

DICK VET

news



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

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MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



This issue of the Dick Vet News celebrates a landmark in the Dick Vet's history—the consolidation of teaching, clinics and research at the Easter Bush Campus. The new Campus, incorporating The Roslin Institute with the Dick Vet, and embracing The Scottish Agricultural College and the Moredun Research Institute as partners in the Easter Bush Research Consortium, represents well over 2000 vets, animal scientists and students—**one of the biggest concentrations of colleagues, devoted to the health and welfare of animals, in the world.**

The focus of the new building starts with the students themselves—who have been involved with planning the building from its early stages. The learning spaces are at the cutting-edge of educational development—many thanks to Tudor Jones for his untiring quest for excellence in learning spaces with input from various members of the Veterinary Teaching Organisation. Each cohort of specialist staff planned their own areas, such as the Study Landscape where the expertise of

clinicians and librarians overlaps. There is a logical flow through the building—and much of this is thanks to Tom Bostock, Managing Director of Reich and Hall who worked tirelessly with staff through many iterations in the early stages of planning.

The new building provides a wonderful environment for working and studying, and guarantees the continuity of William Dick's legacy for the next several generations of students and clinicians.

On a more personal note, I am particularly glad to be at the celebratory event after spending March in hospital in Hong Kong subsequent to complications arising after emergency appendectomy surgery. The School's Alumni and Friends in Hong Kong were heroic—in getting me transferred to an excellent International Hospital, and in looking after me extremely well throughout my protracted stay. I am truly grateful to the Dick Vet Family, and for all of the notes and flowers from well-wishers at the Dick, the University, and around the world.

We continue to develop our internationalisation agenda—delivering veterinary education on a global scale, and in the next edition of the Dick Vet News, you will read about some very exciting developments in India and China where we are working to push the boundaries of veterinary training and animal health and welfare in partnership with organisations working in those countries and providing new opportunities for our students to participate.

The continued support of our Alumni, Friends and Partners has helped us to increase our standing as one of the leading establishments of veterinary training and research in the world and I look forward to welcoming you to our new Campus at Easter Bush.

Professor Elaine Watson

EMBRACING THE FUTURE

This issue of the Dick Vet News commemorates the completion of the new teaching building.

It's exactly 100 years since the University of Edinburgh Court issued Ordinance No 13. The ordinance – Institution of degrees in veterinary science and related regulations – received the approval of His Majesty in council and in May the following year the BSc and PhD in Veterinary Science were established.

This marked the first formal academic degree link with the University of Edinburgh, but it was far from being the beginning of what is now the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

William Dick established the first Veterinary School in Edinburgh, near his father's forge, in Clyde Street some 88 years earlier in 1823. Supported by the Highland Society of Scotland, the School flourished and in 1833 moved into purpose-built premises also on Clyde Street. Dick trained over 900 veterinary surgeons. As a result veterinary practices were established throughout Scotland, in the rest of Britain, and abroad.

On Dick's death in 1866, he bequeathed the School to the City of Edinburgh and in 1916 the School moved to its home at Summerhall. In 1947 the Dick Vet occupied the Easter Bush Home Farm in Midlothian and in 1962, on that site, the Veterinary Field Station and Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine were constructed. In 1999, the Hospital for Small Animals opened at Easter Bush and this year all teaching has been relocated to the new School building.

Having teaching located as close as possible to the small and large animal hospitals gives students access to the widest possible range of animals from wildlife to racehorses. From the earliest stages in their training they experience case-based teaching in a science-led environment.

Our society needs more vets to handle threats from zoonotic diseases and ensure food safety, not to mention care needed for the ever growing companion animal sector.

The new building permits the School to train 60 extra students per year with the most innovative and exemplary methods of veterinary education, in the best facility in the world.

The move to Easter Bush, not only unites hospitals and teaching, but also puts the School alongside its incorporated institution, The Roslin Institute, in another bespoke building. Five hundred researchers drawn from The Roslin Institute, The Dick Vet and the Neuropathogenesis Unit are working in the building, which opened in March.

The co-location of vets and scientists means that treatments discovered in the laboratory can be implemented as quickly

as possible to prevent and cure illnesses and diseases afflicting individual animals, as well as populations.

The completion of the new teaching building which this issue of the Dick Vet News commemorates, exists as a testament to the shared vision and loyalty of many. Thanks to the Alumni who have contributed, the Trusts and Foundations which have donated and the clients who have demonstrated their gratitude for the care their animals received. And so the School looks ahead to its bicentenary in 2023 confident that our facilities, staff and students at the Easter Bush Campus are second to none.



Proud of our past, looking to the future.

THE NEW VETERINARY TEACHING BUILDING, EASTER BUSH

The event to celebrate the completion of the new veterinary teaching building on 19 May 2011 marks the culmination of almost a decade of hard work on the part of many members of staff, architects, fundraisers and many more. It is a green building that is large enough to ensure the School can embrace the future, as well as honour its past. We're hoping the many Alumni and supporters who gather together at the event will agree it's an achievement of which the School can be justifiably proud.



1 The exterior of the building, which was carefully designed to be of a height appropriate to the surrounding landscape.

2-3 In the new library, the study landscape gives students the opportunity to study independently using online resources, while the Special Collections area benefits from decorative glass walls.





- 4 One of the building's two 200 seat lecture theatres.
- 5 The atrium, café and library.
- 6-7 The historic stained glass windows from Summerhall have been retained and installed to make the most of natural light. See page 28 to read about their installation.
- 8-9 William Dick's statue is shown to its best advantage in the atrium.
- 10 The View cafeteria will continue to serve hot and cold food at student-friendly prices.

VET SCHOOL ON TV

Second series of the popular documentary broadcast



Medication for a feathered patient.

Viewers have had a second chance to peep behind the scenes at the School with the second series of Scottish Television's fly on the wall documentary "Vet School".

The series followed the work of the vets and students in the Hospital for Small Animals as well as the work of Equine and Farm Animal teams.

