





Graduation 2014

Central Hall, Westminster



Welcome

Welcome to the latest edition of Eclipse.

I am sure that you will find the pages that follow contain news that is both interesting and entertaining, cataloguing, as they do, the diversity of activities at the Royal Veterinary College.

In a year that has seen great advances at the College, there is no doubt in my mind that we have risen to meet the challenges of the current funding environment at the same time as maintaining our commitment to quality and innovation.

With signal events such as the unveiling of the new bronze “Sefton” and a new foray into the world of television, life at RVC is as rich and exciting as ever as we look to the next phase in our development.

You will read of activities overseas, such as the culmination of our efforts in veterinary nursing in Hong Kong, our endeavours closer to home, such as the new RVC clinics, and our efforts for the local community in the development of the biodiversity of our campuses.

You will learn of the successes we have had in national surveys (a top three beside Oxford and Cambridge Universities!) and the huge impact RVC is making through its social media presence. But above all, I hope that the reports and news items will make you feel more part of the family that is RVC.

Our achievements are because of our people – staff, students, Council members, friends and supporters – and at the heart of every story is a person or group of individuals who have made it happen.

Thank you for your interest in the RVC. Should you wish more detail on our performance, please have a look at our Annual Review (www.rvc.ac.uk/annualreview) and, of course, for an even better feel for the place, come and visit us.

With all best wishes



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The Veterinary Team – Leadership and Professionalism

The RVC has been leading a group of veterinary educators from a number of UK Vet Schools in developing a UK version of the award-winning Veterinary Leadership Experience (VLE).

The training course which aims to develop leadership and professional skills among students studying towards a career in the veterinary profession was piloted in September 2013.

In veterinary medicine, as in human medicine, the best outcome for patients relies on all members of the care team working together as effectively as possible. This includes the vets managing an animal's care, the vet nurses or technicians who work closely with the animal, and also the scientists working in industry or academia to develop and distribute effective treatments. It is vital that students from across the veterinary team are taught to work together to develop leadership and professional skills which will help to deliver the best possible care for patients when they enter the workforce.

The Veterinary Team Leadership and Professionalism (VTLP) course is the first of its kind in the UK to focus on non-technical competences across the entire veterinary team, including vets, veterinary nurses and scientists, helping to prepare students for the professional workplace.

The pilot three-day residential programme saw 40 students and 20 staff from vet schools across the UK meet at Lane End Conference Centre in Buckinghamshire. Students explored how to overcome barriers to success; emotional intelligence through the application of concepts of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness and relational skills; and the strengths and weaknesses of different methods of leadership.

Although the VTLP has been led by the RVC, the programme is a collaboration between the UK's Vet Schools. Professor Rick DeBowes, the co-creator of the successful VLE in the USA, was also present at the pilot event to oversee the development of the curriculum and help to deliver the course.

Through the generous donations of RVC alumni to the Annual Fund we were able to fund places for three RVC students on this course.

Our successful awardees have given reasons why the course was so beneficial to them.

"The VTLP course has honestly been one of the best experiences I've had at university, providing a great networking opportunity that I might otherwise not have had and encouraging me to challenge the way I previously approached



problems and giving me the tools to help myself be more confident in myself and my interpersonal skills. It is a great course and would be of benefit to future students like it has for myself."

Racquel Spencer, BVetMed

"I found the course extremely inspiring, I have come away from this being more confident in team work and in myself as well as learning about different personalities and I now have a greater appreciation about how other people may think based on the Myers-Briggs test. It was a fantastic course and would recommend it to anyone."

Amberley Cooke, FdSc Veterinary Nursing

I found the VTLP course very motivational and the course has helped me in improving my problem solving skills and how to approach different tasks both in a university setting and my private life. I try to assess a situation by focusing on the bigger picture and how a win-win situation can be achieved for all parties involved rather than the small details. In addition, I really enjoyed the course and it was a fun way of meeting people from different degrees at the RVC as well as other veterinary schools in the UK, an opportunity which rarely is provided for within the BVetMed curriculum. I left the VTLP course feeling inspired, a great way to start the new academic year!

Katriina Willgert, BVetMed



Great Lecturing - the RVC Way!

The RVC has been ranked in the top three higher education institutions in the UK for the quality of staff and lectures.

The influential Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey ranked 111 institutions on key indicators related to teaching quality, the helpfulness and interest of staff, structure of courses, facilities, industry connections, social life and accommodation.

In the category of 'High Quality Staff and Lectures' the RVC received a score of 6.4 out of a maximum 6.5, just behind Oxford and Cambridge.

The RVC was also joint third in the category of 'Helpful and Interested Staff', level with Keele and behind Oxford and Cambridge. It ranked fifth for 'High Quality Facilities'.

For overall score across all categories, the RVC was the second highest ranking London institution, just behind Imperial College.

Commenting on the ranking of the RVC within the survey, Vice-Principal of Learning and Student Experience Professor David Church said: "We are particularly pleased that the Royal Veterinary College's long-term and unswerving commitment



to providing the highest quality educational experience for all our students is reflected in the results of this survey."

The poll is conducted by YouthSight and based on a student panel recruited via UCAS. 14,300 students took part in the recent survey. John Newton, Senior Project Manager at YouthSight said the wealth of feedback collected over time through this survey highlights best practice and identifies areas where some universities have room for improvement.

Bio-Rilliant!

A team from the RVC scooped an award for innovation in a prestigious biotechnology competition. The team won the award with their company 'Bio-Rilliant' and their concept pet microchip tracking product in the Biotechnology YES finals, held in London.

The Biotechnology YES (Young Entrepreneurs Scheme) is designed to help doctoral students and early-career researchers develop their knowledge and skills in entrepreneurship, business and commercialisation.

Team members assume the roles of company directors and seek equity investment for their business from a panel of experts drawn from industry and science. Each team received help and advice from mentors and guest speakers, who are experts in key areas such as intellectual property, financial planning and marketing.

Team members David Killick, Andrea Pollard, Andrew Lessey and Francesca Soutter were supported by RVC Enterprise Business Relationship Manager Bevan McWilliam. The RVC team won in the category of 'Best Innovation in Consumer Goods'

Bio-Rilliant's product is a new generation of microchip that upgrades the current passive RFID microchips to GPS tracking devices, powered by harnessing biological energy from the recipient animal. The tracking device is placed under the skin and interacts with its own specially-designed multi-platform app to locate a lost pet.

The Biotechnology Young Entrepreneurs Scheme and parallel Environment YES competition are co-organised by the Haydn Green Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the University of Nottingham, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and the Natural Environment Research Council.

Commenting on the event, Minister for Universities and Science David Willetts said: "The participants in these competitions have shown that there is a bright future ahead for biological and environmental science. Both of which are vibrant and increasingly important sectors of the UK. They are



developing the skills needed to translate world-class research into wider economic and social benefits."

Professor Jackie Hunter, BBSRC Chief Executive, added: "Biotechnology YES, is nearly 18 years old and it helps the next generation of bioscience entrepreneurs develop the essential skills and contacts they will need to succeed in industry, taking their research from the lab and translating it into social and economic impact. It's an extremely exciting time for bioscience and we need entrepreneurs to help take their research to the next stage into translation."

Well done to Team RVC, a great achievement.

RVC VNs developing the profession

Veterinary nursing practice in the UK is undoubtedly changing, with mandatory RCVS Registration, a disciplinary system and increasing levels of autonomy and accountability. This journey towards a 'professional' status raises new challenges for veterinary nurses and the RVC's two year online Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing is equipping qualified veterinary nurses with the knowledge and skills they require to take them to the next level of their profession.

Our students have become advocates for the new veterinary nursing profession, by producing course work during their Graduate Diploma that is suitable for peer-reviewed publication.

This is a really exciting progression for veterinary nursing at the RVC and we are exceptionally proud of all of our Graduates who are able to contribute to the development of a VN specific knowledge and evidence base!

Publications have come from a wide variety of topics that show the diversity of interests of the students.

The list of articles can be seen below; we would like to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our alumni!

- Abbitt G (2010) Legal, ethical and professional issues for veterinary nurses. *The Veterinary Nurse* 1(3): 186-188
- Brown, C (2012) Experience of designing and implementing a care plan in the veterinary environment. *The Veterinary Nurse* 3(9):534-542
- Lock K (2011) Reflections on designing and implementing a nursing care plan. *The Veterinary Nurse* 2(5): 272-277
- Lock K (2013) Patient care report for a patient undergoing screening of the vertebral column. *The Veterinary Nurse* 4(10): 604-609
- Thomas C (2012) A care report of a feline sacroiliac and coxofemoral luxation following a road traffic accident. *The Veterinary Nurse* 3(3): 174-179
- Thomas C (2012) Extended care report after graft surgery for a descemetocoele. *The Veterinary Nurse* 3(5): 288-291
- Tompkins E (2013) Intensive nursing care provided to a patient with permethrin toxicosis. *The Veterinary Nurse* 4(1):30-34
- Tompkins E (2013) Anaesthetic management of a patient undergoing dental extractions with concurrent congestive heart failure and advanced tracheal collapse *The Veterinary Nurse* 4(6): 328 - 333
- Wager C (2011) Case study: a critical reflection of implementing a nursing care plan for two hospitalized patients. *The Veterinary Nurse* 2(6): 328-332
- Wager, C and Welsh, P (2013) Veterinary nurses creating a unique approach to patient care: part

- two. *The Veterinary Nurse* 4(9): 520-526
- Webb J, Welsh P, Whiting, M (2013) A case-based approach to professional and legal issues *The Veterinary Nurse* 4(6): 358 - 362
- Welsh, P and Wager, C (2013) Veterinary nurses creating a unique approach to patient care: part one. *The Veterinary Nurse* 4(8): 452-526
- Wood S (2011) The professional, legal and ethical issues in VN: a scenario. *The Veterinary Nurse* 2(3): 164-168

More information on the RVC's Graduate Diploma in Professional and Clinical Veterinary Nursing and how to apply can be found at:

www.rvc.ac.uk/Undergraduate/veterinary-nursing-diploma

If you have any questions or would like further information you can contact the Grad Dip team:

E-mail: vnschool@rvc.ac.uk



Class of 2013 - our Grad Dip Nurses at Graduation

Asia's first veterinary nursing degree graduates!

Students from the RVC's Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Nursing in Hong Kong have now completed the four year course, a collaborative programme with Hong Kong Polytechnic University (HKPU). The graduation or 'congregation' ceremony at HKPU has been scheduled for October 2014.

Jane McNae, RVC's Veterinary Nursing lecturer and Co-Programme leader says "Veterinary nursing is a very new profession in Hong Kong. Currently we have only around 50 qualified VNs supporting 690 registered vets in 125 practices along with 1000 veterinary assistants. Our graduating class of 30 students will definitely impact the veterinary industry in a positive way."

The course has generally mirrored the RVC's UK BSc VN programme, ensuring high standard training has been delivered. The course was

adapted to suit HK and Asia's unique needs, Jane explains, "Inclusion of core subjects such as Animal Welfare and Veterinary Public Health and elective subjects Animal Physiotherapies & Alternative Therapies and Care of Exotic Pets & Wildlife are what will give our graduates the edge as they start working within Asia's animal and veterinary community". The course has already been mapped to the UK's National Occupational Standards and gained recognition from the RCVS.

During the four year programme, students completed 48 weeks of clinical placement in an array of primary practices, large multi-vet hospitals and referral centres. Students have also had opportunities to work in wildlife rescue and rehabilitation, zoological and welfare settings in Hong Kong and other areas of Asia including China and Singapore.

"The support from the veterinary

community in Hong Kong and Asia has been fantastic and ensured the success of the programme. Thank you to all our host centres and their mentors, many of whom are RVC Alumni, who have mentored the students during their training", says Jane.

The RVC's HK based teaching team of Jane McNae and Queeny Yuen would like to thank their UK colleagues for their time and expertise in supporting the programme. In particular Rachel Lumbis, Sophie Pullen, Hilary Orpet and Natalie Hubble from the VN school, who have been heavily involved in the planning, development and teaching of the course in addition to their own busy work loads. A final thanks also to Professor of Veterinary Nursing, Sue Gregory, who has guided the team throughout the progression of the programme.



Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice

Are you interested in continuing your veterinary studies? Then perhaps the CertAVP is for you! The RVC has been accredited to assess a range of modules in the RCVS Certificate of Advanced Veterinary Practice. You may choose to be assessed in modules to suit your learning needs and if you wish to obtain the post nominal CertAVP you must achieve 60 credits. These must be completed within a ten year time period and you may 'mix and match' module assessments offered by different academic institutions – but of course we'd like you to come back to the RVC! Having a designated CertAVP will also help you achieve the RCVS Advanced Practitioner status.

The RVC supports self directed, independent, life long learning. We run CPD courses that support many of the learning objectives of CertAVP modules but do not run specific courses tailored only to CertAVP candidates.

CertAVP candidates are eligible for discounted RVC CPD courses, so even more reason to enrol with RVC!

The assessment process at RVC involves detailed formative and summative feedback on all submitted work. You can enrol with the RVC throughout the year and must also enrol with the RCVS. All candidates enrolled on the CertAVP will receive learning support via Learn and you will have access to the support provided for all RVC accredited modules, whether you are enrolled on just one or several modules. Online resources include interactive discussion forums with tutors and fellow candidates, recorded webinars, and clinical cases with model answers.

For more information, visit www.rvc.ac.uk/certavp or ring Joanne on 01707 666201.

Night at the Vet College: Chicken, egg ...what next?!

The RVC held its third 'RVC Lates' event in April. This year's event was funded by the The Physiological Society and was a great success with over 450 visitors.

Once again the RVC opened its doors to members of the public who came behind the scenes at the College for a free evening of fun activities and hands on science.

This year, the theme was all about chickens! Chickens are vital to our economy. RVC researchers study how they are changing, and how to keep these key links in the food chain healthy and happy and throughout the course of the evening visitors were able to:

- Explore the links between dinosaurs and modern chickens with Professor John Hutchinson;
- See how our scientists are investigating chicken welfare and cognition;
- Watch a demonstration of bird anatomy by the College's anatomist Andrew Crook (see picture above);
- Meet our chickens from Boltons Park Farm and take a tour of the studio of the RVC's artist in residence Geoff Harrison;
- Take part in a treasure hunt and art activities;



- Compete in a pub quiz to end the evening.

Keep an eye out on the RVC's website for the next RVC Late.

If you are interested in being involved or coming along to the next event contact Jon Parry, Head of Widening Participation and Community Engagement at the RVC - jparry@rvc.ac.uk

MSc in Veterinary Education - Are you involved in Teaching or Training?

Now in its fourth year, the RVC's PG Certificate in Veterinary Education has trained in excess of 100 participants and is increasing in popularity each year.

UK based teachers have been joined by participants from around the globe including the US, Canada, Australia, France, Spain, Denmark, Hong Kong, Sri-Lanka and Kenya. Distance Learners use the RVC online platform (LEARN) and online conferencing software to participate in presentations and discussions with fellow students and course tutors.

The development of this programme has led to further innovation in the delivery of distance learning education. A key example of this is the teaching observation assessment, which forms a core part of the PG Certificate. Course participants, both on-site and at a distance, video themselves whilst teaching. They then watch the video and analyse their own teaching practice, writing a self-critique before discussing the session with their tutor, either in person or via Skype.



This approach has become the focus of some interesting research shortly to be published by the MSc Vet Ed team.

Many of our PG Certificate students from previous years decide to progress on to the Postgraduate Diploma and beyond, with seven currently undertaking a Research Project to complete their MSc in Veterinary Education.

Research projects include:

- 1) Evaluating the educational value of animated plastinated anatomical specimens in teaching veterinary anatomy.
- 2) The use of web-based Re-Usable Learning Objects to enhance student performance.
- 3) The effects of video feedback on the self-perceptions of surgical performance in 5th semester veterinary students.

For more information about the MSc in Veterinary Education, visit <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/PostgraduateCourses/MScVetEducation> or email mscvetedu@rvc.ac.uk

RVC's very own Donald Palmer features in Royal Society Project

Dr Donald Palmer, Course Director for the BSc in Bioveterinary Science and Senior Lecturer in Immunology at the RVC was interviewed recently by a team from the Royal Society.

The society's study, in partnership with the British Library, recorded the life stories of ten scientists with minority ethnic heritage, covering issues such as being a minority in science, influences in childhood, and the fun and importance of science both to themselves and the wider community. The 'Inspiring Scientists - Diversity in British Science' project aims to encourage young people from all backgrounds to consider scientific careers.

Donald said: "My background has not been a disadvantage in terms of my progression, because what you have to remember about science is it is an international sort of language in itself.

"When you go to conferences you'll see people of a wide variety of backgrounds."

He added: "The perception of a veterinary college may be one of a particular sort of group of people, but you would be far mistaken. We've got people from a wide variety of backgrounds as academics as well as students."

The scientists interviewed for the project described little or no evidence of direct or indirect racism in the British scientific workplaces they worked within. However, many of them also said they had not regarded science as an obvious, 'normal' or easy career choice for someone with their ethnic background. Over the next few months the Royal Society will host events around the theme of diversity in British science.



Donald has been an inspiration to students on the BSc Bioveterinary Science course and many of you will have been taught by Donald over the years. In June last year the RVC held a ten year Anniversary event at Camden (featured on page 38 of this magazine) and these are just of few of the comments about Donald left in the visitors book.

Course was amazing!
Had so much fun!
Give Donald a knight hood.

Don is the best
-Lawrence.



