCVS. As Registrar, she is responsible for keeping, maintaining and publishing Registers of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, including oversight of the various mechanisms via which veterinary professionals can join the Registers, what they need to do to stay on the Registers, how they may leave or be removed and registration appeals. She also has a role in formal RCVS activities such as the vet school graduation ceremonies and, of course, Royal College Day.

As Director of Legal Services, she provides leadership and guidance on a wide range of legal matters within the organisation, including guiding RCVS Council through the development of oral and written legal advice, as well as sitting on committees and working groups in order to ensure our activity is within its legal remit and represents best practice.

A qualified solicitor, Clare started her practice as a Solicitor Advocate in criminal law, before undertaking roles in regulatory bodies in the healthcare and financial sector. She joined the General Dental Council in March 2023 and became their Interim Executive Director for Legal and Governance in March 2024.

Clare was appointed as Registrar and Director of Legal Services following a robust two-stage process involving members of our Officer Team and Senior Staff, with the decision being ratified by RCVS Council, the governing body of the College.





## About One Great George Street

This Edwardian, Grade II listed building was designed by the eminent Scottish architect James Miller, who was also responsible for The Daily Telegraph Building on Fleet Street and Adelaide House near London Bridge. It serves as the headquarters of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), the world's first professional engineering body.

Monday, 25 October 1910, marks the date the foundation stone was laid. In 2010, ICE celebrated 100 years since that event with a commemorative centenary time capsule and plaque.

The front and side elevations, as well as the entrance hall and the area beneath the main dome, are constructed from Whitbed Portland Stone. One Great George Street is a steel-framed structure - the second ever erected in London after the Ritz Hotel in 1905. Significant thought was given to the names of the function rooms, all dedicated in remembrance of eminent engineers with particular connections to the Institution or engineering history.

The building was first used as a commercial conference and events venue in the early 1980s. It was notably hired for the filming of *Reds* and *Gandhi*, which were both released in 1981. At that time, it was known as 'The Civils Conference Centre', being relaunched as One Great George Street in 1991.

Soon after, the venue hosted its first significant conference, for the Association of Project Management. The first wedding here took place in 1989. Since then, the building has continued to grow and evolve, keeping pace with the times while maintaining its traditional foundation.



## Notes

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**#RoyalCollegeDay**