According to Ronnie Soutar, Director of Veterinary Services, the second series has built on and even outstripped the success of the first.

"We have a good relationship with the management and with the team on the ground," he explained. "We were really pleased with the last series and this time we've tried to add in more advanced work, imaging and oncology for example. The series really shows what we can do over and above what can be done in practice."

This second series boasted an even wider range of interesting cases than the first. In addition to pets with major problems, there are also cases concerning herd health and farm issues.

As well as many of the School's vets achieving an unexpected level of fame and, in one case, being approached by fans in the supermarket, there have been worthwhile benefits for the School.

"There have been increased donations," continues Ronnie Soutar. "Also vets in practice have been saying that their clients are now pleased to be referred to us, making referral easier. All in all this deepens the public's understanding of what we do and that has to be a good thing."

WORLDWIDE VET SERVICES SIGN UP FOR JOINT PROJECTS

Professor Elaine Watson, Dean and Head of School, and Luke Gamble of Worldwide Veterinary Services have signed a Memorandum of Understanding. This will allow the two organisations to start work on joint initiatives in India providing opportunities for Edinburgh students' EMS visits and accrediting Worldwide Vet Service courses run out of their newly opened International Training Centre in the Tamil Nadu Hill Station of Ooty.



DIRECTOR APPOINTED TO ANIMAL WELFARE CENTRE

Natalie Waran returns to The School

An animal welfare expert has been appointed to head a centre which aims to improve the well-being of animals worldwide. Professor Natalie Waran took up the post of Director of the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education at the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in March 2011.

"I was delighted to learn about the creation of this new International Centre," said Professor Waran, continuing, "I am very much looking forward to the opportunity to lead its development and to help this impressive initiative to fulfill its considerable potential."

The centre aims to create a focal point

for animal welfare education across the globe, establishing new veterinary courses as well as collaborating with international partners to improve understanding of animal welfare issues.

The appointment will mark a return to Edinburgh for Professor Waran, who worked at the University for 14 years until 2004. Most recently she was Professor of Animal Welfare at the Unitec Institute of Technology in New Zealand, where she was also Head of the Department of Natural Sciences and Associate Dean (Research) for the Faculty of Social and Health Sciences.

The Centre has been established with a £2 million donation from the Marchig

Animal Welfare Trust and will engage with politicians and governments with the aim of improving animal welfare and seeking alternatives to the use of animals in research.

Dean and Head of School Professor Elaine Watson said: "The Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education aims to raise awareness of issues relating to animal welfare and the role that veterinarians can play in promoting it. Professor Waran has considerable experience in the field of animal welfare and we are delighted to welcome her back to Edinburgh."

To read more about Professor Waran go to page 13.

GRATEFUL CLIENTS SUPPORT SCHOOL

Dog owners show appreciation with six-figure pledge

The School has been pledged a legacy of £100,000 by a couple from North Yorkshire, in recognition of the care shown to their black Labrador, Jet.

Michael and Sue Dennis were told that Jet would not live long after he was diagnosed with a rare form of arthritis in his front legs. In desperation they contacted the Hospital for Small Animals and had a consultation with Colin Stead.

"He gave Jet a very thorough examination and spent a lot of time with us," says Michael Dennis. "We were very impressed with the care and attention that we had from the School."

"Although there was no medication prescribed, they did advise us on how to manage his lifestyle with shorter walks, regular exercise and plenty of fun. The dog lived until he was 10 and had a very happy and reasonably active life."

The funds pledged will be used to support vet students facing financial hardship. According to Mr Dennis: "We were so impressed with the treatment and interaction that took place between

the School, the people that work there and ourselves, that we wanted to perpetuate that."



Jet—a much-loved family pet.

GROWING THE NEXT GENERATION OF HEALTHCARE LEADERS

New One Health MSc

A new MSc programme is to be launched this year in response to strong demand from veterinary and medical professionals.

The programme will enable students to develop a deep understanding of comparative medicine in man and animals. There'll be a particular emphasis on the current threats of emerging zoonotic diseases and the impact they may have on human and animal health and on food security. Students will also study basic epidemiology and the role of surveillance in disease control.

Professor Elaine Watson, described the programme as a "flagship course".

"The links between human and animal medicine are very strong at the University of Edinburgh and this programme builds on that advantage," she said. "We're bringing together leading members of both professions and world class scientists to study issues that are crucial to human and animal health. This blend will create the best possible educational environment to develop the next generation of leaders in the global healthcare team."

In addition to a rigorous taught programme, students will have the opportunity to undertake a bench or computer-based project in the laboratory of a leading scientist at the University of Edinburgh, or in the student's home country.

250 YEARS OF VET EDUCATION

Memorandum of Understanding signed with Lyon

2011 has been designated World Vet Year in recognition of the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the first ever vet school in Lyon, France in 1761 on the initiative of French vet Claude Bourgelat.

Events to mark the celebration include a World Conference on Veterinary Education to be held in Lyon in May and a closing ceremony in Cape Town, South Africa.


The School is cementing its links with Lyon by signing a Memorandum of Understanding in May which is set to foster co-operative relations between the two

institutions, developing academic and cultural interchange.

Edinburgh's French veterinary connections go back more than 300 years, when the 1691 edition of Jacques Solleysel's book "Parfait Marechal" was translated into English by Sir William Hope of Kirkliston. It is said that formal veterinary education in Europe was based on a system of veterinary practice laid down by Frenchmen, in particular Solleysel. Sir William added other works to the translation and deplored the absence of skilled veterinary practitioners in the UK.



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ROSLIN INSTITUTE MOVES TO NEW BUILDING

£60 million building for research institute



Staff and students of The Roslin Institute moved to the new Institute building in March. The £60 million building, the design of which was inspired by the shape of a pair of chromosomes, has coloured glass panels representing the DNA 'fins' which link the office and research laboratory blocks together.