VETSCI 4 LIFE
Best 3 years of my life
P.S. Donald is a legend

RVC on TV!

BBC YOUNG VETS

Over the past year, a group of BVet Med students have been filmed by a crew from ITN Productions, who will feature in a series, Young Vets, to be broadcast on BBC2 this Autumn.

Professor David Church, Vice Principal for Teaching & The Student Experience, talks about the series and why the College agreed to it being filmed at the RVC:

Why a TV series?

We receive a huge number of requests from broadcasters and production companies keen to get an insight into our world.

Having met Emma Reid from ITN Productions' we felt that a series for BBC Two, with its audience who are interested in exploring science and human interest stories, would be an excellent fit with the RVC.

A 10-part series gives us a platform to reach out to a wide and international audience (these programmes are ultimately sold on to broadcasters around the world) and we were convinced that ITN Productions would present an interesting and entertaining portrayal of what it's like to train as a vet. We have seen the early episodes and are really pleased with the outcome.

How has the series been filmed?

The film crew have had unique access to the College over the past year and have been following the students at particular points, with small hand-held



cameras. This has meant minimal intrusion to their studies and to the day-to-day functioning of the College.

The series will show what is involved in veterinary training – yes, there will be times when things don't go perfectly, but this is all part of the learning process – we wouldn't be painting a true picture if everyone got it right first time!

Who has been involved?

Six students were selected from last year's fourth year BVet Med students shortly after they had started the rotations component of the course – each student agreed to be filmed on clinical rotations in our hospitals, on farms and in vet practices, working with domestic pets, farm animals and horses.

Filming has also focused on our own clinical experts and vet nurses in the College's various clinical facilities as well as on vets in partner practices and while our students have been on EMS placements supervising veterinarians have also been featured.

What does the College hope to get out of it?

Clearly, we are keen to encourage the brightest and best young people from all backgrounds to consider veterinary medicine as a career – Young Vets gives an insight into the incredible depth of training undertaken at the RVC, with an abundance of heart-warming and compelling stories about the students and the animals they are treating.

As well as following the students' experiences, the series follows the stories of the animals they care for, so it will be of interest to animal owners. It will demonstrate the role that vets play in improving the health and welfare of animals large and small, and of course, it enables us to showcase the fantastic facilities at the College.

Ultimately, it's about showing the world what it takes to make the grade as a young vet, as well as examining Britain's relationship with pets and other animals. We hope our alumni enjoy watching it as much as we will! Young Vets will be broadcast in August on BBC Two.

RVC - The One Medicine approach

Two RVC experts were recently interviewed by the BBC about the relationship between advancements in veterinary science and in human medicine.

The RVC has long been at the forefront of the One Medicine initiative, which focuses on the mutualistic relationship of human health and animal health accelerating scientific progress. As well as being dependent on food-producing animals, humans benefit

from developments in veterinary science as these help medicine to progress. The news piece, broadcast in March explained how canine veterinary research can shed light on the human form of numerous conditions, for example epilepsy, haemophilia, cancer, and muscular dystrophy. As well as having genetic commonalities, the environment of humans and domestic dogs being shared means that pet dogs model disease better than lab rodents. As the environment has an effect on



Working with the Master! The RVC and David Attenborough

The RVC's Structure and Motion lab and equine hospital have teamed up to help the BBC with a new natural history programme on owls. This fascinating new programme will be broadcast in November and will be presented by Sir David Attenborough.

To illustrate these species' amazing anatomical and physiological features, Sir David will be using material created at the RVC. Dr. Jim Usherwood, a Wellcome Trust research fellow, together with Emily Sparkes, a technician with a background in human athletics, helped the BBC to collect

high-speed videos of a barn owl leaping up and pouncing down on to a beeper box hidden in the Structure and Motion lab (Fig. 1).

Prof. Renate Weller and her colleague Jonathon Dixon created 3D models based on computed tomographic scans showing the owl's unique anatomical features, such as their extraordinary mobile neck (Fig. 2). They also imaged how the pellet is formed in the owl's stomach by using repeat fluoroscopy after the owl had swallowed a mouse injected with radiographic contrast material. While

books state – and the BBC's hope was – that it should take only six hours before the pellet is spit out, the team waited over 12 hours before this finally happened.

The RVC/BBC team made the most of the collaboration, not only creating extraordinary image and video material for broadcast, but also capturing valuable research data in the process. These include the first measurements of the power with which owls leap up... and the crushing forces they apply on the 'prey' as they pounce.

So watch out for David Attenborough's series on owls on BBC in November and a new RVC publication soon.

Fig. 1 (left) High-speed video of a barn owl leaping up and pouncing down on prey

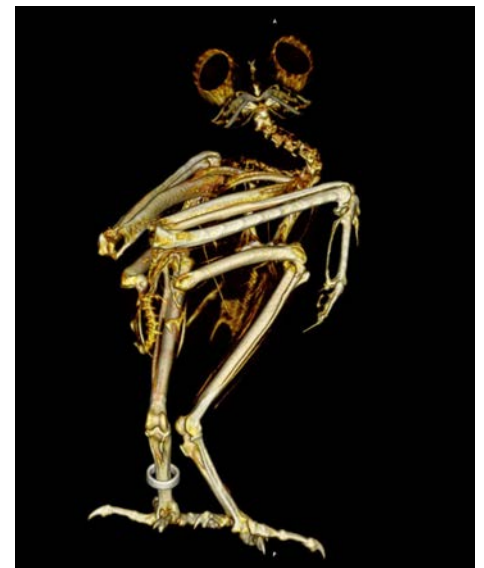


Fig. 2 (above) 3D models based on computed tomographic scans illustrating the unique anatomy of the owl: the owl is able to view its own backside due to its ultra-movable neck.



how genes are expressed, any gene-environment interactions causing human disease can also affect dogs.

RVC behaviour consultant Jon Bowen told the BBC: "Dogs are exposed to many of the same stressors that contribute to health problems. Their diet often contains leftovers from human meals, they are exposed to family stress (such as arguments and conflict) and are relatively socially isolated from members of their own species".

Commenting on the value of research

into pet dogs suffering from conditions, in comparison to scientists artificially giving diseases to rodents in labs, RVC Professor of Veterinary Neurology & Neurosurgery Holger Volk said, "Naturally occurring diseases in animals are complex. In a rodent you simplify a lot of things. When you look at certain diseases in humans, there are so many factors which could be involved [in causing that disease]. My research is driven to improve animal health. And if by doing that I can also help the human counterpart; it's a win-win situation for both species".

Spreading the Word on Logical Clinical Problem Solving

The RVC is spreading the word about logical clinical problem solving – a core component of the veterinary curriculum for recent RVC graduates.

In April of 2013 Jill Maddison and David Church delivered a two day course on clinical problem solving for 75 Sri Lankan vets in Colombo at a meeting supported by the World Small Animal Veterinary Association (WSAVA). Feedback from the meeting was very positive and the convenor reported to WSAVA that “[Jill and David] have created a revolution in continuing education in Sri Lanka by making Sri Lankan vets understand that good medicine depends on good clinical thinking skills and not just on sophisticated equipment”.

Also in 2013, the Veterinary Practitioner Association of Thailand (VPAT) invited Jill and David to present a workshop on clinical problem solving in Bangkok followed by a series of seven

webinars. The course was enthusiastically attended by 50 veterinarians from Thailand and the South East Asian region. The course followed a workshop with Jill several years ago involving small animal faculty members from Thai veterinary schools who were keen to embed the approach in their clinical teaching.



The RVC's Jill Maddison & Professor David Church with the Myanmar vets

In February 2014 Jill and David travelled to Myanmar to deliver the first ever continuing education meeting devoted to small animal practice in the country. The meeting in Yangon was organised by the Myanmar Veterinary Association and funded by WSAVA. In addition RVC has entered into partnership with the Philippines Animal Hospital Association (PAHA) to deliver a series of workshops on clinical problem solving for Filipino vets in small animal practice. Jill visited Manila in May to deliver the first workshop and further workshops will be delivered by Jill and David this August.

The generosity of RVC, WSAVA and several corporate sponsors in supporting these courses in the South East Asian region, where small animal practice is developing at an incredibly fast rate as the economies progress, is testimony that the importance of building a firm foundation of clinical

reasoning skills to underpin knowledge and clinical skills is recognised.

Back in the UK, the online CPD course run by the RVC every year on logical clinical problem solving continues to attract many veterinarians and is always a sell out. Details of this and other RVC CPD courses can be found at www.rvc.ac.uk/cpd.

Mongolian Visitors Observe the RVC

The RVC is very proud of its curriculum and teacher development project with the School of Veterinary Medicine and Biotechnology (SVMB) in Mongolia.

In November 2013 a team of veterinary teachers from SVMB visited LIVE to take part in a training workshop in teaching and learning methods in veterinary education.

SVMB teachers attended a two-day workshop on modern concepts in veterinary education followed by teaching observations at the RVC to see 'veterinary teachers at work'. One teacher from SVMB spent an additional two weeks at the RVC to explore the RVC curriculum and to see how SVMB curriculum can be modified to achieve the Day one competency skills of veterinary graduates in Mongolia.

Following on from this, the Swiss Agency for Development and



Cooperation (SDC) has offered a contract to the RVC to work with SVMB for the curriculum and teacher development of faculty at SVMB. Six visits to SVMB are planned. Ayona Silva-Fletcher from LIVE is leading this project, which will last until December 2015.

Veterinary teachers from the Mongolian State University of Agriculture. Dr Ayona Silva-Fletcher (third from left) organised the visit on behalf of the RVC, while Dr Barbara Wieland (third from right) represented the sponsors, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation in Mongolia.

RVC Research - The Big Picture

Each year the RVC Researcher Association ask for entries to their photograph competition. They have had another year of great photos and the public have been hugely impressed by the great research that the RVC undertakes. There were three categories - Nature's Artwork, Research in Action and People Behind the Research and the public voted for the overall winner in each category. Here are a selection of the entries for 2014 and of course, the winning photographs.

Well done to our winners, there were some amazing entries.

Winner of the Research in Action category was 'Another day at the gym' by the RLN team

Another day at the gym

1st

This photo was taken during treadmill training where the horse is cantering at ~11m/s.

By the RLN team



Just another day at the office!

1st

Esther the vet is looking into the cause of high blood pressure in cats with chronic kidney disease. She measures a dozen cats' blood pressures a day... But it's much easier if they will sit on the table!

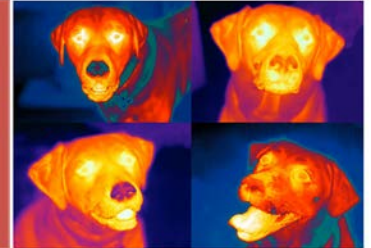
By the Feline Research Group (Rebecca Geddes, Esther Bijsmans, Jack Lawson and Nicola Lotter)



Winner of the People Behind the Research category was 'Just another day at the office' by the Feline Research Group (Rebecca Geddes, Esther Bijsmans, Jack Lawson and Nicola Lotter)

Expressions

By Natalie Chancellor and Emma Buckland

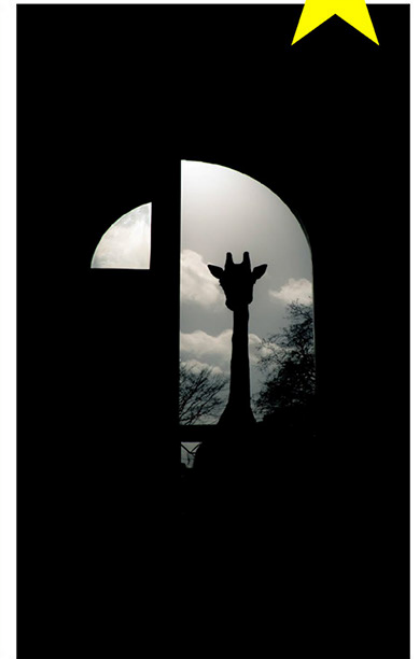


Giraffid Encounter

1st

This summer we'll be performing a locomotion study on giraffe in UK zoos. Here is the first place we visited to meet the giraffe. This female was indifferent to us, but came straight over to meet and greet one of her favourite keepers. We're studying giraffe locomotion so we can effectively treat diseases of the foot, and to better understand how giraffe have evolved from their smaller ancestors.

By Chris Basu



Winner of the Nature's Artwork category was 'Giraffid Encounter' by Chris Basu (1st year PhD student)

'Who's there?' said the Least chipmunk

Epidemiology and control of camel zoonoses in Jordan

Checking for MERS coronavirus (or 'camel flu') in this little newborn.

By Peter Holloway



All the entries can be viewed on the RVC website at: <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/researcher-association/photographic-competition>

I had attended a parasitology conference in Calgary and taken a break in the Yukon afterwards. Walking across a desolate railway bridge in an old gold mining town, I became aware of scurrying beneath me and then up popped a furry face just ahead. Wanting to get a clearer view of who had disturbed him, the chipmunk plucked up the courage and scurried on top of a railway sleep just ahead. We stared at each other for a few seconds, while I took a picture of him, before he disappeared - no doubt irritated that I had disturbed his slumber!

By Mark Fox



New Clinics at the RVC

Feline Diabetes Clinic

A new QMH based Feline Diabetic Remission Clinic opened in November 2013 and aims to find a way to cure diabetes in the cat. By doing so, we also hope to find clues to better understand and treat human diabetes.

The clinic, recently featured in The Times, is the first of its kind in the world and has already seen a high number of cats go into diabetic remission. The clinic is keen to have as many UK vets as possible refer newly diagnosed cats to the RVC to help with the research. In return, clients will get free disease work-up, including abdominal ultrasound and if entered into the trial, 6 months of free insulin and one year of free diabetic food.

The Clinic is headed up by RVC's Dr Stijn Niessen and is run on a day to day basis by Ruth Gostelow, American Specialist in Internal Medicine.

For further information on referring a case please contact Ruth at rgostelow@rvc.ac.uk

The research being stimulated through the clinic includes:

- genetic research using the blood samples taken looking for genes involved in attracting diabetes
- clinical trials investigating the exact role of insulin type, insulin regimen, food type and monitoring tools in obtaining good glycaemic control and remission
- the psychosocial influence of diabetes treatment on pet and owner
- the possibility of gene therapy improving glycaemic control and diabetic remission rates
- the possibility of beta-cell replacement improving glycaemic control and diabetic remission rates
- investigation of factors predicting diabetic remission



Exotics Service

The RVC's Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital has developed a specialist Exotics and Small Mammals service to support animals and their



owners, referring vets and veterinary education.

The facility in Camden is the only specialist exotics service in central London and the only full-time exotics service at an English veterinary school. The Beaumont recently appointed specialist Joanna Hedley (left).

Joanna has worked extensively with a variety of exotic pets, wildlife and zoo species and is a RCVS and European veterinary specialist in exotic animals. Working with Joanna are Nadene Stapleton (right), who has 14 years of veterinary experience working with exotic pets, and dedicated exotics nurse Abigail Edis RVN.

The Service treats a wide variety of animals, including rabbits and other small mammals, reptiles, birds, amphibians, ornamental fish and invertebrates. Services to support exotics include 40 minute

consults to discuss husbandary, diet and health concerns, a separate waiting area away from cats and dogs and dedicated hospitalisation facilities to separate prey and predator species.

The exotics service will also be offering regular evenings of educational talks for clients and the local pet owning community.

The first of these events was a rabbit evening in May. We wish the Beaumont much success in this new venture, which will in turn give our students more opportunity to learn about exotics whilst they are on rotations there.



RVC opens first specialist clinic in UK for short-muzzled dogs

The Brachycephaly Clinic is the first of its kind in the country exclusively specialising in the health of short-nosed dog breeds.

This type of dog is one of the most popular pet choices in the UK and includes pugs, English and French bulldogs, cavalier King Charles spaniels and Pekingese, but the breeding of brachycephalic dogs has led to a variety of health issues for the animals. These include problems with their bones and gait as well as eye, heart, ear (including hearing), skin, and breathing complications.

Brachycephalic dogs have a compressed skull in the front and in the back, which results in the soft tissues being crammed within and around the skull. In severe cases it can even appear the dog has no nose at all.

This means the animals are at especially high risk of developing respiratory problems such as brachycephalic obstructive airway

syndrome (BOAS). The clinical signs include breathing difficulties, noises during respiration, 'constant smiling', overheating, gagging and choking.

But it isn't just a dog's breathing that is severely affected by the condition. The short skull also results in the dog's skin folding over the front of the face, creating deep crevices which are a warm and moist environment that encourages growth of bacteria and yeasts. These bacteria can then attack the skin causing infection.

The flattening of the skull also causes the eye sockets to become shallow, meaning the eyeball protrudes significantly. Therefore the cornea is more exposed than usual, making it more likely to become dry, leading to ulceration or direct trauma. Other health issues can include heart problems, ear and hearing issues and complications with the animal's bones and gait.

If a dog was brought to a veterinary clinic with this complex set of clinical signs it may have to see several different specialists at different times. The aim of the RVC's new

multidisciplinary clinic is to bring a 'transdisciplinary' approach to caring for brachycephalic dogs. This means bringing all clinical services together ensuring the animals get the best holistic, individualised patient care.

Gert Ter Haar, Senior Lecturer in Soft Tissue Surgery and the Brachycephaly Clinic lead said: "Veterinary medicine has been following in the footsteps of human medicine for many years. But as doctors specialise they can lose sight of the big picture, only focussing on their own area of expertise.