The building, funded by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Agricultural

College accommodates around 500 scientists from The Roslin Institute, the Dick Vet and the Scottish Agricultural College, incorporating expertise in areas such as genetics, developmental biology, immunology and infectious disease, neuroscience and behaviour and animal sciences.

Professor David Hume, Director of The Roslin Institute, said: "The new building provides state-of-the-art facilities in which we can undertake research which will strengthen Scotland's international

reputation as a world leader in animal biosciences. It will make a major contribution to Scotland's knowledge economy, and complements the other developments taking place at the Easter Bush Campus.

"It will also provide a focal point for the Easter Bush Research Consortium, bringing together scientists from The Roslin Institute, The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, the Scottish Agricultural College and the Moredun Research Institute, with a view to fostering new ideas and streamlining research on animal diseases and its implications for human health."

"In addition, with the establishment of the new Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare we now have an excellent opportunity to showcase our joint commitment to improved animal welfare and the ethics underpinning the '3 Rs' – the reduction, refinement and replacement of animals in teaching and research."

STUDYING DISEASE SPREAD

New Best Practice Guidelines

A collaboration between the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow has produced the first set of guidelines for best practice in studying the spread of veterinary diseases. Known as the "Guide to Good Practice for Quantitative Veterinary Epidemiology", the publication includes more than 200 recommendations for best practice in areas such as computer modelling, data interpretation and communicating with policy makers.

Mark Woolhouse, Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology in the Centre for Infectious Diseases said the guidelines could be helpful in controlling major outbreaks of diseases such as foot and mouth and would also help to inform policy decisions.

"Scientific methods exist that allow us to be confident in certain scenarios, for instance when a plane is safe to fly," he explained. "But it is hard to translate these to biological systems. There are no set standards when, for example, it comes to the use of mathematical models of the spread of diseases, even though these can have a major impact on animal or public health. This set of guidelines aims to provide a benchmark to help gain that level of confidence."

VETACADEMY

The Dick Vet teams up with VetStream for online learning

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies is partnering with VetStream to launch online distance learning continual professional development (CPD) programmes via VetStream's innovative virtual learning environment "VetAcademy".

Providing CPD online, enables vets to learn at a time and location which suits them, allowing them to work around their professional and personal commitments.

Dr Jo-Anne Murray, Director of E-learning at the Dick Vet, said: "This is an exciting new venture which will enable veterinary practitioners to undertake a flexible approach to their CPD studies.

It will bring together an online community of participants and leading Veterinary experts from all over the world".

For further information on online CPD at the Dick Vet, Jo-Anne can be contacted by email at: Jo-Anne.Murray@ed.ac.uk.

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ROD ELSE RETIRES

A fond farewell from friends
and colleagues



Students and members of staff past and present gathered at the Upper View on 10th February to wish Professor Rod Else all the best for his retirement. There were speeches from the Dean of the School, Professor Elaine Watson, and from Rod himself, as well as a touching presentation from some of his residents.

Rod joined the Department of Veterinary Pathology in 1977, a graduate of Bristol Vet School with a PhD in equine cardiac pathophysiology. He quickly made a firm career commitment to veterinary pathology and was responsible for the management of the Pathology Diagnostic Service. His numerous career achievements included establishing a pathology Residency Training Programme which has produced many successful trainees. He was awarded a personal chair in 2007.

Rod has always had an interest in Undergraduate welfare and was recently made Director of Student Affairs at the School. In this role, Rod supported students across many aspects of their studies, welfare and educational progression.

Outside the University, Rod is a keen skier, curler and Scottish Country Dancer, interests which will, no doubt, ensure a busy and healthy retirement.



BURNS SUPPER FUNDRAISING

The Annual Burns Supper for staff and final year students has raised around £400 for the wildlife service at the Hospital for Small Animals. The event will be the last Dick Vet Burns Supper to be held at Summerhall and was attended by 130 people. Staff and students performed traditional Burns entertainment such as the address to the haggis and Tam O'Shanter, and a ceillidh band finished off the night.



Student Jamie Bell with wildlife and exotics specialist Kevin Eatwell.

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

- Sue Kempson for winning the Robert Kendell Prize for Teaching in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine. The award is organised by Edinburgh University Students' Association, allowing students to nominate and vote for their teachers. Professor Graham Pettigrew was runner up.
- Karen Perry for passing her ECVS Diploma exams on the first attempt. Karen is now a Diplomat of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons and a European Veterinary Specialist in Surgery.
- Dr Kerry Simpson for achieving RCVS Specialist Status in Feline Medicine.
- Geoff Culshaw for achieving RCVS Specialist Status in Veterinary Cardiology.

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A FAMILIAR NEW FACE

Natalie Waran returns to the Dick Vet

The Dick Vet News caught up with Natalie Waran in the first week of her new role as Director of the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare. She's a significant figure in Animal Welfare Education and also no stranger to the Dick Vet having been a Senior Lecturer here until six years ago.

"I have come from Auckland, New Zealand where I was Professor of Animal Welfare at the Unitec Institute of Technology. I was also Head of the Department of Natural Sciences and Associate Dean for Research – I was quite busy," she laughs.

"I've come here because I have a really strong passion for animal welfare and I'm genuine about that. All my career moves have been about being involved in animal welfare education."

The Jeanne Marchig Centre for Animal Welfare Education has been set up specifically to try and change the world for

animals by providing education. That can be within the veterinary world, very locally within Edinburgh or influencing matters in Europe or further afield in Asia. For me, this move is all about getting stuck into that."

"The thing that excites me most is that the University has committed, through engaging with the Marchig Animal Welfare Trust, to some very challenging objectives related to animal welfare. To be able to have the backing of one of the world's leading universities is certainly an incredible opportunity. And for me to be heading that up, to lead that charge - that was what was so exciting and attractive."

The goals are certainly ambitious, so what's the first step in achieving them?

"Day one, which was yesterday," she says laughing, "our first task is to come up with a strategic plan which is deliverable and makes sense. We're aiming high and my next job is to ensure that what we're trying to do is achievable, is still ambitious

and is moving in the right direction and that the short term things that we're doing are part of that longer term vision."

"I also need to get out and network with people. It's part of my job to make sure that people know who we are and start to look for opportunities to collaborate with people who have got similar objectives."

Even with the huge task ahead of her, Natalie still hopes to keep her research moving.

"I've got PhD students who work with me in New Zealand and Australia and there are a lot of Masters students here who will hopefully get involved with projects. I also have projects related to horse welfare that I'm hoping to take a bit further now that I'm back in Europe."

And Natalie has been joined by Heather Bacon in a joint appointment with Animals Asia. Read the next issue of Dick Vet News to find out more.



FOOD FOR HEALTH AND HEALING

New nutrition Service available

A new Nutrition Service for dogs and cats has been established at the Hospital for Small Animals in recognition of the vital role nutrition plays in health and healing. The service operates as a referral service for clinicians working in private practice as well as working within the hospital.

Dr Marjorie Chandler, Senior Lecturer in Clinical Nutrition and Small Animal Internal Medicine, runs the service and is quick to emphasise the breadth of care.

"We can recommend commercial diets and create customised weight loss programmes," she explains. "We also provide consultation for therapeutic diets for an animal's specific disease conditions, critical care nutrition, and the evaluation and formulation of home-prepared diets."

"Diet affects the quality and length of life, and is a major part of the therapy of many disorders. Nutritional assessment and the selection of the best diet for cats and dogs are vital aspects of veterinary care."



Vets interested in referring to the service and clients who would like nutritional consultation for their cats and dogs can get further information at www.petnutritionservice.co.uk

CLINIC FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE'S PETS

The Dick Vet reaches out to pets and owners on the street

Dunedin Harbour Hostel in Leith, an open access hostel for the homeless, is unusual in that it accepts pets. This is a crucial distinction for the hundreds of homeless pet owners in the city who regularly refuse accommodation which will not allow their pets to stay with them.

It also makes it the ideal venue for a trial clinic, operating on a monthly basis from a room in the hostel providing vaccination, worming, minor injuries and advice. The clinic is open to any homeless person in Edinburgh.

"The owners are very diverse, there's no stereotype," says Dr Andrew Gardiner who founded and runs the clinic assisted by final year students. "How they have come to be homeless has been educational for me and the students alike."

While dogs are the most common patients, some homeless people also keep cats and other animals such as ferrets.

"The students have been very keen and enthusiastic," continues Andrew. "They've made information sheets, publicity information and other literature, as well as attending the sessions and speaking to owners about their lives, their pets and how choices are made."

The clinic is currently funded by a bequest, left to the Vet School for projects like this, and a generous donation from the Pet Plan Charitable Trust. This funding will continue for 18 months but it is hoped funding will be found to secure a longer term future for the clinic.



If you would like to donate, please contact David Rider, Director of Fundraising at david.rider@ed.ac.uk or telephone 0131 650 8833.

A TREAT FOR EXOTIC ANIMAL OWNERS

Health Check Weeks for exotic pets

A series of "Health Check Weeks" have been keeping the Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service busy.

Clients and referring vets alike have been invited to come along to the events which offer free health checks, advice, care sheets and presentations. The series began with Tortoise Week at the end of March and Lizard week in April. Parrot Week (16th – 20th May) and Rabbit Week (23th – 27th May) follow.

Kevin Eatwell, Lecturer in Exotic Animal and Wildlife Medicine, said the events were always very popular: "People enjoy coming along and we enjoy meeting the clients. It's an excellent opportunity for clients to learn and to ask questions and for us to get across some key messages for having happy healthy pets."



VETERINARY PATHOLOGY SEMINARS

The School's Veterinary Pathology Unit has teamed up with the BSVP (British Society of Veterinary Pathology) to deliver a monthly "Veterinary and Comparative Pathology Seminar Series". The seminars will cover both routine diagnostic pathology and investigative pathology supporting disease research with the college and beyond.

Organiser Chris Palgrave said: "This will provide a valuable forum for the exchange of information and ideas and promote inter-institutional collaboration in Diagnostic Pathology, pathology training and disease research." The seminars are accredited by the Royal College of Pathologists with attendees earning CPD credits at each event.

Dr Alex Schock, Educational Co-ordinator of the BSVP said they were delighted to be collaborating with the School and Dr. Palgrave on the seminar series. "CPD and training for veterinary surgeons and scientists interested in all aspects of veterinary pathology are the main objectives of our Society," he said. "We are extremely grateful to the Dick Vet's Veterinary Pathology Unit for its support."

Seminars are held in Roslin Institute Room B006, first Thursday of each month.

BARBARA MAWER FELLOWSHIP WINNER

The Barbara Mawer Travelling Fellowship from the Bone Research Society (BRS) has been awarded to Neil Mackenzie, a post doctoral student in the vascular calcification group at the Roslin Institute led by Dr Vicky MacRae. Neil will use the award to fund a visit to collaborators at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute in San Diego.

Neil said, "I am very grateful to the Bone Research Society for awarding me this fellowship. The trip is a huge opportunity to really develop the work of Vicky's group but it will also provide me with opportunities to expand my horizons and progress my career."



BOOST FOR HORSE INFECTION STUDY

Scientists are a step closer to developing a test for a serious colon infection that costs the UK horse industry £12m each year.

The Horserace Betting Levy Board has awarded new funding to the group of researchers, led by Professor Jacqui Matthews, at the Royal Dick School of Veterinary Studies and Moredun Research Institute, to further their research into detecting the infection in horses.

The disease – caused by roundworms called cyathostomins – affects more than 90 per cent of the world's horses, donkeys and asses. In some cases, these worms can cause a fatal diarrhoea and weight loss syndrome.

The disease also has a significant impact on working donkeys in the developing world. The worms colonise the gut, where

their immature stages (larvae) can cause severe inflammation of the colon/gut wall.