"This can lead to a patient being passed from specialist to specialist with the root symptoms never really being found, or with inefficient use of time and money and the need for repetitive anaesthetic procedures. This can also happen in animal care, especially with animals with a complex set of symptoms, like those often associated with short-muzzled breeds.

"Therefore at RVC we have found the most effective way to treat an animal is our transdisciplinary approach. This means at our clinic we will have all the specialities under one roof so the patient and their owner can be rest assured they are receiving the best possible bespoke care, all during the same visit."

Dermatology Clinic

The RVC has the most experienced team of specialist dermatologists in the UK, headed by Dr Ross Bond and including fellow specialists Dr Anke Hendricks, Dr Anette Loeffler, Dr Andrea Volk, Ewan Ferguson and specialists-in-training Jon Hardy and Ana de San Rodrigues Marques.

Referring vets, clients and patients benefit from the team's expertise in all areas of veterinary dermatology, including bacterial and fungal skin infections, allergic skin diseases, alopecia and hair follicle diseases, autoimmune skin and claw diseases and disorders of keratinisation or pigmentation.

The team is experienced in the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic otitis externa and media, underpinned by video-otoscopy and advanced imaging modalities such as CT. A collaborative case management approach with specialists in other clinical services means that patients requiring surgery or other interventions receive them promptly and under one roof, making the clinic the ideal 'one stop shop' for the management of chronic ear disease. The Clinic is available at the QMH and the Beaumont Sainsbury Animal Hospital.

Osteoarthritis

The Osteoarthritis (OA) Clinic offers an extensive diagnostic and treatment service. The Clinic is managed by a small team of highly experienced orthopaedic surgeons and veterinary nurses who are dedicated to improving the life of animals with OA.



Clinical Skills Centre celebrates 10th anniversary

The RVC Clinical Skills Centre (CSC) is a relaxed and friendly environment used by over 1,000 undergraduate and postgraduate RVC students each year for learning practical skills.

Since its launch in September 2004, the CSC has become a world renowned facility where clinical students start learning the practical skills that relate to their day-one competencies. The students can then return after their practical classes and try the skill again in their own time, with the confidence that the staff in the CSC will be on hand to help should they encounter difficulties or want reassurance that what they are doing is correct.

Students can practise aspects of many different veterinary disciplines such as anaesthesia, radiography, lab skills, bandaging, cannula placement, fluid therapy, animal handling and theatre skills to name but a few!

The CSC comprises two labs in the LIVE building at the Hawkshead Campus, though it was originally in a converted large animal theatre next to the 'Obs Barn'.

So why a Clinical Skills Centre?

In 2004 medical schools had CSCs, but veterinary schools did not have any in the UK or Europe. It was becoming increasingly clear that there was a need to teach practical skills in a uniform way, in a safe environment, where the student could decide how much they wanted to practise and to reinforce the initial skills classes in their own time. After all, if a student wanted a book, they'd go to the library, but what if they wanted to practise a new skill? Where should they go? A CSC would answer this need. By equipping our students with the basics of a skill, they will be



more confident when they first try it on a real patient and will be more capable of extending their skills with that patient. If they have already learned how to hold instruments and remain sterile in theatre, it's much easier to participate in and concentrate on live surgery. We feel strongly that armed with greater confidence in their practical abilities, both veterinary and nursing students will feel more integrated into a veterinary team and will thus maximise their learning in the workplace.

The CSC team has authored the many 'skills sheets' and videos which back-up this teaching, making them available on the RVC virtual learning environment. We are also using QR (quick response) codes on the sheets in the CSC, so students with smart phones can use these to display the videos as they practise a skill.

The RVC, as the originator of the Veterinary Skills Centre concept, now advises many other Universities worldwide in the creation of their own centres, all slightly different, but with the basic concept of helping students with practical skills at the heart of their facilities.



Art at RVC

Students and staff at the RVC have been encouraged to look at veterinary life and education in different ways by the RVC Artist-in-Residence thanks to funding from the Leverhulme Trust.

Artist Geoff Harrison produced four canvasses and several other works during his residency, from September 2013 until this summer. Geoff has a long-standing interest in producing art based on clinical themes as he was formerly Artist-in-Residence at Bart's Pathology Museum at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London.

The four canvasses Geoff worked on at the RVC relate to different areas of life at the College. In workshops for staff and students he encouraged participants to develop their observation skills and draughtsmanship while concentrating on the themes of context, processes and emotions.

The workshops were designed to challenge participants to open their eyes to the wonder of animals and humans and all they contribute to a professionally-focussed academic community, during the course of each working day. Among various themes explored, the workshops encouraged the recognition of the importance of understanding objects in two and three dimensions to skills in anatomy, diagnosis and therapy.



Itchy and Scratchy



An Andalusian Pug

The workshops also encouraged participants to consider how creativity is as important to science as it is to the visual arts. As well as painting and drawing, participants used the mediums of photography and 3D techniques in the workshops.

Geoff reflects on the past year at the RVC. "It's been a really interesting experience, teaching people with a science background about drawing. Its great to see a high degree of concentration and commitment to making a good drawing. Of course not all attendees are anatomists, and there is a wide range of skills and approach, from the analytical to the expressive, depending on the individual."

He went on to explain: "One of the most interesting things for me is to discuss the cognitive process that is involved in drawing and dealing with our perceptions of what we think things look like versus what we see when we critically observe and then try to translate that into an image on paper. Assumptions about things like shape and proportion have to be challenged and worked through. Improvements can be seen in the space of a single

workshop though and it's great to see someone recognise where they are going wrong in one drawing, and then get it right in the next. Having an understanding of anatomy can really help with this, and also, doing the observational drawing seems to be really good for improving anatomical knowledge."

For further information on Geoff and his work visit <http://www.geoffreyharrison.co.uk>



Sefton

In October 2013, a life-sized statue of a military horse that survived a terrorist attack in London was unveiled at the RVC's Hawkshead Campus by the late Lord Ballyedmond.

The horse, Sefton, suffered terrible injuries in the 1982 Hyde Park bombing, which killed seven military horses and four soldiers. An IRA nail bomb was detonated at the time of the Changing of the Guard, striking the formation of horses and their riders.

Sefton received 34 separate injuries in the attack but served with the British Army for two years after the incident and survived until 1993. As the most severely injured surviving horse, Sefton's story of recovery captured the nation's hearts and he came to symbolise British resilience and fortitude.

The British public were greatly moved by the plight of Sefton and the other horses and sent in funds to pay for their care. The Royal Veterinary Corps had no need of these funds and so they were directed to the RVC to help with the costs of building a new Equine Hospital. It was subsequently named the Sefton Equine Hospital.

The statue was created by artist Camilla Le May and funded by Lord Ballyedmond (pictured top right receiving a maquette of the statue). Its purpose is to honour the life-time achievements of one of the College's longest serving senior academics, Professor Peter Lees, who retired in 2010 and to help the RVC honour its previous link to Sefton.

The statue sits on the site of the old Sefton Equine Hospital which was demolished when the new Equine Hospital was built, just outside the College's Teaching and Research Centre, which houses the pharmacology laboratory where Professor Lees worked.

Amongst the guests in attendance at the unveiling event were Lt Col Noel Carding MBE who was the first vet on the scene after the bombing, Andrew Parker Bowles OBE who also attended the scene and was the regimental

commander of the Blues and Royals at the time and Lt Col Paul Bedford Commanding Officer of the Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment.

Commenting on the statue, RVC Principal Professor Stuart Reid said, "As a symbol of resilience and recovery Sefton really is an inspiration and will live long in the memory of those who knew him. I would like to thank the generosity of our friend Lord Ballyedmond for his kind donation in recognition of our esteemed colleague Professor Lees that has enabled us to create this statue in memory of a great horse."

Lord Ballyedmond commented, "I am pleased to be able to offer my support to honour the work of Professor Peter Lees. The statue of Sefton will seal Peter's place in history for his advancement of pharmacology and unwavering dedication to research."

Tragically, Lord Ballyedmond died on the 13th March 2014 in a helicopter accident in Norfolk with three other people.



Col Neil Smith, Professor Peter Lees, Camilla Le May, Professor Stuart W J Reid, Lt Col Paul Bedford

Sefton Receives a Royal Visitor

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited the RVC in April 2014 to meet staff and students and hear about advances in equine research and practice.

Princess Anne, who is Chancellor of the University of London and a noted equestrian, took considerable interest in the College's equine research during her visit to the Hawkshead campus when she also had the opportunity to admire our new life-sized bronze statue of Sefton.

RVC Principal, Stuart Reid, introduced Princess Anne to senior academics, researchers and students, who explained some of the recent advances made at the College. Demonstrations showed how new technology can ensure more accurate assessments of movement problems in horses and how a computer-assisted learning programme enhances students' ability to recognise equine lameness.

Princess Anne also heard about kinematic analysis, which allows investigation of forces acting on bones, joints, ligaments and tendons, and the value of the imaging technique fluoroscopy. This uses x-rays to obtain moving images of internal structures, which enables the calculation of forces acting on specific parts of a horse's limb.

Speaking after the royal visit, Professor Reid said: "It was a great pleasure to



welcome Her Royal Highness back to the College and to show her this magnificent piece of art. Staff and students alike enjoyed the opportunity to present some of our work to The Princess Royal and to explain the impact that this has on equine health.

"From its inception, the College has been at the forefront of veterinary science and practice. The RVC's research in this field guides veterinarians internationally and has helped equids around the world."

Princess Anne's last visit to the Hawkshead Campus was in 2011. During that visit she opened the new Teaching and Research Centre. The statue of Sefton has pride of place outside the centre, where the Sefton Equine Hospital once stood.



War Horses for Causes

In 2014 there have been numerous projects, events and television programmes marking the centenary of the start of the First World War. The story of the War Horses has been highlighted in particular, not least through the award-winning play and hugely-successful Steven Spielberg film. Perhaps less well known, however, is the story of how the RVC came to benefit from their efforts.

In the late 1920s the Camden Campus was in a terrible state, the buildings were in disrepair and were no longer suitable for purpose. The Principal of the time, Sir Frederick Hobday, decided to launch the Nosebag Appeal with the aim of collecting 250,000,000 farthings to fund the rebuilding of the campus which would include a new purpose built small animal hospital. A giant nosebag was created (pictured below) alongside a vast number of small versions and 24 veteran war horses and hundreds of



volunteers were enlisted to help with the fundraising. Though elderly, these magnificent hero horses ventured out across the UK tirelessly collecting for the fund, stopping off at village fairs, fêtes and circuses. Two such participants, Jorrocks and Ransome, are pictured above observing the two minutes silence on the 11th November to commemorate the armistice which ended the Great War of 1914-18. It's said that of the million horses sent into

this unimaginable conflict, only 62,000 returned home. Most were killed by artillery or poisoned by gas.

A snippet of this wonderful fundraising effort was also captured on film and recently made available to view on YouTube by British Pathé. The clip shows the start of an incredible 500 mile journey across the South of England undertaken by two other war horses, Brenda and Josephine. Brenda was ridden by a Norman D.Lance, a young medical student with his sister, Daphne, taking the reins of Josephine.

Making great use of the giant Nosebag, they also handed out smaller ones along the way to enable other people to collect donations. According to Sir Frederick Hobday's autobiography, "Fifty Years a Veterinary Surgeon": "...they crossed five counties in 25 days and collected over 42,096 farthings".

In total, The Nosebag Appeal raised £135,000 and the government contributed an extra grant of £150,000. That's a combined figure equivalent to around a phenomenal £16m in today's money.

So as the world holds its commemorations of the start of WW1, we at the RVC would like to give these major gift horses a huge posthumous pat on the back. They risked their lives for our freedoms and then, in their twilight years, went on to help the RVC helping us to rebuild the Camden Campus (our only campus in those days) and establishing the first purpose built animal hospital in the UK. Generations of pets, vets and scientists owe these brave horses a huge debt of gratitude.



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Hawkshead's new Nature Trail

The Hawkshead Campus has a wonderful new nature trail thanks to the generous support of staff, students and alumni. This trail is an integral part of the RVC's Biodiversity Action Plan, which will maximise the environmental assets that we have at Hawkshead.

The College has worked with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to put together a set of projects to enhance the Biodiversity of the Campus. This Plan, covering the period 2014-2018, contains a number of recommendations for enhancement and management of the site with a view to increasing the biological diversity and improving access and amenities for the benefit of both students and staff.

Included in the Biodiversity Action Plan, was a recommendation to create a Nature Trail, which has recently opened thanks to the hard work and dedication of the RVC's staff and student volunteers and the Estates team.

The Nature Trail is a valuable resource for teaching and research as well as promoting awareness of the environment. It has many interesting features including a wildflower path, Benches, Picnic Tables,

Toxicology Garden and Medicinal Garden.

Where possible we have used recycled and sustainable materials. For example railway sleepers taken from the old silage clamp at Boltons Park Farm have been used to make bridges and flower beds and trees and branches that came down in the storms last winter have been made into signs and used to mark out pathways.

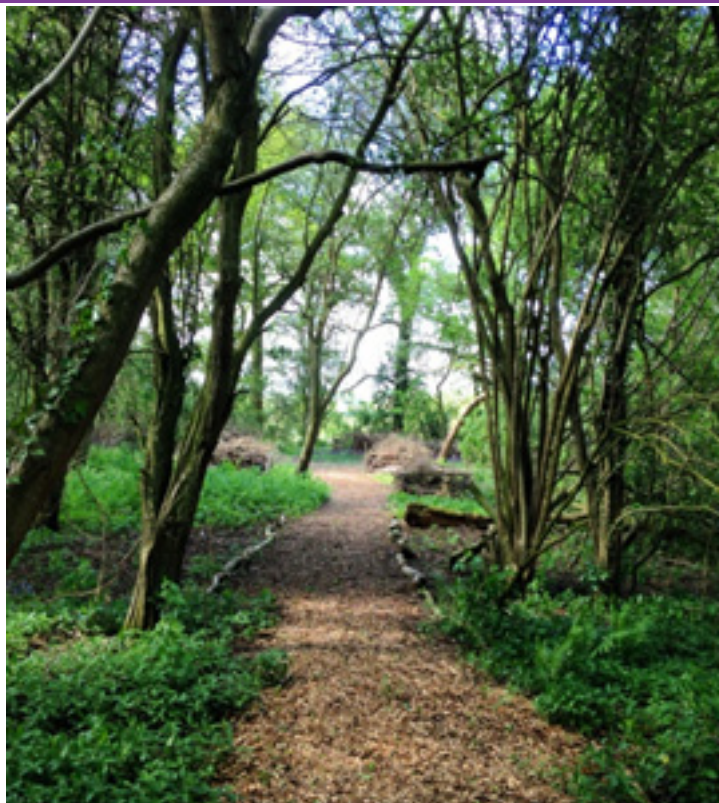
The RVC is now planning to clear out a pond and restore a historic Pill Box at the Farm later in the year.

Thanks to RVC alumni the Annual Fund made a generous donation of £3000 to assist with the project, which has been spent on benches and clearing of the area.

In order to build upon the success of the nature trail so far, further donations would be beneficial to enhance and extend the wood.

Donations would help contribute towards achieving the following outcomes:

- Students will benefit from an outdoor learning space which will aid their studies as well as give them a better insight into the biodiversity of their campus and see at first hand a variety of toxicological and medicinal plants.



- Encourage a wide variety of wildlife including birds, insects, small mammals and amphibians, improving the biodiversity of the area

If you are at Hawkshead please feel free to come and visit the trail which starts at the car park to the rear of Odiham Hall.

If you would like to learn more about this trail or contribute to its development please contact development@rvc.ac.uk for further details.

A huge thank you to all those that support the Alumni Annual Fund, as you can see your support really does make a huge impact on our students surroundings and learning and teaching facilities.

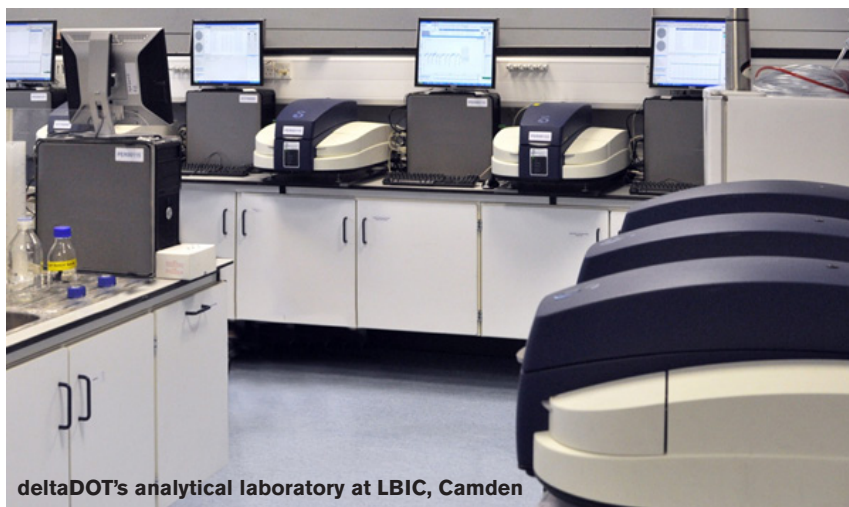


RVC launches on-demand assay of glomerular filtration rate in cats and dogs

The RVC has launched a new therapeutic drug monitoring service in partnership with deltaDOT, a biotechnology company based in the London Bioscience Innovation Centre (LBIC), next to the Camden campus.

The initial service offered is a measure of glomerular filtration rate (GFR) in cats and dogs, widely considered to be the gold standard test for kidney function.