As yet, there is no non-invasive way of detecting these larval worms to inform treatment. However, this research group has already identified several proteins that show potential for use in diagnosing the presence of larval infection.

The researchers will use the additional funding to continue their research on developing these proteins to a commercially available diagnostic test.

According to Professor Jacqui Matthews: "We have learned a lot by identifying these proteins, which can be used as markers for the disease. We now want to take this further by developing and commercialising tests that will help to identify and treat this disease more rapidly, so reducing the suffering of infected animals."



CLOSING IN ON SALMON VIRUS RESISTANCE GENE



A team of researchers has identified improved genetic markers which will help them identify the salmon virus resistance gene. This new knowledge can inform "marker assisted selection", an advanced form of selective breeding and improve resistance to the virus IPN (Infectious Pancreatic Necrosis) which is a major killer in commercial salmon farming.

The team includes scientists from The Roslin Institute, which is incorporated with the Dick Vet, The Institute of Aquaculture of the University of Stirling and Landcatch Natural Selection Ltd, an international salmon breeding company.

Dr Ross Houston, who is leading the research at the Roslin Institute said: "By using the latest DNA sequencing technology, we have now identified improved genetic markers which are accurate predictors of IPN survival in aquaculture salmon populations. This brings us much closer to identifying the gene responsible for resistance."

TEST TO HELP LABRADOR RETRIEVERS

Scientists from the Dick Vet, The Roslin Institute and the Animal Health Trust have launched a study, funded by the BBSRC, to create a diagnostic test to enable breeders to assess the genetic risk for hip and elbow dysplasia in dogs.

Hip and elbow dysplasia affects up to one in five Labrador Retrievers, often causing pain, dislocation of the joints and leading to lameness. At present, the screening process is expensive and involves a general anesthetic.

The new non-invasive DNA test will make it possible to test earlier and without the use of anesthesia, thus improving dog welfare.

Dr Pam Wiener from The Roslin Institute said the team was very grateful to the BBSRC for funding the study. "If we are able to gather enough information and samples there is a very real possibility that in the next few years we will be able to develop a DNA test that will make a major contribution towards eradicating hip and elbow dysplasia in Labrador Retrievers."

"It's also likely that we will be able to use what we learn from the Labrador Retriever study to benefit other breeds and to prevent other diseases," she continued.



COMBATING DISEASE IN PIGS



Scientists and representatives from the pig industry met at The Roslin Institute, in January to discuss whether mathematical modelling can make a useful contribution to combat PRRS (porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome).

Since its appearance in the late 1980s in North America, the mysterious condition, also known as Blue-Ear Pig Disease, has spread and devastated pig herds around the world. It is estimated to cost the American swine industry \$600m a year and the disease is not only a major economic threat but also a significant animal welfare and global food security issue. According to Dr Tahar Ait-Ali, who coordinated the meeting with his colleague Dr Andrea Doeschl-Wilson: "It is unlikely that PRRS can be overcome by a single approach alone, a multi-disciplinary approach is critical."

Hill's: Supporting You!

A season of changes and opportunities

Spring sees changes being rung at Hill's Pet Nutrition with some key announcements in the customer support team. Adrian Pratt, a Bristol vet school graduate and formerly Veterinary Affairs Manager, has been promoted to Head of Veterinary Channel for UK and Ireland. Adrian will take responsibility for growing veterinary business, ensuring practices benefit from a broad portfolio of products and services from Hill's. He will head up the Hill's Customer Development and Sales Team as well as retaining the overall responsibility for the Veterinary Affairs Team.



Adrian Pratt, Head of Veterinary Channel UK & Ireland



Tim Dobbins, Associate Veterinary Affairs Manager, UK & Ireland

Since starting his career with Hill's in 2001, Adrian has progressed through the ranks, implementing a number of innovative projects and attracting global funding for projects supporting veterinary customers in the UK. Through his work with vet schools, associations and presence at many veterinary events, Adrian is a well known face within the profession and many people will be pleased to see a vet who clearly understands the needs of the UK practitioner in such a senior position.

Commenting after his appointment, Adrian said he was looking forward to demonstrating to vets just how much Hill's had changed in recent months; "I'm looking forward to driving increased value for our customers and bringing our sales team closer to our vet and vet nurse customers in clinic. It's an exciting time for me personally and for the business as a whole".

He joins a senior management team where veterinarians are strongly represented including the UK and Ireland Managing Director, Dr Blake Hawley, as well as a team of 6 vets working in various positions throughout Hill's UK and Ireland organisation. Another long-standing team member, Dick vet school graduate Tim Dobbins, now has responsibility for the day-to-day running of the Veterinary Affairs team as Associate Veterinary Affairs Manager and brings with him insights and experience directly from his time supporting practices in a sales management role. As well as managing the company's relationships with the vet schools, associations and specialists, Tim is also responsible for the development of the technical support and CPD programme. A particularly popular initiative has been the Hill's Feline Webinar series. Vets, nurses and students have been signing up in their thousands and so far have been treated to free online CPD from experts such as Professor Danielle Gunn-Moore on feline liver disease, Martha Cannon on renal disease

and chronic diarrhoea and Norman Johnston on dental disease and stomatitis. Duncan Lascelles, Associate Professor in Small Animal Surgery at North Carolina State,

“I'm looking forward to driving increased value for our customers”

rounds off the series on 8th June with a session on osteoarthritis in the cat.

The previous sessions are available to watch again at www.thewebinarvet.com/hills-webinars and you can STILL sign up to the last of the series at www.thewebinarvet.com/hills Using the code **hillsnl** allows you to access all the webinars for free.



Armchair CPD : There's still time to sign up for the Hill's Feline webinar series. Simply log onto www.thewebinarvet.com/hills-webinars using the code **hillsnl**. Catch Duncan Lascelles on feline osteoarthritis on the 8th June and view the previous seminars from the comfort of your sofa - for FREE!

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Whilst our fundraising campaign for the new Dick Vet continues, we would like to thank the following supporters for their kind generosity—

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We are within sight of our fundraising target to complete the new veterinary teaching building, so your help now is vital to see this project completed in time for the new term in September for the next generation of Dick Vets. You'll find information on how you can support the School on this page and overleaf.





Your pet's life in their hands.



Follow the work of vets, based at The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, in a six-part documentary. And you'll see what their expertise, care and dedication means for their patients, and their owners.

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¹ Feline Sterile Struvite Urolith Dissolution Study. Interim Report of Five Cats with Struvite Uroliths. J Vet Intern Med 2010;24:704.

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HORSE WELFARE PROJECT

Katie goes to Soweto

Final year student Katie Wu spent a month in Soweto, South Africa, last autumn working with horses and their owners conducting an equine pain study. The trip was funded by World Horse Welfare, with a bursary specifically to promote equine welfare.

Katie joined local South African students on a course run by World Horse Welfare in farriery and saddlery. Her aim

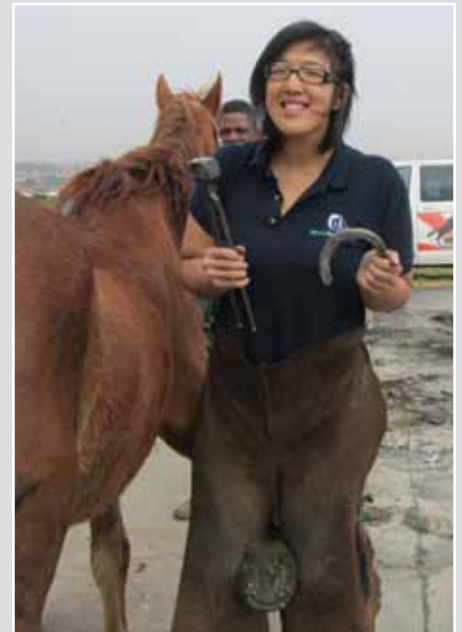
was to study the bond between handlers and their working horses by doing a survey of handlers' awareness of pain. She asked handlers to score horses' injuries from one to five. She then took photographs of the injuries and showed them to final year veterinary students. Finally she compared the scores.

"I found that the final year students actually scored pain higher than the

horses' handlers and owners," explains Katie. "Here a lot of horses are pets whereas there they're working animals. It was a pretty amazing experience to hang out with the local students, they taught me about what they're used to and how they view animals. The farriery work was very interesting – it was my first time taking off a shoe."



Katie Wu with fellow student farriers in South Africa.



Presenter Steve Leonard.

SAFARI VET SCHOOL

Students in new TV series

ITV1 is to film a 12 part series in the Eastern Cape of South Africa this summer called "Safari Vet School". The series will feature 32 vet students from the UK, France and Australia, including ten students from the Dick Vet.

The students will be staying at the Amakhala Game Reserve and for many of them it will be their first taste of conservation work and their first chance

to work on large, exotic animals.

Executive Producer, Trish Powell said: "It will be an amazing opportunity for viewers to see large exotic animals and through the eyes of tomorrow's vets."

The series will go on air in January 2012 and will be presented by Steve Leonard. Watch out for more news on how our students get on, in the next issue of the Dick Vet News.

OUR MAN IN INDONESIA

The Dick Vet News is heading east to Our Man in Indonesia. Alan Wilson will be giving us an insight into the world of the vet in Indonesia, as well as his own life as vet, cricketer and eco-warrior, since graduating in 1963.



I have lived in Indonesia for over 30 years and seen the transition in the country from an “iron fist” dictatorship under Suharto, to a genuine democracy which has developed steadily since 1998. Indonesia is one of the largest countries on earth, is the world’s largest archipelago and also the largest Muslim country on earth. The Indonesian people are warm and friendly and really enjoy those who have a sense of humour. Over 300 distinct languages are spoken here with almost as many different cultures. It is a wonderful country to visit, a country on the move economically and we would encourage anyone who has not been here to come.

The Dick Vet degree is said to train students for most eventualities in life. This is true. At present being Chairman of one International Foundation, three international private companies and one International

Church, activities in any one day are many and varied.

There could be some veterinary work, renewable energy, conservation, youth sports development, poverty alleviation through job creation, booking someone into one of our eco lodges or merely playing cricket for the Kingfisher Veterans in the Bali League.

Conservation has become a passion as we are so rapidly destroying our world, it is frightening. Our international model for conservation using ecotourism (learnt as kids in East Africa) is now widely accepted in Indonesia as a poverty alleviation tool.

Over the years my connections to the Dick Vet have been kept alive by hosting reunions in 1998 and 2008. There have also been academic connections, while working at The National Veterinary Research Institute in Bogor (1981 – 1993), as Head of a large Australian Veterinary

Project, I had the pleasure of supporting a blood parasite project based at The Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine from 1982 – 1989.

In summary, we send a message of friendship from Indonesia to any Dick Vet or University of Edinburgh member who wishes help in visiting Indonesia. We are here to help for accommodation, travel or event organisation. We can also give advice in the veterinary or agricultural fields. And for those who like to play cricket we can arrange for them to join a team in the annual Bali International Cricket Sixes.



For further information go to
www.ecolodgesindonesia.com
 or e-mail
alanwilson@ecolodgesindonesia.com

A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

Alumnus and journalist Nick Henderson looks back at the history of the veterinary profession.



“My daughter wants to be a vet. Can you give us some advice?” asked an extremely able Practice Nurse in the local Health Centre. The girl’s father is an especially well thought of doctor in the Practice and so clearly the matter had been talked through fully at home before approaching me.

We must all experience this situation many times during our professional life. Naturally, in my case I always recommend Edinburgh, not simply because I was there, but because I genuinely believe that it offers the best educational opportunity available for a veterinary professional life ahead.