Measurement of GFR can help identify early renal dysfunction in a dog or cat that produces diluted urine but is not yet azotemic. It is a useful test for the clinical exploration of polyuria/polydipsia and may also be useful as a screening tool for older cats or for some dog breeds known to be at risk of nephropathies. Earlier diagnosis of renal dysfunction may be of benefit to both clients and patients by providing better information on long-term prognosis and enabling protective therapies or diets to be started sooner. Repeating GFR measurements is advisable as changes of GFR in time are more informative than the absolute GFR value based on a single measurement. Accurate measurement of GFR could also enable the dosage of renally excreted drugs to be adjusted when renal disease is present. It could also help monitor renal function when drugs that alter renal haemodynamics are administered.



The test itself involves the bolus injection of a solution of iohexol, a contrast agent used in clinical imaging (Omnipaque™ 300). Blood samples are taken at two, three and four hours, and serum iohexol concentration is measured using deltaDOT High Performance Capillary Electrophoresis technology. Results are then used to calculate the clearance of iohexol. A clinical interpretation of the GFR is proposed based on the results of the test and previous history and laboratory results submitted at the time of request.

Dr Ludovic Pelligand, an RVC clinician and pharmacologist responsible for interpreting the results of the test, said "We believe the iohexol serum-clearance test will be of great use to vets treating companion animals. We

are the only organisation in Europe that offers this test commercially, which is simple to carry out, safe and has a rapid turnaround time".

Further details on the test, including ordering details, can be found on the RVC website, at <http://www.rvc.ac.uk/therapeutic-drug-monitoring/>

Other assays will be launched shortly by the RVC/deltaDOT partnership; however, the service is keen to hear from vets about what tests would be of most use to them, either because they are not currently available, or because they cost too much.

Vets who want to suggest future targets for the service can contact Dr Sam Williams at samwilliams@rvc.ac.uk

New research into Post Weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS)



The RVC has led research which has generated valuable insights in to a disease that strikes a large number of animals and costs farmers millions of pounds. Researchers have demonstrated that its causative virus infects immune cells, evading detection by the host immune system. This renders the host more susceptible to infections. The research also shows that once the PCV-2 virus, which can cause Post Weaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) infects immune system cells, different genes within them are switched on and off. The finding highlights one reason why PMWS is so difficult to control but the RVC researchers hope it may offer new avenues of research to develop better preventative treatments.

PMWS is present in all pig-producing countries and costs UK pig farmers millions of pounds each year in losses. Pigs between five and twelve weeks old are affected with symptoms including wasting, breathing problems, enlarged lymph nodes and death. Existing vaccines reduce economic and animal losses but do not eliminate the virus. RVC's Professor of Molecular Immunology Dirk Werling, led the research which involved infecting three types of health pig immune cells with a PCV-2 virus strain currently circulating in the UK. They saw that the infection took place without apparent detection by the immune system and, once infected gene expression within the infected immune cells changes significantly. This infection is believed to be a significant step in the establishment of the disease state in pigs.

Call for primary-care veterinary practices: RVC mitral valve disease study

In collaboration with primary-care veterinary practices across the UK, the RVC is undertaking an exciting new study on degenerative mitral valve disease (DMVD) in dogs.

The research is funded by Petplan Charitable Trust and is part of the Veterinary Companion Animal Surveillance System (VetCompass), a collaborative not-for-profit research project that collates and analyses clinical record data from veterinary practices.

The study aims to explore the survival of dogs with DMVD in the primary-care setting. This includes evaluating the prognostic value of cardiac biomarkers (NT-pro-BNP and cardiac troponin I) and simple clinical measurements. Better understanding of the progression of

the disease and the predictive value of key measurements will help veterinary surgeons identify dogs with DMVD that have the highest risk of progressive disease and death.

To recruit dogs with DMVD into this study, veterinary surgeons at participating practices simply obtain owner consent, take a blood sample for the new Idexx cardiac biomarker assays (provided free of charge to the practices for these cases) and record a few baseline measurements at the time of study entry.

The DMVD diagnosis can be based on clinical examination alone and does not need to be confirmed by echocardiogram. Sampling can be done at any disease stage; from dogs with asymptomatic murmurs to those with severe disease receiving long-

term treatment. The results of the cardiac biomarker assays will be made available at the time the samples are analysed, at no cost to the practice. The clinical notes of recruited dogs will be uploaded to the secure VetCompass database at the RVC, allowing the clinical progress of these dogs to be followed over time.

For further information or to express an interest in participating, please contact Maddy Mattin: mmattin@rvc.ac.uk



Giraffe mystery solved

How do the spindly legs of a giraffe support its huge weight? This question has puzzled scientists for many years but RVC researchers may now have uncovered the answer by identifying a highly specialised ligament structure that is thought to prevent giraffes' legs from collapsing under the immense weight of the animal.

'Giraffes are heavy animals, around 1,000 kilograms (2,200 pounds), but have unusually skinny limb bones for an animal of this size' explained lead investigator Chris Basu, a PhD student in the Structure and Motion Lab. 'This means their leg bones are under high levels of mechanical stress.'

In giraffes, the equivalents to our metatarsal bone and metacarpal bone are extremely elongated, accounting for roughly half the leg length. A distinct groove runs along the length of these bones, housing a structure called the suspensory ligament. This structure is also found in other

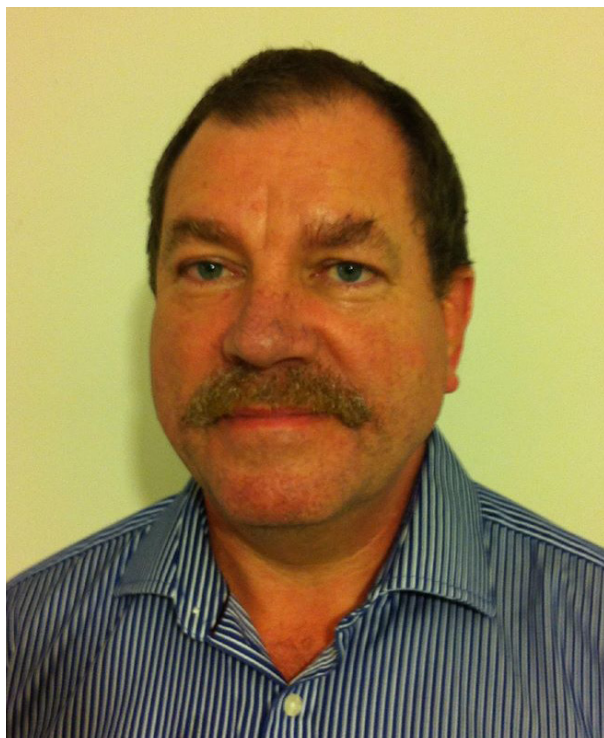
large animals, such as horses, but this is the first time that it has been studied in giraffes.

The researchers hypothesised that this arrangement may help solve the mystery of how the giraffes' spindly legs can support its weight. They were given limbs from giraffes which had died naturally in captivity. The limbs were then fixed in a rigid frame and, using a hydraulic press, the researchers applied forces of up to 2,500 Newtons (around 250 kg), to simulate the bodyweight supported by each limb. It was found that the limbs remained upright and stable without any additional support and could even withstand greater loads.

Chris hopes that this research will help to explain how giraffes evolved from small, antelope-like species to the iconic long-necked animals we know today. 'I'd like to link modern giraffes with fossil specimens to illustrate the process of evolution,' he said, 'We

hypothesise that the suspensory ligament has allowed giraffes to reach large sizes that they otherwise would not have been able to achieve'.

RVC's Mr Movember



The winner of the 2013 RVC's Movember competition was...

JOHN FISHWICK

HUGE congratulations to John for his Movember effort. Also congratulations to Alex Stoll and Martin Hawkes who came second and third respectively.

John was very happy to be awarded Mr RVC Movember and said,

"I can't believe I won. I was in shock. To be honest, I haven't grown any facial hair since I was about 21, so I was really pleased to see that something was still able to come through! It was fantastic to be able to do something for both prostate and breast cancer. It was great fun and for such a good cause. Well done to everyone involved. "

The Movember awards presentation was a real success and it was excellent to see so many people come along and celebrate all in aid of prostate and testicular cancer. Next year promises to be bigger and better!

It is great to see all members of the college united over a common good cause!" . Who will be our 2014 winner we wonder?

RVC Sports

Here from the archives is a photo of the RVC Football Team 1884-85 and the 2013 team.

Fact File:

The RVC has entered 30 sports team(s) into the British Universities and Colleges Sports (BUCS) league programme for the 2013 - 2014 season.

RVC has secured 96 wins so far this season, with 104 defeats and 23 draws, making their win rate 43%.

Well done RVC sports wishing you lots of luck for the 2014-15 season.



Final Day of Lectures!

November saw the Final Day of lectures for our fourth year BVetMed students.

Carrying on a rich RVC tradition of fancy dress, this year our BVetMed fourth years all dressed up in the theme of 101 Dalmatians! It's days like this that make us all remember why the RVC is just so special.

Guest lecturer and RVC Alumna Christianne Glossop (Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales) looking the part dressed as the wicked, Cruella De Vil.

THANK YOU Christianne. You were utterly fantastic!



RVC's, Dr Steven Van Winden (left) and Christianne Glossop fully embodying their roles as a 'puppy catcher' and Cruella De Vil!



The picture below shows the RVC's 2014 Foundation Degree Vet Nurses (Cohort 8) who chose to celebrate their last day of lectures by wearing Onesies/pyjamas.



Whether its 1927 or the present day. RVC students have ALWAYS had a great sense of humour!



Remember your Last Day of Lectures?

Send us any pictures you have of your last day of lectures and we will feature them on our facebook page and on our RVC4Life website. Post or email development@rvc.ac.uk

Elaine Acaster OBE (RVC Staff)

Elaine, who retired from the role of Vice Principal for Strategy and Governance last autumn, received the award for services to higher education.

Initially qualifying as a dietician and then working within the NHS, Elaine moved into the education sector by taking a lectureship in Glasgow, where she taught nutrition and dietetics. She subsequently became a head of department at Harrow College of Higher Education and had a similar role in Luton before becoming Vice Principal and then Deputy Principal of Westminster College [now Westminster Kingsway College].

The wealth of managerial and strategic planning experience Elaine brought to the RVC helped the College to go from strength-to-strength and expand considerably in capacity. From her appointment as Assistant Principal in 2002 and Secretary to Council in 2005, Elaine proved an exceptional asset to the RVC. Her stewardship supported the rapid expansion of the College, which has allowed it to meet the challenges of a turbulent higher education environment.

In the period between 2002 and 2013 the RVC's turnover tripled, while staff and student numbers more than doubled.

Commenting on Elaine's work at the College and her OBE, RVC Principal Stuart Reid said: "I am absolutely delighted for Elaine, her family and for all of us here at RVC. I know that Elaine is the first to acknowledge that the award recognises contributions that she could only have made as part of a team. The first woman ever to hold a Vice Principal position at RVC and now with an OBE, her achievements mark her out as a remarkable individual."

Elaine said: "I am delighted to have received this award which reflects the outstanding contribution made by many remarkable RVC colleagues and collaborators in the higher education sector."



Professor Peter Bedford (1967)

Professor Peter Bedford, Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Ophthalmology (London University) & RCVS Fellow, graduated from the RVC in 1967. Amongst many Presidencies Peter has held he was president of the British Small Animals Veterinary Association from 1982-83 and founded the European Society of Veterinary Ophthalmology, from which has grown the European College. Professor Bedford worked at the RVC from 1992 to 2010.

He has recently been awarded the Kennel Club's International Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering work in the control of hereditary eye disease. Judges from the veterinary profession and the world of scientific research at the Kennel Club International Canine Awards chose Peter for his ongoing and inspirational commitment to developing and improving ocular disease control schemes. Since 1996 he has given considerable support and advice in relation to primary open-angle glaucoma, an eye condition which can cause pressure in the eye causing pain and at worst blindness.

On receiving the Award he said "I feel like the luckiest man alive. My life started as a pig farmer's son and I went to veterinary school expecting to be a pig vet. But now I have been a general vet for 46 years and a veterinary ophthalmologist for many of them, something I always wanted to pursue. I'm grateful that my work has been recognised".

Peter wanted us to let his fellow 1967 classmates that 'the then College's left back is still alive and kicking!'.



Keith Thoday (1971)

At the end of July 2013, Professor Keith Thoday retired from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, The University of Edinburgh. He held a Personal Chair in Veterinary Dermatology at Edinburgh and was Head of its Dermatology Service from its inception in 1977.

After graduating BVetMed from the RVC in 1971, Keith worked for two years as a House Officer at the Beaumont Animals' Hospital (as it was then known) under Professor Leslie Vaughan, Robert Churchill Frost and 'Tommy' Thomsett (who inspired his interest in dermatology). He then spent four years in small animal practice in Middlesex during which time he established the first private referral practice in dermatology in the UK. At the end of 1977, Keith was appointed to a Lectureship in Small Animal Medicine at Edinburgh, with specific responsibility for the development and teaching of dermatology. It was here that he carried out his PhD research into certain aspects of feline thyroid function.

During his career, Professor Thoday has received in excess of three quarters of a million pounds in research grants, produced over 100 peer-reviewed publications and presented over 250 national and international lectures. Keith has played an important role in the development of dermatology both nationally and internationally. He was the first Chair of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons' Dermatology Board and was awarded a Foundation Diploma in Veterinary Dermatology (DVD) by the RCVS (1987).

He was appointed as Foundation Diplomat (DipECVD) by the newly established European College of Veterinary Dermatology (ECVD) in 1992 and served on every position on its Executive Board, culminating in its Presidency in 2004 and 2005.

Keith has trained 13 residents from ten countries; nine of them are now ECVD Diplomats, three are RCVS Diplomats, one is an American College of Veterinary Dermatology Diplomat and two of these have also gained PhDs.

Amongst other awards, Professor Thoday has received Honorary Life Membership of the British Veterinary Dermatology Study Group, the Woodrow Award of the BSAVA 'for outstanding contributions in the field of small animal veterinary medicine' and, in 2012, was given a Lifetime Achievement Award from the ECVD at the World Congress of Veterinary Dermatology in Vancouver, Canada, 'for his outstanding contribution to the field of Veterinary Dermatology', only the third time that this award had been made in 20 years. In September 2013, The University of Edinburgh conferred on him the title Professor Emeritus.

Keith can be contacted on: K.L.Thoday@ed.ac.uk



Kim Whittlestone (1989) - National Teaching Fellowship Award



The RVC's LIVE Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning has achieved a hat-trick of academics receiving a prestigious award for excellence in teaching and support for learning.

The latest recipient, Kim Whittlestone, Senior Lecturer in Independent Learning and RVC alumnus, is one of 55 individuals from across England, Wales and Northern Ireland to

become National Teaching Fellows (NTFs) this year.

Fellows are chosen from nominations submitted to the Higher Education Academy (HEA). There were more than 180 nominees this year. Each NTF receives £10,000 to support their professional development. The recent announcement by the HEA of a fellowship for Kim brings to three the number of NTFs awarded to veterinary educators while they were members of the LIVE Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning. The three Fellows are Professor Sarah Baillie - now at the University of Bristol - Dr Ayona

Silva-Fletcher, and now, Kim. This means, with Professor Stephen May, who was the first veterinary NTF - receiving his award 10 years ago - the RVC has produced an impressive four NTFs since the scheme began.

Since completing an MA in Medical Education, Kim has worked with both teachers and students developing their educational practice and academic skills. He has developed courses in practical education for veterinary specialists-in-training and been involved in curriculum design and delivery internationally. Kim helped develop and is co-director of the RVC's innovative MSc in Veterinary Education and he also teaches undergraduates.

Commenting on the NTF award, Kim said: "I was delighted to hear that I had won a National Teaching Fellowship award. Being recognised for excellence in teaching and learning at a national level really encourages me to keep pushing the boundaries of educational practice and research."

"Although the NTF is an individual award, so much of my work is about collaboration with others and I'm grateful for the support and encouragement of my colleagues at the RVC and across all the institutions that I have worked with. I am really looking forward to developing my expertise further through engagement with the Association of National Teaching Fellows community."

Many congratulations to Kim.

Andrew Crook - Veterinary Medicine Technician of the Year

The RVC's Head of Anatomy Services has been named as the Higher Education Academy (HEA) Veterinary Medicine Technician of the Year for 2014.

Andrew Crook receiving an MBE in 2012 for services to the veterinary profession

Andrew Crook came to the RVC straight from school and has worked at the College for 34 years. The inaugural HEA award recognises his commitment to the RVC, its students and the wider community.

The HEA Health and Social Care Technician of the Year award recognises the work of individuals in a broad range of educational fields within universities. As well as veterinary medicine, award categories include medicine and dentistry, health studies, nursing and midwifery and social work and social policy. The winner of each category receives £250 in recognition of their contribution to Health and Social Care education.

Geoff Glover, HEA Assistant Director and Head of Health and Social Care, said: "The support of technical staff within health and social care provides a valuable contribution to the creation of high quality learning and teaching for students and commissioners. Their creativity and contribution to innovative pedagogies within educational technology assures student learning has relevance to practice and pertinence to effective patient or client care."

He added: "I congratulate all our successful Technicians of the Year and wish them every success in their future learning and teaching experiences."

Andrew studied applied biology on day release after joining the RVC and in his early years split his time between teaching anatomy to undergraduates and helping with research. In 2000 he became chief technician in anatomy, and head of anatomy service in 2010.

Throughout his time at the College he has tried to encourage young people of a non-standard veterinary background to consider veterinary medicine as a career, through school activities such as 'afternoon anatomy', summer schools, work experience programmes, and anatomy demonstrations at RVC Lates, an outreach programme for the general public.

Andrew also instigated the 'Teaching the Teachers' course, designed to try to get more anatomy taught in schools.



Andrew supervising an 'Afternoon Anatomy' session for schoolchildren at the RVC

He was awarded an MBE for services to veterinary science in 2012. He has won two teaching prizes for his commitment to undergraduate students and a Fellowship of the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA). He is currently engaged in setting up a new plastination laboratory, which will further enhance the student learning experience at the RVC.

Many congratulations to Andrew.

David Grant - Honorary Fellowship

The following is an excerpt of the oration given for David by Professor Sue Gregory:

“Many of you will recognize David Grant from the small screen in your living room. The BBC One television show which he appeared in, *Animal Hospital*, probably inspired some of you to get to where you are today.

David grew up in Kent and went to a local grammar school. His plan A was to become a vet and he applied to the Royal Veterinary College. He attributed his success in getting a place to his athletic prowess, rather than academic ability and felt very lucky to get accepted, as he had no Plan B. David qualified with a BVetMed in late 1967. There was no exotic final year holiday for David, as within 48 hours of finals he was sent to Oswestry to assist with a historic outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease.

His first proper job was in farm practice in Kent but after three years, he returned to the RVC as a house surgeon. He then spent the next three years at the RSPCA's Harmsworth Hospital in Finsbury Park, North London, before a sabbatical year working in Columbia. Upon returning to the UK, his interest in dermatology developed and he obtained his FRCVS in Veterinary Dermatology as a lecturer at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh.

David returned to the Harmsworth Hospital in 1987. It was here, acting as the hospital director and a very much hands on vet in a primary, charity practice, that David made his biggest mark in our profession. The BBC were looking to pilot an animal version of the popular TV programme, *Children's Hospital*. They were thinking of filming this at the Bristol Vet School but David persuaded them that their choice of institution could be improved. After all, if they wanted a live programme in the evening, people still had to be at work and he didn't think that would be the case at a University!

After a pilot, the first series was broadcast live in August 1994. Its success was immediate. The programme was heartwarming, tear-jerking and tackled the huge variety of animal and human interest stories with honesty and sensitivity. It was the first veterinary reality TV programme of its kind and rapidly developed huge viewing figures, peaking at over 12 million. It was the first of 19 series, over the next 10 years and helped to save the RSPCA hospitals, which had been at risk of closure due to funding restraints.

The effect on the public was massive; they had a much better understanding of what vets could and couldn't do and how the veterinary team and RSPCA inspectors worked together.

David's love of dermatology has been apparent throughout his career. Many veterinary students and vets of my generation used his dermatology book. He continues to contribute to under and post graduate education at home and abroad. He is an excellent and charismatic lecturer with the ability to impart knowledge and understanding to most of his recipients.

One of the anecdotes he shares with his students relates to



an elderly client who brought her dog to see him with a skin complaint. The disease turns out to be demodicosis (a type of mange) and he explains the nature of the disease to the owner, saying that the mites penetrate into the skin. When she finds it difficult to understand, he calls her over to the microscope and shows her the mites. She is still confused but he explains that they are the little moving structures that look like cigars. Immediately she recognises them and says she now understands. Shortly thereafter he leaves the clinic and sees the owner with her husband in the corridor outside. She is berating him and saying “I told ya again and again not to smoke those cigars in the ‘ouse”.

David has received many awards and accolades for his work in promoting the veterinary profession, animal welfare and the social issues that result in animal cruelty and abuse. These include an MBE for services to animal welfare, the Charter 150 Special Award from the RCVS (of which the only other recipient is Alf Wight), many other awards from veterinary organizations, the inaugural RSPCA Queen Victoria Gold Medal and some joint TV awards.

Despite this success he always had time to mentor, support and encourage vet students and colleagues. David was never one to just tick boxes on EMS feedback forms; his comments always included a very long list of all the procedures my tutees had done on the back of the page.

In conclusion, David is an inspirational alumnus of the RVC. He has and continues to make a difference to animal care and welfare both in the UK and internationally.”

Mac Johnston - Honorary Degree

Mac Johnston graduated from the 'Dick Vet' Edinburgh in 1968 and spent 11 years in large animal practice, including meat hygiene and public health work.

In 1979 he moved to the RVC to assist in the start-up of the farm animal practice teaching unit where he researched the ultrastructure of the hoof resulting in the award of the Doctor Veterinary Medicine degree by the University of London in 1991.

At the RVC, he was involved in undergraduate teaching as senior lecturer in veterinary public health. He had a significant role in veterinary public health teaching development at the RVC, and over time, integrated veterinary public health teaching with other parts of the course, such as animal health and welfare, epidemiology. He was visiting teacher at Cambridge Veterinary School for 18 years and contributed to post graduate course at Bristol Veterinary School.

He was an independent member of several committees advising the UK Government of microbiological safety of food and on antimicrobial resistance. As a member of the EU Veterinary Public Health Committee, including the time of the BSE crisis, and then a member of the Biohazard Panel of European Food Safety Authority he served as chair of working groups.

In 1981 he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Health, receiving the Ward Richardson gold medal from the Society in 1999, the award of Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons in 1997 and became a RCVS specialist in Veterinary Public Health in 1994. He was a Foundation Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Public Health and awarded the OBE in 2005 for "services to food safety" and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine honoris causa from the University of Nottingham in 2012.

On retirement in 2006 from the RVC, he returned to his other love, equine practice, as a part time consultant to a new equine practice outside Inverness.

In September 2013. Professor Johnston was presented with the BEVA Equine Welfare Award in recognition of his long-



term dedication to the provision of advice and guidance for local people and vets in the Scottish Highlands.

This in turn, has had an important bearing on the improvement of the welfare of horses in the region.

Mac Johnston is well known to many vets. He was lecturer in Equine Medicine at RVC and is a widely published author. Subsequently he became a renowned authority in public health. Although living in the Scottish highlands and commuting to the RVC Mac provided much needed 'expert' help for local people and vets. Since retiring from the RVC he has worked in the community mentoring younger vets and dealing with awkward cases and clients.

Barbara Cannon - Honorary Degree

The following is an excerpt of the oration given for Barbara by Professor Jonathan Elliot:

Once in a while you come across someone who is truly exceptional. Professor Barbara Cannon is one such person. She has achieved things in her academic career which most of involved in science can only dream of.

Barbara graduated with a degree in Biochemistry from Chelsea College, University of London. She was not sure what she wanted to do following graduation but found a travelling scholarship which she could apply for. She was fascinated by mitochondria and one of her lecturers told her there was an excellent group in Stockholm working in this area so she applied, won the scholarship and seized the opportunity to broaden her horizons. She ended up completing a PhD at the University of Stockholm on mitochondrial physiology studying the mechanism of uncoupling of brown fat mitochondria as a model system to understand mitochondrial energy utilization. She moved to Ottawa for a period of post-doctoral studies before returning to the University of Stockholm to take up a post in the Wenner-Gren Institute. Within 12 years of her PhD she was to become director of this institute, a post she held for more than 25 years.

The Institute's philosophy, during her leadership, was one of integration of scientific discovery at the cellular and molecular level into whole animal physiology. As such it is very much aligned with one of the RVC's underpinning research philosophies. She mentored many research scientists throughout her period of leadership of this Institute whilst at the same time pursuing her own area of research - the physiology of brown fat. Brown adipose tissue is highly metabolically active, packed full of mitochondria and richly innervated by the sympathetic nervous system. It has a role of generating heat and is particularly important in neonatal animals – lambs for example, would not survive the intense cold spring nights they can encounter on the hills without this tissue. Barbara and others working in her field have found that brown adipose tissue is also highly metabolically active in adult humans. Understanding its regulation and true physiological role in the absence of changes in environmental temperature is fascinating and could lead to important contributions in solving the epidemic of obesity and type 2 diabetes we are currently facing. Careful scientist that she is, Barbara is quick to play down any such claims, preferring to wait until the evidence is clearer.

Peer-recognition is the true mark of an exceptional scientist. Barbara was elected a fellow of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences in 1989, a rare achievement for a foreign scientist then. She has served the Academy in many capacities, chairing the Trustees of the Nobel Foundation from 2009 – 2012 and receiving the ultimate accolade of being elected the Academy's president in 2012, a **post** which she holds at the moment. Another mark of peer recognition is how frequently your publications are cited by your peers. Those of us in academia will be familiar with the 'H-index' which is a measure of peer citations of your published work. Most of us aspire to achieve an H-index in the high 20s.



Barbara's H-index is 57 - truly remarkable.

We were therefore very honoured when Barbara joined the RVC in a part time position as Chair in Physiology in 2009. She has been an inspiration to all of us, particularly our early career researchers. Her experience and judgement were a great help to me in preparing the College for the Research Excellence Framework. We are very fortunate now to be able to include a scientist of her standing as one of our honorary graduates.

Degrees of Recognition

Prior to the RVC becoming part of the University of London in 1949, students successfully completing their studies at the College were awarded a diploma of membership of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. The first Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine degree was not awarded until 1957.

On 16th July, at RVC's Graduation at Centrail Hall in Westminster we welcomed 45 alumni who successfully completed their studies at the College and were awarded a diploma, to recognise them with an honorary Degree in Veterinary Studies. We shall also be awarding over 85 of these honorary degrees in absentia and we would like to thank each and every one of the recipients for their hard work, dedication and determination in bringing the profession to where it is today.

Many congratulations to you all, the RVC is proud to have you as alumni. Here are some pictures of the ceremony and some of the derserving recipients. For those who will receive the degree in absentia, your certificates will be with you shortly.



Those who attended Graduation on 16th July 2014:

Arthur Owen Ashford	1950
Kenneth Percy Baker	1957
Colin Beesley	1954
Monica Jill Bowen	1956
Carl Boyde	1951
John Richard Brunson	1952
Jennifer Anne Bunting	1952
Reginald Scott Cameron	1956
Ernest Ludwig Caspari	1950
Basil George Fielden Dier	1955
Raymond Edward Gee	1956
Ian Harvey Haggis	1952
Val Ashley Harrison	1949
William John Herbert	1952
Robert Geoffrey Holmes	1954
Bruce Vivash Jones	1951
Anthony Nicol Jordan	1953
William I'Anson Peter Laing	1952
Denis Richard Lane	1953
Roy Muir Mack	1949
Victor James Alban Manton	1953
John Allen Mason	1956
Edward Peter Nelson	
John Godfrey Oldham	1949
Peter Ora	1949
Robin Timothy Pepper	1953
Mary Pett	1952
Robert Crosbie Cooper Pigott	1955
Eric Pittaway	1950
John Henry Bruce Prole	1955
Leonard Henzell Rutherford	1956
Ian Adair Silver	1952
John Barratt Sutton	1955
Thomas Glyndwr Thomas	1950
Wendy Margaret Titheridge	1954
Michael Brewster Toosey	1949
Gordon Harold Townsend	1953
Barbara Mabel Quartermaine Weaver	1949
Geoffrey Thorburn Wilkins	1954
Audrey Margaret Boyle Wyllie	1950
Kathleen Sheila Yeats	1951

Those Receiving the Degree In Absentia

Brian Foskee Abraham	1954
Elizabeth Adam Aitken	1951
Peter Allen	1949
Robert Alexander Ayre-Smith	1949
George Leslie Barker	1951
Derek Gordon Carmichael Barnsley	
Colin Richard Quinton Barton	1954
Donald Basinger	1953
Christopher Baxter	1955
Ivan Francis Bedson	1955
Tudor Gwyn Bevan	1951
Peter Martin Biggs	1953
Anthony Mayo Blyth	
Roger Bouvet	1952
Philip George Box	1953
George Edward Bradley	1950
Jeffrey Ronald Brain	1951
John Loveless Breese	1954
David Charles Brockis	1951
Peter Buxton	1954
Geoffrey Byrne	1957
Larry Alfred Chappell	1956
Robert John Clifford	1953
Iain Gilbert Cochrane-Dyet	1953
Jean Winifred Cole	1953
Anthony Colegrave	1951
Desmond Ford Collings	1949
William Robert Cook	1952
Brian Seymour Cooper	1951
Hugh Dermot Coryn	1955
Gordon Cox	
John Ifor Davies	1950
Michael Gough Davies	1955

John Brian Derbyshire	1955
James Edward Downes	1954
James Cyril Dring	1951
John Bernard Dwane	1951
The Late Robin Keith Edgar	1956
Thomas Wynn Edwards	1951
Harry Bernard George Epps	1954
James Michael Evans	1953
Edward Donald Evans	1955
Charles Anthony George Felgate	1951
Roger Fox	1949
Patricia Froud	1953
John Kenneth George	1953
Michael Glas	1950
Arthur Goddard	1949
Janet Barbara Godfrey	1951
D A P Grattan	
Keith Priestley Griffith	1951
Elizabeth Whiteford Halford	1952
Sherwin Hall	1953
Roger Hardy	1949
Michael Bruce Hawksley	1951
Jack Heptinstall	1955
John Grahame Hollands	1956
James Rigby Holt	1949
Charles David Honhold	1949
Elizabeth Cecilia Howard	1949
John Neville Howse	1957
Edith Doris Joerin	1955
James Eirug Thomas Jones	1950
Rowland Hewitt Jones	1956
William Ashwynne Jones	1957
Michael David Keeling	1954
Pearl Jane Keep	1954
John Branch Kerry	1955
Ian Frank Keymer	1952
Eric Kenneth Keywood	1953
Cecil Lakin	1950
Stanley Harvey Langford	
Peter James Larkin	1953
Brian Thomas Lawrence	1956
Charles Loving	1954
Keith Markham	1955
Peter Herbert Mercer	1950
John Adrian Millar	1955
Derek William Whitfield Moore	1952
Derek Edward Morath	1955
Mohamad Noordin-Keling	1956
John Alan Norman	
Bin Din Osman	1956
James Pengelly	1949
Audrey Iris Peniston	1950
William George Douglas Peters	1951
Eric William Pocock	1955
Maurice Joseph Polley	1952
John Anthony Rawlins	1953
John Hodgart Reid	1953
John Rhodes	1949
Marcus James Rodgers	1953
Peter Daniel Rossdale	1952
George Potter Russell	1953
George Hugh Russell	1954
Paul Scrivener Ryde	1949
Michael Samuel	1953
The Late Brian Colin Sherlock	1950
David James Simmonds	1949
Geoffrey Robin Smith	1953
Arthur Ian Swann	1953
John Alexander Tanner	1957
John Antony Teakle	1949
James Lynn Thomas	1953
Colin James Thomas	1954
Robin Henry Cressett Thursby-Pelham	1954
Pamela Tinsley	1952
Derek Knight Traynor	1951
The Late Paul Coldstream Tuckett	1950
Frank Junior Wadsworth	1950
Kenneth Roy Watson	1953
John Michael Wheeler	
Peter Frederick Wickenden	1951

Ilona Otter (2012)

Rabies control and eventual eradication of rabies are important goals for Ilona Otter, a graduate of the MSc Livestock Health and Production programme, who works with an animal welfare charity in India.

Tell us about your job in India at the Worldwide Veterinary Service?

I have been working in India for ten years now. I was originally with a small charity and now I am in charge of the Worldwide Veterinary Service International Training Centre in Ooty, South India. This was established in 2010 to provide practical training to Indian vets and local charity workers in best practice techniques in animal welfare. The Worldwide Veterinary Service is a UK-based charity that assists animal charities and non-profit organisations all around the world that need veterinary skills. We provide short CPD courses for vets, mainly about dog population control and rabies control in dogs. This is particularly important in India where one child dies every hour through being bitten by a rabid dog.

You are also involved in Mission Rabies - a collaboration project between Worldwide Veterinary Service and India Project for Animals and Nature - can you tell us about that?

Mission Rabies has just launched a six-month campaign to surgically sterilize and vaccinate against rabies around 70% of the dog population in Goa State, to wipe out the threat of rabies. My role in Mission Rabies is in planning and monitoring and co-ordinating staff involved in the Mission Rabies project. I'd like to undertake some of the surgeries myself when my schedule allows.

I'm very happy to be part of a team that is well-known for its experience in implementing quality street dog sterilisation programmes and has a very dedicated and motivated team of animal handlers who use nets to catch dogs that are roaming on the streets.

I believe that by inspiring vets from India to be part of this type of work, we can really make a difference.

In September 2013, as we launched the project, I headed a vaccination team in Tamil Nadu that vaccinated 5887 dogs against rabies in 12 days. We had teams in many different locations across India and the total number of dogs vaccinated against rabies in September was over 60,000.

Before you worked for the charity what were you doing?

I trained as a vet in Finland, my home country and worked there in a mixed veterinary practice.

What prompted you to change direction?

I had a long-term interest in development issues and had been thinking for some time about volunteering in a less



developed country.

My advice would be if you want to work in the developing world doing voluntary work, you need to have an open mind and a flexible mindset. What works in your home country won't necessarily work in the new context.

What is particularly fulfilling about your role?

I find very rewarding the interaction with the vets who I am teaching, and also gaining their trust because they know that I understand their situation. I also value getting their feedback and discovering how the courses have encouraged them to think more broadly about animal welfare.

Most of the vets who come to my courses are large animal vets and their education has been mainly about farm animals, so now I have studied the MSc in Livestock Health and Production I understand much better where they are coming from. This has helped build up better relationships and trust between me and the participants, and enabled me to tailor my teaching to their needs.