The art of teaching is really a gift in building communication skills, coupled with clear commitment and enthusiasm for the subject. With the perspective of someone who enjoyed his student life immediately after the Second World War, today’s facilities and teaching quality are a constant source of enthusiastic pride.

In those years, my class included only six women. Students came from family backgrounds which were more agricultural than urban. Their choice

of career was strongly influenced by exposure to the lifestyle of the rural veterinarian, dispensing magic in a world where scientific application was frequently ruled out by the hard economic farming realities. This was a frustration professionally and may have been a major factor in the measurable swing towards small animal practice.

Society pictured the veterinary profession in farm and rural settings as did many of the profession. It is hard to imagine the disdain with which small animal clinicians were viewed by their farm animal colleagues. In their world of mastitis, pregnancy diagnosis, anthelmintics and sheep dipping, the higher levels of scientific research scarcely came into play. The need for students to “see practice” provided the profession with an eager source of willing and free labour.

Even after graduation, there was a great deal more learning on the job than there is today. Teaching had been rudimentary. Exposure to the realities of practice life was limited and the quality of teaching regrettably was not always totally commendable.

However, it would be unwise to categorise those years as dark and colourless. As one is sure the case is today, student enthusiasm, diligence and dedication overcame obstacles and bad teaching. In those days when vocation was probably a more important stimulus than intellectual and scientific curiosity, the whole character of the profession reflected its way of life.

We were categorised by one Select Committee of government as suffering as a profession from an inferiority complex. Not unreasonably, this inhibited our ability to have influence in the corridors of power. The National Veterinary Medical Association, the precursor to the British Veterinary Association did what it could to polish up the profession’s image, but it tended to be an uphill struggle.

Later however, possibly after the initiation of the National Health Service, the veterinary profession seemed to enjoy a rosier glow. Knighthoods and CBEs almost became part of the professional furniture. Honours were distributed widely, and were a source of great pride and confidence, but were perhaps taken for granted.

Currently a downside of the NHS effect is that clients in both large and small animal practice have become highly critical of the high cost of intervention and treatment. To some extent we have created the problem by sharpening up our business practices and running our professional life as a business with an important bottom line measurement of achievement.

However, with a long perspective of nearly 70 years, I conclude only good vibrations from the history of our profession. Our skills have grown exponentially. Our service to the community has never been better and our academic standards are certainly the envy of many other countries. Veterinary graduates have an expanding range of opportunities to fulfil their life anywhere in the world. They go out with the benefit of science and skills learnt under the tutelage of a host of dedicated and committed teachers.

So looking back is easy, even though we may be guilty of overlooking the negatives so that we feel happy and comfortable about a life well spent.

The future however is something else. We vets are at the core of the world’s need for food security, which is second only perhaps to water security. Animal protein from the world’s farms must increase in line with the massive growth in world population.

One thing is certain - our profession has a major role to play in solving these world problems in the future.

ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Class of '81

CAROLINE BOWER

"I always thought I would end up working in the North East or Scotland so it's been a bit of a surprise to end up as far south in England as I can possibly get," says Caroline Bower.

Originally from Newcastle upon Tyne, Caroline is a Veterinary Director of the Veterinary Hospital Group within which she runs the Veterinary Health Centre at Plympton in Devon.

"I pretty much always wanted to be a vet but I was sure I wouldn't be able to get the right A levels. I wasn't given a lot of encouragement at my school. My Headmistress, she was rather old school, said: 'I don't think it's very ladylike, perhaps you should do Classics.' Fortunately I did have a Chemistry mistress who was very supportive, as was my cousin, who is also a vet."

Caroline's first application was rejected, but after a gap year crammed with seeing practice and farm work she reapplied and got an interview at Edinburgh.

"I can still remember walking into the old oak paneled library and there were five austere gentlemen on the other side of a table, including Professor Iggo, Dr Hague and Dr Gordon Fraser. I went off thinking it didn't seem too hopeful and Gordon Fraser came running out after me saying: 'We're going to put you out of your misery, you've got a place.' I've always felt very grateful to Gordon Fraser for appreciating that I was desperate to get in."

Over the last 18 years since Caroline left University, she has become passionate about treating and preventing pet behaviour problems.

"I could see there was a real need for

this. Fear is at the root of an awful lot of behaviour problems. There's a classic fight or flight reaction, and if a pet can't escape from something that frightens it, aggression often results. What frustrated me was that many problems were totally preventable, the importance of socialisation and early environmental conditioning should be common knowledge. Breeders and owners need to understand what should be done, particularly in the first few months of life."



Class of '61

BRIAN HOSKIN



"What are you going to do?" asked the vet who had just addressed the Young Farmers Club at Ashville College, Harrogate. "I'm thinking of going into farming, Sir," replied the young Yorkshireman. "Is your father a farmer, is your father rich?" the vet continued. And on hearing a negative response said "Forget it lad, go to Vet School!"

And that's exactly what Brian Hoskin did, more than fifty years ago, coming up to the Dick in 1956.

"I had a very good time" he confides. "I played rugby, hockey and tennis and I was on the Veterinary Students Council. I felt we were treated as equals and the general attitude was one of encouragement."

After graduating he went into general practice in York, with 'James Herriot' in the neighbouring practice whom later he got to know quite well. During the 5 years in York he established a poultry diagnostic laboratory that still flourishes today.

His first move was to join the pharmaceutical industry with the intention of just staying for a couple of years. "I stayed for thirty years," he laughs, "at G D Searle, then ICI Pharmaceuticals."

After a management course at the London Business School he went to the USA to start a business there, returning to become Head of the ICI International Animal Health Business. His many achievements include becoming Junior Vice President of the British Veterinary Association in 1984 and President in 1985, as well as being President of the Veterinary Benevolent Fund from 2000-06 and inaugural Chairman of the Board of Directors of the BVA from 2003-9.

"I think it's vitally important that the Dick Vet has retained its identity while being an integral part of the University," he says. "It will go from strength to strength."