Why did you choose to study for an MSc in Veterinary Livestock Health and Production with the University of London International Programmes?

I wanted to keep up to date professionally while living

in India, and was looking for a course that I could study by distance learning. This course gave me a lot of flexibility in relation to the time you could take to study, as I had to balance my job with bringing up two children.

I went once a year to take exams in Bangalore that were organised by the British Council there, so that was really great that I could take the exams in India. How did you enjoy your Masters? I enjoyed the research project and the courses on infectious disease management and also the courses on the control of infectious diseases in animal populations. These were probably the most relevant to the work I'm doing. The modules that related to issues in developing countries were also particularly helpful to me.

How did you fit in studying with your personal and work life?

It was very difficult to find time to keep up with the study. I was not able to study every day and often I had to wake up early in the morning to be able to read. Especially during the last two years, when my work duties increased, I felt stressed about getting my studies done. You have to be prepared to discipline yourself to keep up with the study schedules and to make the most use of the tutorials.

Would you recommend the University of London International Programmes and why?

Yes, definitely I would recommend the MSc Livestock Health and Production degree. The best part was that I managed to get an internationally recognised postgraduate degree in the midst of having a baby and starting a full time job – and all the time living in rural India. It is a great opportunity if you can afford it. I luckily managed to get a grant to fund my studies.

What has been the biggest inspiration in your career?

I have found it very inspiring to see how the education of veterinarians in developing countries, such as India,



really can make a difference to the quality of their work and their motivation, and so improve standards of animal health and welfare.

I am also very proud to be part of a team led by the enthusiasm of Luke Gamble who set up the Worldwide Veterinary Service Charity in 2002.

What are your career plans for the future?

I enjoy my work in my present job in rabies control and veterinary empowerment in India and there are still many challenges ahead that we are working on together with the WVS Mission Rabies Team. Health and welfare of working animals, such as donkeys and bullocks and draft ponies, in developing countries are also topics that interest me, and so maybe some time in the future, I will try to expand my wings a little more in that field as well.

Read more about the Worldwide Veterinary service:
www.wvs.org.uk/

Read more about the University of London Masters in Livestock Health and Production:
www.londoninternational.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate/royal-veterinary-college/livestock-health-production-msc-postgraduate-diploma-postgraduate-certificate

Read more about Mission Rabies project in Goa:
www.targetgoa.com

RVC and Mission Rabies

In March this year two members of the RVC small animal surgery team Poppy Bristow and Faye Swinbourne spent two weeks in Chennai training Veterinarians in India safe surgical sterilization techniques, as part of the animal birth control (ABC) programme championed by Ilona Otter (See profile above). This programme is running alongside the Mission Rabies initiative in an attempt to gain better control of rabies through a campaign of vaccination and sterilisation of dogs across India. In April Professor Dan Brockmand and a team of five RVC students (Natalie Ratcliffe, Natalie Young, Alana Burrell, Kate McGrath, and Anna Matheson), Lynda Rutherford (Small Animal Surgery) and Sophie Stenner (Beaumont Sainsbury Hospital) contributed to this fantastic Mission Rabies and ABC effort.

To understand the magnitude of the public health significance of the animal population in India and the specific risk Rabies causes, visit the Mission rabies website www.missionrabies.com

The 1956 Club - Good Bye Mr CVS

John Mason writes:

As we were the last year to qualify from the then field station at Streatley on Thames, and as the last year to gain the RCVS diploma, the above was the title of our Streatley Revue, Some two months prior to finals, to our horror and indignation, we were informed that the following BVetMed's would be putting MRCVS after their name!

We originally started, in October 1951 with a class of seventy five, of which three were female, but within a fortnight were having a "whip round" for a wreath as a fellow classmate had suffered a fatal accident with a trolley bus in Royal College Street.

June 2013 saw the group assembled on the Swan pub lawn, those present, from left to right being -

Ken Baker, John Hollands, John Mason, Ted Nelson, Jill Bowen (nee Girling), Len Rutherford, Robin Edgar, Mike Ranger, Brian Lawrence and Ashwyne Jones.



At our fiftieth reunion, with numbers dwindling, we resolved that it would be advisable to meet up annually, and so all was set up for the Swan pub on Wednesday 25th June 2014. John will let us know in the next edition of Eclipse how they all got on this year.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES

Alumni Open Day - Saturday 18th October 2014

Did you graduate in 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 or 2009?

Whether it be 75 years since graduation or five - we are opening up the RVC to all of you to celebrate these milestones in your career! We would love to host a reunion party for you all - bring along your family, meet up with friends and classmates and see how the College has changed. The date for 2014 is 18th October we will arrange tours of the campus and of course open the doors of the Buttery Bar!

You should have recently received a letter from us about the event with booking details.

If you have not yet heard from us but would like to come please contact the Development Office on (01707) 666237 or email development@rvc.ac.uk

We hope you can make it!

The 65 Club



Philip Underwood writes:

The annual reunion took place at Wells, Somerset, between the 17th-20th October. Once more it was very well attended by about 35 members and wives. The hotel was very close to Wells Cathedral so we enjoyed tours of the outside and inside, noting the action of the wonderful clock. Our hosts on the spot were Colin and Sue Duncan who organised a full programme, including a tour of Avalon marshes and a speaker from Slimbridge detailing the Crane project. This was an excellent venue for a reunion.

Many thanks Philip for keeping us up to date with the 65 club and hope this year's reunion, which will take place at Stratford Upon Avon in October is as much fun. I know you will be putting together the plans for your 50th year reunion which will take place in 2015.

Anna Frykfors (2013)

Congratulations to Anna, a recent RVC BVetMed graduate for being awarded runner-up in the Cats Protection competition for her paper 'FIV and FeLV testing in rescue and re-homing organisations - why, which cats, how, when?'

Anna, who works at Grove Lodge Veterinary Group in Worthing, was awarded a certificate in April. As part of her EMS experience Anna worked for the National Cat Adoption Centre in Sussex, the largest rehoming centre of its kind in the UK. These placements give RVC students the chance to gain hands-on work experience at Cats Protection or Dogs Trust to enhance their studies.

Our congratulations to Anna for this well deserved recognition from one of the UK's largest animal charities.

Becky Inman (2013)

Congratulations to Becky Inman for being awarded the Dairy Farm of the Future Award during the Dairy Show of the Royal Bath & West of England Society last October.

The award recognises the best veterinary students, who play such an important role in the industry in later life. The dairy industry has long recognised the importance of vets as part of the team and they were looking for people who they think will turn into the best possible dairy farm vets of the future explained Peter Clark, a member of the dairy committee. The prize was sponsored by BOCM Pauls, a feed company operating across the nation. The selection was based on the quality of Becky's final year research project and a challenging interview by the organisers. Congratulations to Becky.

Calling all 2013 BVetMed Graduates

The Veterinary Defence Society will be hosting their annual Graduate Reunion at the RVC's Hawkshead Campus on Saturday 6th September 2014. The format of the day, which qualifies for CPD points is as follows. In the morning session delegates will be given the opportunity to build on the communication skills they learnt at undergraduate level and in the afternoon representatives from some of the major veterinary societies and associations will be on hand to offer advice on issues you have had to face since qualifying. In the evening there is a reunion dinner at the Village Hotel in Elstree. The Development Office also host a drinks reception at the RVC just after the communication workshop ends.

Contact Marina Baxter at the Veterinary Defence Society for further details. Tel: 01565 652737 Email: mbaxter@vetdef.co.uk

BSc celebrates ten years at the RVC

Last Summer, the RVC celebrated the ten year anniversary of the BSc in Veterinary Sciences (now known as the BSc Bioveterinary Sciences). Over 100 alumni and current BSc students, lecturers and staff past and present came together for an evening of celebration in the Lightwell at the College's Camden Campus.

A welcome from RVC staff was followed by guest speaker, Ricky Martin, winner of the Apprentice and Managing Director of Hyper Recruitment Solutions (HRS). Ricky spoke about his inspirational journey and explored bio/life science and the relevance of the BSc Bioveterinary Sciences degree to some of the issues facing society today.

As you can see from the pictures a great night was had by all. We would love to hear more from our BSc alumni - please keep in touch and send in any news items for the next issue.



London and Beyond ...

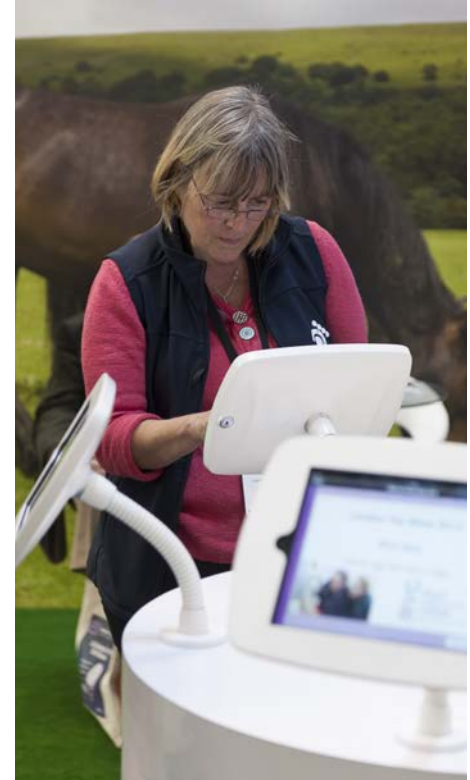
We have had a great year meeting up with alumni at the various events hosted on and off campus, in the Uk and overseas - here are just a few snapshots of BSAVA, NAVC, the London Vet Show



London Vet Show
November 2013



NAVC January 2014



BSAVA
April 2014

Robert Hart (1965)



Robert Hart has half a century of experience in academia and veterinary practice in the UK and the US. Born in London, he was raised in Tanzania and Malawi, schooled in Tanzania and Swaziland, and attended College in Dublin, Ireland and London. He and his wife, fellow writer, Veronica Helen Hart, live in Oramond Beach, Florida.

Robert has written 'Oliver's Rubaiyat', 'Cage Liners', a collection of stories about pets, vets and owners which is an FWA Royal Palm Award Winner. Although the hospital is not mentioned directly at least one of the stories is based at the RVC's Beaumont Sainsbury Animal hospital! Most recently Robert has had published 'Hart's Original Petpourri' which was a finalist in the Next Generation Indie Book Awards. His books are available on amazon in print or kindle format.

Robert currently has another book having its cover designed, "Sally, the Horse with Bespoke Shoes" a young adult novel set in 1929 London which won the International Chapter Book competition in London in 2012.

We asked Robert about his career.

"At College I was one of Amoroso's boys, (BSc Special 1962), represented British Universities in the first International Student Riding competition

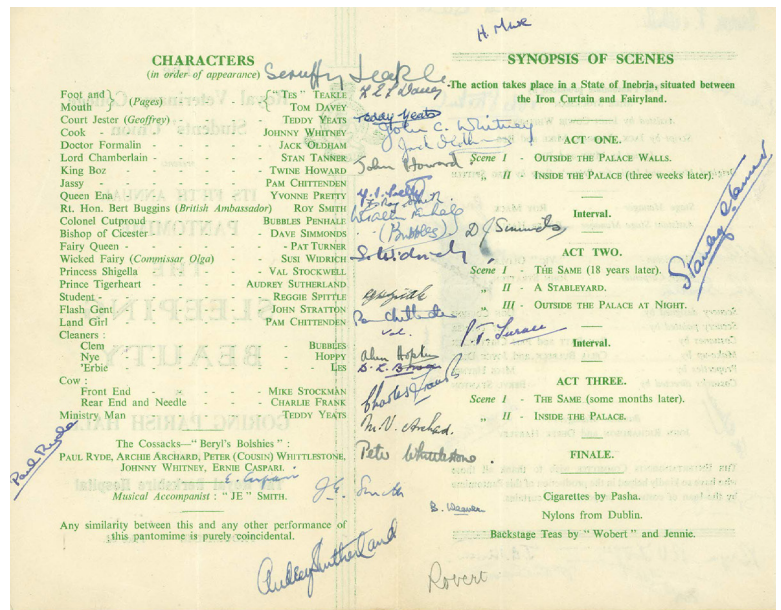
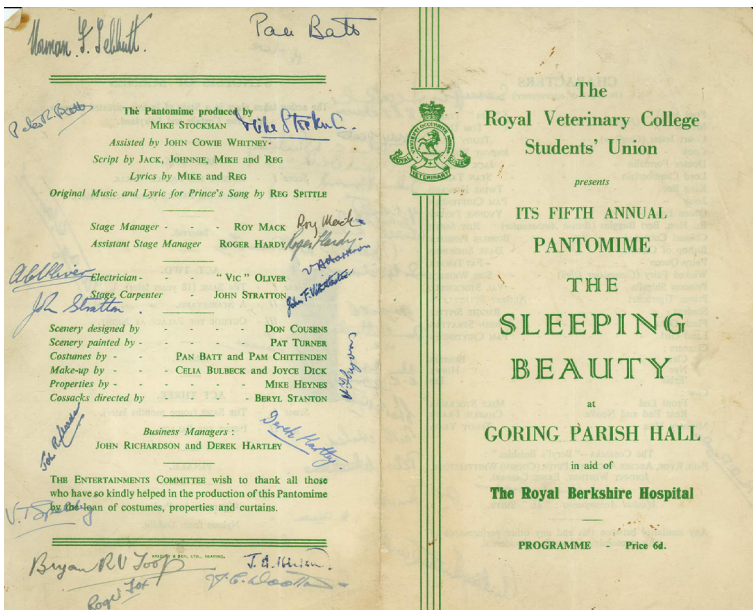
in Cologne 1963 (along with Dave Brown, RVC; Alison Hayes and Angela Tinkler of Bedford College), accompanied Ian Cheyne to St Kilda in 1964. Graduated with second place in surgery and the Coleman Silver Medal. I was one of the first three to be examined for the DVA (Diploma in Veterinary Anaesthesia) in 1968.

I became House Surgeon at the Beaumont in 1965/66, Lecturer in Surgery Liverpool (Anaesthesia) 1966/69, Senior Scientific Officer Moredun, Edinburgh 1969/72 (Head, Experimental Surgery), Assistant Professor in the Surgery Department, University of California at Davis, 1972-78, Surgery Resident Animal Medical Center, New York, 1978-1980 general small practice 1980-2013 New York and Florida.

Robert has three daughters, three step-daughters and eleven assorted grandchildren!

Final Year Reviews - Still Going Strong...

Do you remember your Final Year Review like it was yesterday! We love to see photos and footage of past final year reviews. They are still going strong here at the RVC and the 2014 review was no exception. Of course, these days, most of the footage is available on DVD and via the RVC's YouTube channel, which you can find by searching for RVC Final Year Review (or FYR). Here is a programme, sent in by Paul Ryde from the RVC SU Pantomime in 1949.



Royal Veterinary College Graduates Association (RVCGA) News

RVC Graduates Association Summer Visit to Newmarket

The late May Bank Holiday this year was this year's chosen date for the RVCGA Summer Meeting; and despite dismal forecasts the weather held out well for the planned tours.

Ranging from graduates of 1946 to those of more recent vintage, the majority visited the Museum of Horse Racing in Newmarket before joining up with the President (Arlene Coulson) for a tour of the National Stud. Although established initially in Ireland (as the Tully Stud; the site of the current Irish National Stud), Newmarket's National Stud has been operational for over 50 years and is still the only commercial stud which allows public tours of its facilities and horses.

Sixteen alumni filled the minibus on its route through part of the 500 acre estates, ably guided by Malcolm (National Stud) with added input from no lesser a dignitary than the RVC's former Professor of Veterinary Obstetrics, David Noakes – who of course doubled up as Secretary to the RVCGA! Visiting the stallions graveyard; then onto the three stallions currently at stud – Bahamian Bounty

(£8,500), Dick Turpin (£4,000) and Pastoral Pursuits (£4,500); before a lively exchange over the pros and cons of artificial insemination was debated in the covering yard. With Dick Turpin about to embark on his 'second half' season in the Southern hemisphere – he does a 50/50 split standing in the UK and in Australia, the group were hard pressed not to be overly attentive to these hard-worked sires.

Now owned and operated by The Jockey Club, the Stud acquired a former (2004) Grand National winner Amberleigh House as an additional attraction – a horse who has single handedly increased sales of polo mints in East Anglia! Maybe not groomed to perfection on this particular day, his popularity was again high with the group (as Helen shows in the photo!) Not to be outdone in the '2014 Appealing to the Vets Stakes', were a small number of this year's foals – still with their dams of course, but already relaxed with the hundreds of visitors passing through.

The AGM was also held at the Stud, in the Joan Westbrook lecture theatre. A detailed President's report included reference to the toxicological garden within the redeveloped "Spring Wood"



at Hawkshead Campus. The wood was opened this year and the RVCGA has pledged up to £2,500 for two Interpretation Boards to be erected in the garden and wood entrance. Officers for 2014–15 were elected as follows: President Arlene Coulson; Secretary David Noakes; Treasurer Teresa Johnston (replacing a very busy Anja Greenwood)

Having stayed longer than intended at the Stud, a brief interlude allowed for a quick change before a dozen of the party sat down for a thoroughly enjoyable and excellent value dinner at The Bell at Kennett – just down the road from the AHT! A lovely end to a small but successful Summer Meeting.

RVCGA Helping Current Students - President Arlene Coulson reports

Funding via Extra Mural Study (EMS) Bursaries

A large percentage of our present annual subscription is allocated to provide funds to help support veterinary students with the cost of attending EMS placements. For many years an annual total of £3,000 has been divided to form single bursaries of up to £300. Applications are submitted in December and May and carefully assessed by several Council members. Successful applicants are asked to submit a report of their study and below are extracts from three 2013 reports.

"I have always wanted to do farm work upon graduating and decided that a few weeks of cattle practice in Gippsland Australia– the Victorian dairy region- would help me to gain a better understanding of the worldwide dairy industry and how veterinary farm skills vary across the world. Whilst at the practice I was involved in the day to day dairy veterinary work including hoof trimming and sick cows as well as calvings, Caesareans and even an ex lap. I was also involved in some of the out of hours work which generally involved more calvings but lit only by a floodlight or car headlamps!"

"I arrived on a cold Sunday afternoon to find an old farm cottage with no TV, no internet and a bath which was heated using the open fire. On the positive side it had spectacular views and was in a prime location surrounded by the farms that I would be visiting during the next two weeks. It was perfect. The majority of the visits were emergencies associated with calving and lambing problems, due to it being a predominantly beef and sheep farming area as well as it being (a cold) spring. It made the job very interesting and most of the time very satisfying. With every visit I was further convinced that large animal work is what I want to do."

"I had a two week placement in Ripon, North Yorkshire, working with the farm animal team; the area I am currently wanting to work in. Having no contacts in North Yorkshire the cost of travel and accommodation was a concern and the bursary helped greatly. By having this money it covered the cost of two weeks accommodation and my fuel."

The RVCGA would like to ask all alumni to join us and become involved in their old college. For further information please contact Arlene: dvarlene@btinternet.com

Dr Das Gupta

With the news that the producer of the camel milk brand, Camelicious, has just become the first Middle Eastern company to export camel milk products to the European Union, we talk to Dr Aungshuman Das Gupta, the Veterinary doctor at the Camelicious Camel Dairy Farm. Dr Gupta is studying for his Masters in Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health by distance learning with the RVC.

Camel milk has been sold in supermarkets in the UAE for several years now, and the farm has recently achieved EU certification to export camel milk to EU countries. It has also applied for Halal certification, so that it can also export milk to Islamic countries. The farm was created after almost 20 years of research into camels and camel milk to prove its health benefits, which have long been known by the Bedouins.

What were the reasons for you moving to this new role at the Camelicious Camel Dairy Farm?

'I had previously worked on herd health projects in Bangladesh and last year I have been offered a unique or once-of-a-lifetime opportunity to work at the camel farm of Emirates Industries for Camel Milk and Products as it is the largest commercial camel dairy farm in the world and has a good reputation throughout the globe. The job gives me exposure to a big stage and, moreover, the leaders of the project are very well respected in the field of camel research. So it's actually a privilege for me to be here.'

What are your current responsibilities at the farm?

'As a vet my responsibility is to ensure the production of best quality camel milk for human consumption. The milk is used as the prime raw material for several added value products including flavoured camel milk, camel milk cheese and camel milk powder used in the production of camel milk chocolate.

To produce camel milk of the right quality we have to make certain that our camels are disease free and in good health and that there is no contamination in the milk. To safeguard this we have our own

ISO system that also includes HACCP (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points), which is a systematic preventive approach to food safety, that we monitor and document with utmost precision.

If we are receiving any new camels we need to be sure that they are disease free, with a proper quarantine procedure.

We are also very vigilant with the feeding of the camels, so that the milk does not have any feed-originated impurity. We are very cautious about the use of antibiotics and other medicines as well as contamination of milk with antibiotics and other medicinal origin residues. We are taking part of the national residue plan of the UAE and we can proudly state that our raw milk is free from all chemicals, pesticides, residues, heavy metals, mycotoxins etc.

The bottom line is we have to document each and every procedure and event which takes place in the farm to ensure traceability of the raw camel milk, to comply with the all local and international regulations including those of the EU.'

How have your studies on the Veterinary Epidemiology and Public Health Masters influenced how you undertake your role?

'My study of herd health management is guiding my approach to problems such as feeding, mastitis management, and management of calves before and after they are born, as well as disease management of the whole farm. As we are producing high quality milk for human consumption, the knowledge I am gaining from studying public health guided my understanding of the systematic preventive approach that is needed in relation to food safety for camel milk production.

The study of risk analysis made me understand why some countries cannot



import or export animal or animal products and how the status of the livestock population of neighbouring countries, sharing common borders, influences the livestock policy of a country.'

For anyone else who is considering moving to a role in a new sector, or new country, what should they consider?

'It's a must to understand the consequences as well as the challenges in relation to the change you are planning. For me, as I come from Bangladesh, where there are no camels, I needed to grasp the whole idea of working with camels and learn a lot about camels. This could have not been done and achieved without the support of my colleagues and superiors.

I found that moving to a different country and culture you need to be open and embrace the changes. You need to respect the laws and customs, understand the new culture with an open heart. It helps if you try not to be judgmental about the changes or new experiences that you face. To me the key is to keep an open mind and try to embrace whatever comes. It is better to be open to everything, learn how it works, and be a part of the system at first. Only then you can change it for better if you are a part of it.'

For more information on the Emirates Industries for Camel Milk & Products, please, visit www.camelicious.ae/

For more information on studying by distance learning for a veterinary postgraduate degree: www.londoninternational.ac.uk/rvc

Edward Perello (2011)



Desktop Genetics Team (left to right) Edward Perello, Victor Dillard and Riley Doyle.

Interview with RVC graduate Edward Perello, who helped established Desktop Genetics, which develops software tools for biotechnology research.

After gaining a BSc in Bioveterinary Sciences, Edward Perello decided against continuing with the Veterinary Medicine programme and instead went to the University of Cambridge to undertake an MPhil in Bioscience Enterprise.

His experience at both universities gave him the confidence and skills to establish Desktop Genetics in 2012 with two friends from the MPhil programme. In August 2013 the company closed its first major fundraising round for £375,000 - a combined private investment and Technology Strategy Board grant. As well as developing his own company, Edward advises other start-ups and is also actively involved in the biosecurity community.

What did you study at the RVC and when did you graduate?

I was enrolled on the combined Veterinary Medicine and Bioveterinary Sciences course but left after three years with a Bioveterinary Sciences BSc. I graduated in 2011.

What were your favourite things about your course and the RVC experience?

My favourite part of the course was

being in London and having the chance to work on some particularly interesting dissertations in my first and second year, namely my work on climate change and the spread of viral disease with Dr Felicity D'Mello and the endocannabinoid system with Dr Rob Fowkes. I appreciated the human focus of the bioveterinary science course, as well as the infectious disease courses.

How did your experience at the RVC help you get onto the Cambridge MPhil?

The commercialisation of science course that I took in second year with Jim Gazzard introduced me to the world of commercial biotech and pharma. Before, I thought that vanilla science or clinical practice were the only options. Jim taught us how to turn great scientific discoveries into real companies and products. He inspired me to take the follow-up module in third year 'advanced concepts in biobusiness', which introduced me to intellectual property law, the fundraising process, and the pitfalls of starting up or running an established enterprise. Without these skills, I would not have been able to get to Cambridge as the youngest member of the MPhil Bioscience Enterprise programme ever.

What exactly do you do now?

I am a founder and the director of business development at Desktop Genetics. I am also a member of the

International Association of Synthetic Biology and an advisor to several start-up companies in London. I am an active player in the biosecurity community where I champion the responsible use of biotechnology by individuals, companies and states. I recently went to Montreal, having been invited by the UN to engage in high level discussions on updating the Biological Weapons Convention and safeguarding the benefits of rapidly-evolving gene synthesis and genetic engineering technologies.

How did your experience at the RVC help you move towards what you do now?

RVC taught me everything I needed to know to speak the language of biology - be it basic or applied science, preclinical or clinical medicine - or the nuances of commercialising a discovery. I learned that it was very easy to go far beyond being a veterinarian or a scientist alone, or even together. At RVC I was able to hone a love for science and creating products that help people.

What plans / ambitions do you have for the next few years?

I intend to see Desktop Genetics through to an exit by a trade sale to another biotech company or life science supplier. Afterwards I would like to continue my work to ensure that the democratisation of the biological sciences are kept open and safe for all to use, as well as start another company or two.

Confession of an RVC Alumnus

Have you ever told stories about your time at the RVC? Having spoken with many of you at various reunions, receptions and visits to campus I have learnt a little of what went on over 'the student years' but have the feeling it is just the tip of the iceberg.

At a recent reunion of the 1983 BVetMeds one alumnus finally, 27 years after the event, admitted that as a young houseman at the QMH in 1986, it was he (and a colleague who will need to remain nameless) who nailed the two Little Chef signs to telegraph poles which even made the local paper.

Thanks for coming clean Jon Pycock!

Colonel Brian Thompson a 1961 alumnus visited me recently at the Hawkshead Campus. We got chatting and boy Brian certainly has a few stories to tell about his days as a student at the RVC.

One in particular has stayed in my mind and it was a tale of the opening of a new vet school at Cambridge! To celebrate the opening of the new Cambridge Vet School a team of RVC students, mainly the men's rugby team, pushed a wheelbarrow full of Camden Town best RVC manure all the way to Cambridge to deposit on the new campus. The convoy included a crew bus which allowed the students to take in turns to push the barrow.

And I wonder if anyone will own up to following?

Who in the 1960's reported a former Professor of the RVC's car stolen to the local police? The said Professor was subsequently apprehended by the Police driving his own car some time later.

Refreshing sign points way to rural mystery

THE RURAL beauty of Hawkeshead Road, near Little Heath, is probably the last place in the world you'd expect to find a Little Chef restaurant.

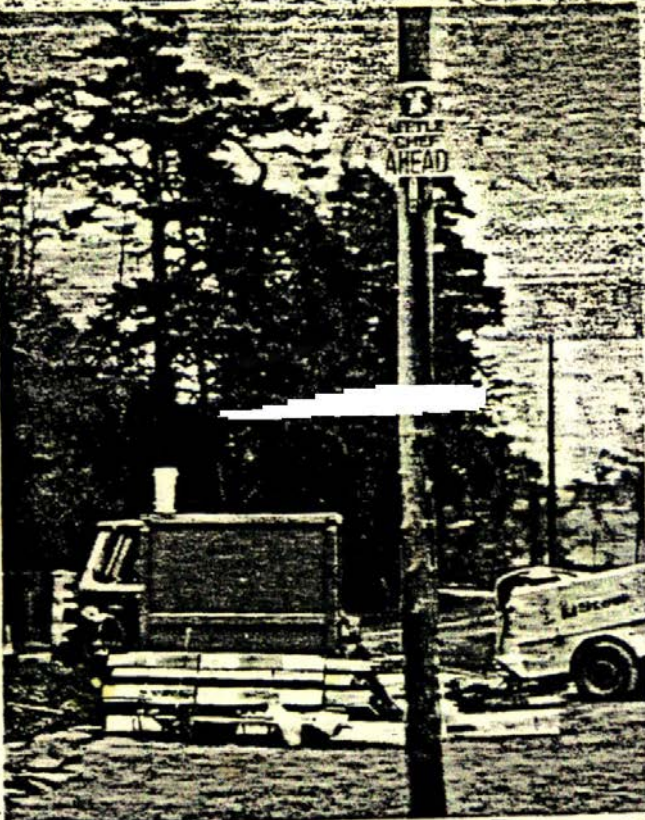
But if you were driving past the Royal Veterinary College this week you would have been forgiven if you were tempted to drop in for a quick cuppa.

About 10 days ago two Little Chef signs mysteriously appeared near the entrance to the RVC's small animal hospital, currently being built.

It is a low, red brick building, not unattractive, that does bear a certain resemblance to a well-designed motorway restaurant.

But the first the college knew about the prank was when a member of the public telephoned them to ask about the signs.

The college's estate manager, Reginald Morton, took the joke in good spirit. "It was a light-hearted prank. It could have been one of our students who did it," he said.



● The offending sign.

Meanwhile it is likely that somewhere in the country there is a Little Chef minus two of their advertising signs!

Is it time for you to come clean?

Email me, Vicki Laing at development@rvc.ac.uk and take that weight off your shoulders!

2014 Telephone Campaign - thanks to our amazing alumni

We would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone who took part in our Annual Fund telephone campaign earlier this year, helping us to raise over £30,000 towards assistance and activities for current RVC students.

Our team of 25 students from first to final year, across a range of our courses, had a fantastic time hearing all about your experiences at the College. Many humorous stories were recounted, including some of our graduates from the 60s taking a cow with rubber shoes to RVC dances!

As well as the funny tales from yester-year the students gained valuable advice about studying at the RVC and working life in the veterinary professions, for which they were very grateful.

We were delighted that over 300 of you were able to suggest your practices for EMS placements and our placements team will be following up on these offers over the coming months.

Your generosity in making donations and setting up regular gifts to the Annual Fund allows us to make a real difference to our students. We can provide assistance to students in financial need as well as implementing initiatives that enhance the student experience for everyone at the RVC.

The funds raised from this year's campaign will allow us to fund some summer research studentships for RVC students wanting to develop their research, fund our 2015 Alumni Awards, help our SU clubs and societies develop their sporting and interest activities by matched funding their fundraising efforts, replace farriery tools which allow our students to develop their skills and help towards the cost of purchasing Breedin Betsy, an artificial training simulator which allows students to undertake simulated rectal examinations for both horses and cattle.

We are also about to award a grant to provide an Animal Locomotion Drawing workshop to enhance the study of locomotion articulations dynamics and mechanics for our current Gateway and BSc first year students.

So thank you very much for making all of this possible.

If you weren't able to take part in the telephone campaign this year it's not too late to support the annual fund. If you would like to contribute to our efforts to improve the RVC experience for the veterinary professionals of the future, then you can donate online at www.rvc.ac.uk/act/shop/catalogue/ donations or call us on 01707 666237.

RVC launches a new website this Autumn

The RVC will be launching its new website this Autumn and the RVC4Life site has had a facelift! The site is currently being updated and will have feature more benefits for alumni, more news and classnotes.

Please remember to keep us up to date with changes to your email address - we will be in touch over the next month or so once the site launches to keep you abreast of the changes.

Animal Care Trust (ACT) - Update

Shop til you drop!

The Animal Care Trust launched a new look online shop in September 2013, featuring improved image quality and a more user friendly layout. Whether you buy greetings cards, RVC branded clothing and gifts or gifts for the family and friends (both two legged and four!), you can rest assured every penny of profit goes towards supporting their work.

UK postage and packaging is just £2.95 per order. If you are less web savvy and wish to order over the phone, please call the order line on 01707 666314

The ACT Christmas Catalogue will be available from September - if you do not usually receive a copy and would like one please call on the above number.

Challenge Events

Get active for animals! Help the Animal Care Trust continue its important work and improve your fitness at the same time by taking on the challenge of an organised sporting event. The ACT has places in various events throughout the year, including the Virgin London Marathon and Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100. For more information about these and many other events please visit the website at www.rvc.ac.uk/act/help-us/sporting-events.

If you have your own place in an event, why not make it even more meaningful by raising money for the ACT like Laura Parsloe?

She raised over £1,000 for the QMHA's blood transfusion service by completing a gruelling coastal trail series marathon on the South Coast recently. If you have a desire to do something challenging for a great cause, please visit the website or get in touch today on 01707 666237 or act@rvc.ac.uk

The RVC is very proud of its community and we pay tribute to all those no longer with us who have devoted their lives to the veterinary profession.

Lord Ballyedmond

Founder of Norbrook and Honorary Fellow of the RVC

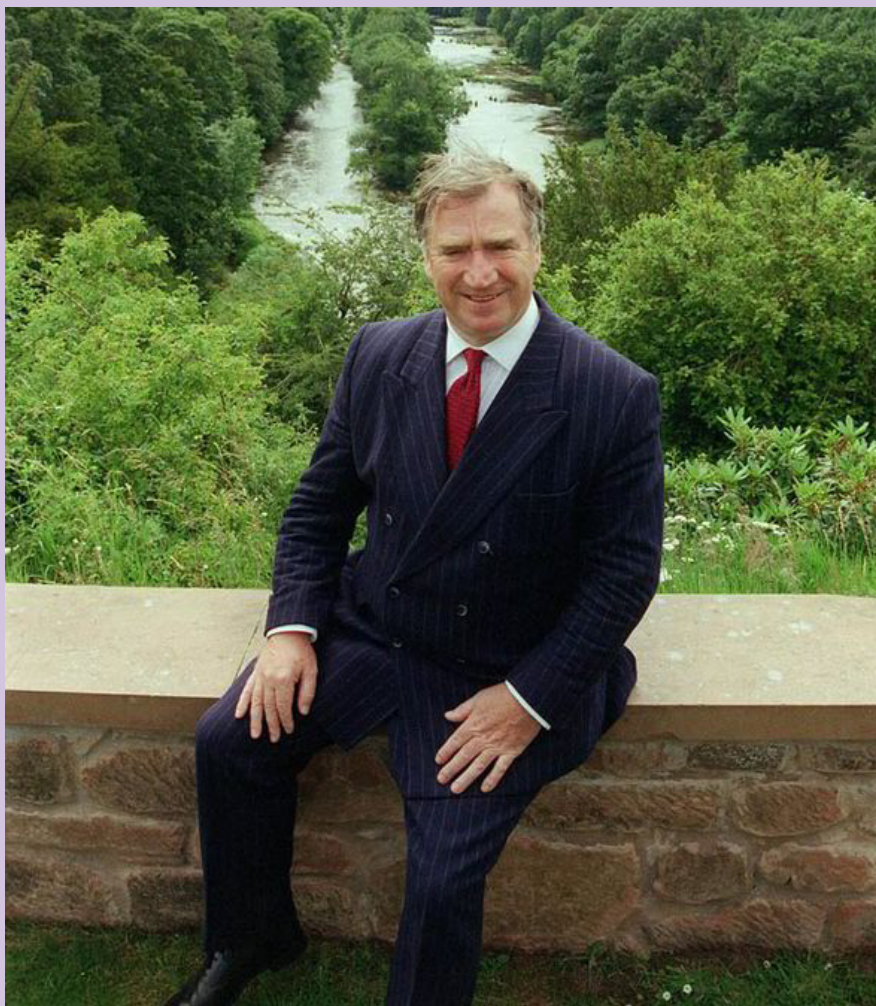
Lord Ballyedmond founded Norbrook, the largest veterinary pharmaceutical company in the world and went on to become one of the most successful businessmen in Northern Ireland.