Class of '96

RUPERT HINE

"My student days were entertaining and formative in many ways - I don't think there was ever a dull moment," laughs Rupert Hine, who has been Director of Animal Health for Scotland since 2009.

"I got heavily involved on the student rep side. I suppose having discussions with the college authorities at the time - that was all part of developing a sense of fairness and duty. Duty isn't a terribly fashionable concept. But it was that sort

of thing that has gradually moved me into public service."

After graduation Rupert, originally from Sussex, was in a mixed practice in Blairgowrie for three years until he saw an advert to join the Ministry and wound up in Carlisle.

"Cumbria was a lovely quiet place where nothing ever happened," he remarks. "Then about 18 months after I joined the Ministry we were thrown into fighting foot and mouth disease."

"The consequences for individuals, their livelihoods and the livestock that were involved were absolutely horrendous. The job satisfaction and challenge of trying to control it was very high. The veterinary challenge that motivates me is not so much the individual or even the herd, it's about the community, the county, the country, the wider effects on the animal and human

population - these are the things that get me going in the morning."

One lasting legacy of his time at The Dick is a passion for motor sports: "I got involved in motor sports at University. I provide safety cover so the crew and I go to rallies and every so often we chop roofs off cars and take people who are hurt to hospital. I have six vehicles at the moment including two fire engines and an ambulance. My weirdest vehicle is probably the 16 ton amphibious lorry."

In terms of work challenges that lie ahead, Rupert has a clear focus: "The big challenge is to retain the resilience to prevent exotic disease getting into the country, respond to it when it arrives and eradicate it. I'm determined to make sure that we deliver what Scotland needs against a fairly challenging background."

Class of '47

GEORGE LINTON

Studying in the war years meant that George Linton's time at the Royal Dick was a mix of fun and austerity.

"It has a very different atmosphere today," he says, speaking from his home in California. "Those were the war years, the canteen was always short of food."

George Linton left his native Hungary at the age of ten and went to Boarding School in England. His first stop in Higher Education was University of Reading where he got a BSc in Agriculture.

"My mother always wanted me to be a physician, I wanted to be a farmer so we split the difference and I studied to be a vet," he laughs. "It just so happened that the Royal Veterinary College from London was evacuated and most of the students were there in Reading. So I did the first two years of my veterinary degree in Reading, then transferred to Edinburgh for the final three years. For the first two years of the war, I kept in touch with my family with letters through Portugal, there

was no direct mail between Hungary and England. But then my parents were sent to Belsen and Buchenwald and were killed. I found this out in 1942 and there was nothing I could do."

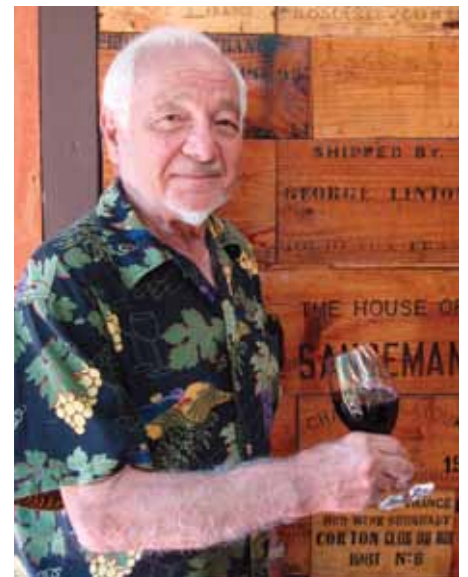
Thankfully his grandmother and half brother in Budapest survived. After graduation he applied for a Fulbright Scholarship to the USA. Eventually he settled there, enjoying much professional success and establishing his own practice in El Cerrito, which adjoins Berkeley. In 1960 he built a new veterinary hospital and practiced until his retirement in 1980

"The combination of the staff and the students in Edinburgh made a big impression on me, there was great commitment. I do feel we developed independent thought especially via Professor Boddie, Professor of Veterinary Medicine, who was an eminently reasoned veterinarian and also very much a Scotsman."

Aside from his career as a vet, George

Linton has had a strong interest in wine since the war years.

"Having imported and sold wine for many years," he quips, "Now I enjoy the fruits of my labour most nights."



SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW

Summerhall windows provide a permanent link to the past

Along with the statue of the School's founder, William Dick, the stained glass windows, which have been conserved and transferred from Summerhall to the new building, provide a permanent link between the old and new buildings.

To allow future generations of students and staff to enjoy and be inspired by the windows, their position in the new building's atrium has been specially designed by Douglas Hogg, an architectural glass artist from Berwickshire.

The windows were carefully restored by Jim Jordan, a specialist stained glass restorer based in Fife, and installed at the heart of the new building.



The Summerhall windows being carefully installed in the new atrium.



Class of '61

50 YEAR REUNION

A great time was had by some forty 1961 Alumni and their spouses in May at the 50th reunion of the 1961 graduates. There were tours of Easter Bush and Summerhall and a formal dinner all organised by '61 graduate Brian Hoskin, who said: "It was a great turn out, especially considering everyone is a minimum of 73 years old." To read more about Brian see page 26.



The Class of '61 pictured at their dinner on Thursday 5th May with Dean, Professor Elaine Watson.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 22nd June 2011

Animals Asia Foundation Lecture which will take place in the New Veterinary Teaching Building on the Easter Bush Campus.

Thur 23rd June – Sun 26th June 2011

See us at the Royal Highland Show in Edinburgh.

Wed 27th July 2011

Visit by Scotia Agricultural Club to Easter Bush.

Sat 3rd September 2011

Class of 2001 Reunion.

Sat 10th September 2011

Midlothian Doors Open Day.

Sat 8th December 2011

Veterinary Defence Society Reunion at Easter Bush.

Thur 4th to Sat 6th October 2012

50th Year Reunion for the Class of 1962.

For further details of these events, please visit our website at www.ed.ac.uk/vet/events or contact neil.wilson@ed.ac.uk or phone 0131 650 6261.

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