Edward Enda Haughey was born in 1944 into a Roman Catholic family and grew up in Kilcurry, Co Louth. Like many young Irishmen of his generation, he emigrated immediately after leaving school, heading for New York where he became a salesman with a pharmaceutical company.

In the late 1960s, with a business foresight that served him well, he predicted that Britain and the EEC were about to follow American practice and introduce tougher rules on the manufacturing and dispensing of veterinary antibiotics. He therefore decided to return to Ireland and set up an operation based on the American model. In 1968 he duly set up Norbrook Laboratories in Newry, Co Down. This was, of course, a difficult time for Northern Ireland but Norbrook Laboratories remained a rare beacon of hope in an otherwise gloomy political and economic environment.

Over the next 40 years Norbrook Laboratories prospered beyond anything Haughey could have imagined. It won the Queen's Award for Export Achievement four times and the Queen's Award for Enterprise in 2011. Later the company expanded into developing and marketing human medical products, and became heavily involved in HIV/Aids research in Africa.

Haughey was appointed OBE in 1987, and in 2008 was awarded an honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of



Veterinary Surgeons. In 2004 the Ulster Unionists nominated him to the House of Lords, where he took the title of Lord Ballyedmond of Mourne.

In addition to his pharmaceutical interests, he became involved in the aviation business, founding Haughey Air, a charter helicopter business and, for a time, owning Carlisle Airport. He also invested in sporting estates and property.

Lord Ballyedmond was an Honorary

Fellow of the RVC and had been a staunch supporter for a number of years endowing our Norbrook Chair for Business and Enterprise and funding the statue of Sefton described earlier in Eclipse.

Lord Ballyedmond was killed with three other people when their helicopter came down in thick fog in a field in Gillingham, near Beccles, Norfolk, in March this year. He is survived by his wife, Mary, a daughter and two sons.

Declan McKeever

Professor of Immunoparasitology
and Vice-Principal of the RVC



Declan was a brilliant immunologist and a massive asset to the RVC and the veterinary world.

He studied veterinary medicine at University College Dublin and spent a short time in general practice, before taking up a PhD position at the University of Edinburgh under Hugh Reid.

On completing his PhD, Declan joined the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI, previously ILRAD). There he encapsulated the dedication to scientific discovery and innovation that consumed ILRAD at that time, spearheading the search for an understanding of the immune responses to *Theileria parva* (the cause of East Coast fever [ECF]), and how these could be captured and deployed in disease prevention through vaccines.

Declan thrived on scientific debate, and he complemented his acute intelligence with a subtle penetrating wit; together, these epitomised his multiple contributions to science and, indeed, to life in general.

He left ILRI in 1999 after 13 years, taking up a joint appointment as chair in veterinary clinical sciences at the University of Edinburgh, as well as acting as head of clinical services at the Moredun Institute. In 2007, he moved to the RVC, initially as chair of immunoparasitology and subsequently as head of pathology and infectious

diseases. Shortly before his death he had been appointed as a vice-principal of the RVC.

Despite a heavy administrative burden at the RVC, Declan never shirked his commitment to, and responsibility for, livestock disease control in Africa. He, together with other scientists at the RVC and ILRI, formed part of a consortium recently funded through the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation which aimed to develop a new generation vaccine against ECF.

Africa played a central part in his life and he was very much looking forward to returning to Kenya and to ILRI to work with old and new colleagues.

He departed this life following an 18-month period fighting myeloma, which included several bouts of chemotherapy, followed by an autologous stem cell graft. He endured those dark times with courage, dignity and grace. He had been recovering well, was back at work and continuing to do research, administrate and charm until a week before the end.

During the course of his myeloma therapies, Declan was positive, brave and big hearted. Despite the impression he gave on occasions of being quite irreligious, Declan had a strong belief, and a committed faith, which he drew on regularly. He was a devoted family man, exuding pride in his elder children, Aoife and Leo, and taking on with ease the new roles and responsibilities of a father with young Luke and Saoirse.

Declan's contributions extended beyond his roles in science and academia; he was a talented artist, a horseman and a raconteur. His cartoons of colleagues not only amused his subjects but also provided entertainment at Christmas, with the imagined hazards of Santa and his reindeer in the savannahs of Africa, and raised money for different charities.

A great light has been extinguished; we are darkened by his passing and inspired by his example.

(With thanks to Brian Perry, Dirk Werling and Ken Smith)

Wendy Scourfield (2001)



Wendy (nee LLOYD) graduated from the RVC in 2001 and took up her first post at Allen and Partners Veterinary Practice, where she remained for most of her career.

Her sister, Anne Lloyd said, "Wendy loved her job. It was all she ever wanted to do from a very young age in primary school. She never wanted to be a ballerina or a princess, it was always a vet. She was very driven and because she wanted to be a vet she worked very hard."

Wendy passed away at home in her sleep in May. She leaves behind husband Huw and two-year-old twins Naomi Sian and Emily Fflur.

James Brooks (1995)



James graduated from the RVC in 1995 and was lead surgeon at a Maidenhead surgery before moving to Holly House Veterinary Surgery in Yorkshire around two years ago.

He was married with twins and died at home in Walton, West Yorkshire. James was widely respected as a surgeon, and particularly as a guinea pig specialist.

Stuart McArthur, senior veterinarian at Holly House, said "James Brooks was a great professional and it has been an honour for me to have worked alongside him, he will be very sadly missed."

Peter Scott Dunn (1946)

Peter graduated from the RVC in 1946 having been immersed in the veterinary world since birth, his father was a vet and his godfather was Sir Frederick Hobday!

His career began as Demonstrator in Animal Management, Stable Management, Dentition and Shoeing at the RVC just after the Second World War. He went on to take charge of 5,000 horses belonging to the LMS railway company that were stabled in the capital, many underneath Broad Street station. They were used for shunting, for haulage and for making deliveries.

In 1950 he joined the long-established practice in Reading to which his father had originally belonged. Eight years later this moved to Earley, also in Berkshire, where Scott Dunn and Tony Ward eventually took over the equestrian division. He began to look after the Royal Household's horses in 1969. His charges included the carriage horses, mainly Windsor Greys and Cleveland Bays stabled at Buckingham Palace's mews. He would often be on duty at state occasions, following behind the horses in procession, and he was well-acquainted with the Queen's favourite Trooping horse, Burmese.

He and Sir John Miller, the Crown equerry who ran the Royal Mews until 1987, worked closely together and were firm friends. At Windsor, Scott Dunn tended both to the Duke of Edinburgh's and the Prince of Wales's polo ponies. He cared for Prince Philip's driving teams, as well as to the Royal Family's riding horses. These included the Highland and Fell ponies latterly favoured by the Queen. Scott Dunn also advised on the breeding programme established at Hampton Court, as well as caring for the mounts ridden by the Princess Royal in her eventing career, including Doublet, whom she rode to victory in the 1971

European Championships. Scott Dunn was there to see the Princess Royal presented with her gold medal.

Compassion and respect for the animals' dignity were always priorities for him and were evident in his early design for an equine ambulance — the model for those still used at racecourses. He was one of the first vets in Britain to use ultrasound, and was also responsible for the introduction of the anti-inflammatory drug phenylbutazone. "Bute" was originally intended for humans, but Scott Dunn was a great believer in adapting common remedies for horses, such as arnica and even cough medicine. He became the first chairman of the British Horse Society Welfare Committee and of the Association of Racecourse Veterinary Surgeons.

His first taste of the Olympics came in 1948, when he was a duty vet at the equestrian events staged at Aldershot. Four years later, he was invited to help the British team, and in 1956 he became the vet responsible not just for the eventers but initially also for the dressage and showjumping disciplines. He covered seven Olympics altogether and made a key contribution to Britain's success in international competitions.

He was well known for his formidable work ethic. Such was his dedication that he once flew to treat a horse in Switzerland on Christmas Day. Clients were used to being woken by him — the head of a dog poking out of the passenger window of his Jaguar — for an early (and large) breakfast, or roused late at night by a handful of gravel thrown at a bedroom



window. On one occasion he left a cocktail party to drive 60 miles to save a choking mare, and then drove back again. His driving at unsocial hours was a constant throughout his career, and meant he had to change his cars regularly. The problem was that he could never remember the registration number, so on his 70th birthday his staff clubbed together to give him a numberplate he could easily recall: M70 PSD.

Scott Dunn was appointed Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order in 1982, and advanced to Commander of the Royal Victorian Order in 2002. He retired three years later when he was already 80. He is survived by his second wife, Patricia Ann Waugh, known as Ann.

We also proudly remember:

M W Baker (1961), Roger William Baker (1973), Isabel Clare Ballard (1940), Harry Barber (1948), Judith Beckett (1951), Huw Davey (1980), Dale Davison, Philip Hugh De Gruchy (1950), Vanessa Dixon (1978), John Douch (1953), William Baines Faulk (1951), Ivan Hjalmar Fincham (1942), Charles James Frank (1949), Ellis Cledwyn Griffiths (1947), Alison Hill (2014), Charles David Honhold (1949), Nicola Jane Humphage (1986), Francis Edgar Hunter (1953), George Alfred Kluth (1960), Alexander Livingston (1964), Raymond John Norris (1961), Richard Orton (1948), David Perrett (1944), Elizabeth Susan Philo (1977), Claire Emma Louise Pointing (1998), John Rawlins (1953), Brian Sherlock (1950), Donald John Skinner (1952), Lionel Stafford (1946), Gladys Muriel Stuckey (1936), Percy Edwin Sykes (1943), Paul Coldstream Tuckett (1950), Kenneth Williams (1949), Christina Witherington (1942), Richard Leslie Wylie (1935) and our other RVC Alumni who are sadly no longer with us.

Robin Edgar (1956)

Robin graduated from the RVC in 1956. During his time at the RVC he was awarded a collegiate medal for the clinical prize in his second year and, in 1955/56, he was awarded a class medal for being second in medicine that year. In keeping with his basic characteristics of humility and modesty, he always said he was very surprised to receive them. Robin had recently been offered and accepted in absentia the honorary degree of bachelor of veterinary studies by the RVC.

Robin was born on October 15, 1930, and he boarded at Reading School during the Second World War. He spent most of his school holidays on the Edgar farm, Old Place, at East

Tisted, and it was there that Robin first developed the idea of becoming a veterinary surgeon. He says he chose that profession because, when the local vet took him out on his rounds, Robin was impressed that he had a car and petrol to drive it! Before entering The RVC he did his National Service in the Canal Zone, which he enjoyed. He served as a lieutenant.

He began in practice with Kirkwood, Kon and Meikle, which later became Castle Veterinary Surgery, in Reading. He stayed there for the whole of his professional life, retiring in 1995. He was an exceptionally supportive employer, affectionately called 'Mr E' by one and all, and a reliable and

dependable partner who was fully involved in the development of the practice. The high standards of care, which he unfailingly offered his patients, were highly regarded by their owners.

Robin was always a sportsman. In 1978, he walked to just above Everest Base Camp and, always prepared to take up a challenge, 20 years later, he walked in to Machu Picchu. He met his wife, Carol, in 1973 and they had 40 happy years together. They married in 1980 and he took on a new challenge by becoming a stepfather to her three children, then six, nine and 11 years old. He became a role model, mentor and friend to each of the children and then to the grandchildren, giving them an example of how to live, work and appreciate what life had to offer.

Robert Ambrose (2012)

John Ambrose, Rob Davies (RD) and Charles Bagnall write:

Robert Ambrose died on May 14, 2014, following a road traffic accident the day before. He qualified from the RVC in July 2012. Robert was always destined to be a vet; at the age of five he announced that he wanted chickens for his birthday, and he spent much time in his younger years watching the cows at Easton Farm Park.

When Robert announced his chosen career, his parents ferried him about most weekends to help him gain experience, soon becoming familiar with trips to the RSPCA, the Local stables and vets. It all paid off as he was offered a place at the RVC. He left home in 2007 to start his studies, possibly one of the youngest on his course, and very soon got into student life. The once shy young man was developing into a party animal, with pictures appearing on Facebook to prove this. He was a popular student and went on to become general manager of the student union; he made everyone laugh by his antics, dress sense and choice of food. At his graduation, he received one of the loudest cheers when names were called out.

He then started work at Stowe Vets, which offered him a place, after he spent Easter there seeing practice there during his final year.

RD first met Rob when he came to see practice at Stowe Vet Group,

as a final-year vet student. Having taken one look at the rather scruffy lad in the white coat, it was with a little trepidation that he agreed to help him perform his first bitch spay. Bitch spays are the most difficult of the practice's routine operations and assisting a student with such a technically demanding procedure can be fairly stressful for both parties. Rob, however, proving RD's initial judgement completely wrong, sailed through effortlessly, even managing to hold a decent conversation at the same time. Some weeks later RD was delighted to hear that he had accepted the job offer and would be joining the practice once he had graduated.

Rob quickly became part of the team. His easy-going nature and sense of fun made him immediately popular. He will be remembered for his fondness of mischievous pranks, his reliance on Pot Noodles and obscure items from Lidl for nourishment, and for his apparent inability to ever find either a hairbrush or a razor. But his laid back demeanour concealed an underlying intelligence and dedication. Hiding behind the rather unconventional language he used to describe cases, there was always a sensible and clearly thought out plan of action. He cared deeply for his patients and would always strive for the correct diagnosis and the best treatment.

Robert joined Orwell Veterinary Group at the end of 2013. He was a hard-



working and conscientious member of staff who was very eager to develop his skills as a veterinary surgeon. His quiet, calm, unassuming manner was perfect for putting clients, patients and staff at ease, even in the most difficult circumstances. It was clear he cared deeply about his patients and their owners.

Rob was developing into a talented vet, popular with clients and a great friend to his colleagues. He was a very valued member of the team and he will be greatly missed by all and remembered with great affection.

The RVC held a memorial service for Rob in July and would particularly like to thank Robert's father John Ambrose for coming along.

Our thoughts remain with Rob's family and friends at this very sad time.

Alumni Tribute Fund

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new Alumni Tribute Fund which offers you a way to donate in memory of friends or colleagues you have sadly lost, celebrating their life through a gift to future generations of RVC students.

From funding the development of state-of-the-art teaching facilities to offering life-changing opportunities through scholarships and bursaries, your gift to the Alumni Tribute Fund will help future students get the most out of their time at the RVC and help us remember those we have lost.

To find out how you can donate in memory of someone you have lost, please call 01707 666039 or email sseymour@rvc.ac.uk

Creating a Lasting Legacy

Thanks to generous support from the Brian Nixon Legacy Fund, the RVC has recently embarked on a new programme of work with the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Chiang Mai University in Thailand, the aim of which is to improve the health, husbandry and breeding for future sustainability of Asian elephants in Thailand.

There are more than 3,000 elephants living in elephant camps in Thailand which equates to around 60% of the total elephant population of the country. The day-to-day care of these elephants is undertaken by camp workers and mahouts who clean, feed, exercise and train the elephants to survive in limited spaces. Many of these workers have not been properly educated on how to care for the elephants and this often leads to health issues such as inbreeding, foot problems and obesity. We will be providing training to those working within the camps, plus Thai vets, to ensure they know how to properly house, feed and care for the elephants. Providing this basic training will reduce the risk of health issues and improve elephant welfare.

Many captive Asian elephants in Thailand suffer from poor bones caused by low levels of calcium. There is currently little research available in this area, so another part of this programme involves us working with Chiang Mai University



to support a Thai research vet who will study how nutrition can affect bone density in elephants. This vet will receive part of their training at the RVC, and will carry out their research with captive elephants in Thailand to help us gain a better understanding of calcium nutrition and metabolism in Asian elephants.

We will also be supporting a Mobile Elephant Clinic, covering the cost of drugs, clinical equipment and transport needed to treat elephants in more remote areas. Sick elephants are obviously difficult to transport due to their size, and the Mobile Elephant Clinic will address this issue by taking medical care directly to them to treat issues such as infectious diseases, wounds and injuries.

All of this work has become possible thanks to Brian Nixon who arranged via his Will, a special fund to protect Thai elephants. This project is a good demonstration of the breadth and reach of our work, and is a great example of how leaving a legacy to the RVC in your will can have a real impact on veterinary science and animal welfare. However, there are many other ways leaving a legacy gift to the RVC can help. From funding research programmes or clinical equipment, to contributing towards scholarships and teaching facilities, leaving a legacy to the RVC will help us educate future generations of vets and ensure that significant progress is made year on year to improve animal welfare.

For further information about leaving a legacy to the RVC, or for an informal chat about how your gift could help, please get in touch using the details below:

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