

# DICK VET

## news



## EQUINE ADVANCES

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## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL



Professor David Argyle

Dear Friends,

**This issue of the Dick Vet News follows a particularly busy academic year. We have seen the opening of a new building, a change of Head of School and changes to the academic structure of the School.**

Thanks to these changes we have underpinned the school's finances to ensure a level of stability that means we can now put in place a five-year strategy. The building blocks of this strategy are simple and a logical continuation of the Dick Vet ethos – strong educational and clinical programmes underpinned by great science and exciting research.

I met recently with other heads of UK vet schools and one thing we all agreed on wholeheartedly was the importance of scientific research. The partnerships that have been formalised over the last few years with The Roslin Institute, Moredun and the SAC, have created a unique strength for the Dick Vet in the form of the EBRC (Easter Bush Research Consortium).

Change, such as the academic restructuring we have recently undergone, and the creation of the EBRC doesn't

come without hard work and it's impossible without people who share your vision. So, I would like to thank my colleagues, the staff of the Dick Vet, for their overwhelming support.

I would also like to thank them for their tireless contribution to each cohort of students, both Undergraduate and Postgraduate. As our latest cohort leave, they can feel justly proud of having an Alma Mater with one of the world's greatest research concentrations in animal bioscience. They can feel proud that their Alma Mater places emphasis on the advancement of clinical practice as well as teaching, all underpinned by strong scientific foundations. Most of all, they can feel proud to be a part of the Dick Vet Family.

**Professor David Argyle**



# ENCOURAGING CYCLING AT EASTER BUSH

Campus wins cycle friendly award



*Pictured are students Shannon Overstreet from Alaska and Carolyn Higgins (right) from California*

**The Easter Bush Campus was presented with a Cycle Friendly Employer Award at a recent Business Cycling Seminar hosted by Cycling Scotland and The Bike Station.**

Cycling Scotland's Cycle Friendly Employer Award is a nationally recognised award for organisations located in Scotland, who are committed to increasing staff trips by bike. Developed with support from the Scottish Centre for Healthy Working Lives, the aim of the award is to give employers the incentive and tools to promote cycling in the workplace, resulting in benefits for employers and staff alike. The award also provides best practice guidance in relation to cycle commuting and can be used as a practical tool to implement cycle measures as part of a sustainable travel plan.

The University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush Campus has recently achieved Cycle Friendly Employer status and received the award in recognition of efforts

and incentives to encourage staff and students to cycle. These include bicycle parking, shower and changing facilities, promotional cycling events, a 'Cycle to Work' scheme and a bicycle users group.

Kate Graham, who works in Human Resources at the Easter Bush Campus and cycles daily from Newington, said the cycle friendly initiatives and facilities had been helpful to her: "From my home to here is pretty much uphill, but travelling to work by bike is well worth the effort. It's made a huge difference to my fitness levels and I'd encourage anyone to give it a go. It's all about having the confidence - the University runs a buddy scheme so people can team up with another member of staff for their first few weeks until they've got their confidence up. Cyclists are well catered for at the Easter Bush Campus, with showering and changing facilities and covered areas to lock your bike securely."

## GUARDIAN LEAGUE TABLES SUCCESS

High ranking for School in Guardian league tables

The Guardian newspaper has ranked the School highly in its survey of vet schools in the UK. Schools were measured across a range of factors, with the Dick Vet having the highest spend per student.

# EQUINE ADVANCES

*Dr John Keen tells Dick Vet News about the changes in equine practice*

**The Equine Practice and the Hospital have merged, a move that promises to bring great benefits to clients, students, staff and, not least, horses and ponies in the practice.**

The Dick Vet Equine Practice provides primary care for horses in the Lothians

and surrounding area. The Dick Vet Equine Hospital is a referral hospital offering specialist services in Scotland and the North of England. Until now the two units ran separately but, following the recent merger, both have come under the leadership of Dr John Keen as Head of

Equine Clinical Services.

“Primary Care equine practice has been part of the Large Animal Teaching Unit for many years,” he explains. “It was separate from the Equine Hospital but over the last three or four years it’s been gradually integrated behind the scenes. We’re aiming to encourage closer integration between clinicians now they’re going to all be under one roof.”

While there has been no change of premises, the practice has moved into the equine reception area making it simpler for clients because there’s only one phone number and reception.

“We want to encourage clinical excellence and integrated teaching through the practice and the hospital,” continues John. “So, this makes that much easier for us. By combining first opinion and hospital work we also hope to foster even more clinical research. It is a fact that many of the problems the equine world faces are primary care problems like laminitis or dental problems.”

From the point of view of the vets working at Dick Vet Equine, there are also CPD advantages. Hospital vets can keep up-to-date with first opinion problems and the practice vets can keep up-to-date with advances in equine medicine and surgery. The new arrangements are also likely to make it easier for students to get a good appreciation of how modern equine practices work.

John has been working at the Dick Vet since 2000 when he joined the School as a resident in Equine Studies, he then became a Lecturer and moved through various other roles. Now, 12 years later, he faces the challenge of directing clinical practice between the two units and is in charge of 17 vets and a similar number of support staff.

“It’s a big challenge to integrate the two units as an efficient clinic, as well as to improve education for the students in the hospital. We feel it’s also important to encourage clients and the public to engage in equine clinical research.



*Dr John Keen*



*The Equine Centre Reception at Easter Bush*

Research is a vital component of what we do: without research there would be no advancement of equine medicine, surgery and practice. Most of this research involves simply reporting interesting clinical findings and research such as this over the years has changed clinical practice across Scotland and the world. Education is another key component of the work we do and every year we publish educational material and talk to students, vets, horse clients and the general public. Balancing all of these roles is vital for the future of equine medicine and surgery at the Dick Vet.”

Indeed, John is enthusiastic about encouraging an ethos of involvement and discussion throughout Dick Vet Equine.

“We try to encourage clinical discussion amongst vets to allow professional development” he concludes. “We run regular ‘rounds’ where we discuss interesting or complicated cases and this also encourages ideas in research. For our local clients we’re also continuing to provide client evenings on important topics, such as grass sickness and equine behaviour. These are always very popular and stimulate lots of discussion.”

Ronnie Soutar, Director of Veterinary Services at the Dick Vet, is keen to reassure referring vets over any concerns they may have.

“The changes to the Equine practice make good sense all round but I know some vets will have concerns that the distinction between their clients and ours may be blurred,” he explains. “However, as with all of our general practices, we

have a strict rule that any client who is referred into our Equine Hospital cannot be registered with the Dick Vet Equine Practice within a year of referral. So by making things simpler and more efficient for the vets and the clients we’re creating a ‘win-win’ situation.”

To read more about John’s colleagues, who are also taking on new roles, go to page 18.

## EQUINE PRACTICE CLIENT EVENINGS

The Dick Vet Equine Practice is committed to keeping horse owners updated on important medical problems that their horses and ponies face. The 2012 series of meetings is well underway with recent topics including equine grass sickness and physiotherapy.

The next meeting is on Wednesday the **15th August 2012** when Gemma Pearson will be discussing how to deal with tricky equine behaviour issues, such as problems with trailer loading. Meetings take place in Lecture Theatre 1 in the new teaching building.

Everyone with an interest in horses is very welcome and refreshments are provided. To reserve a place please call: **0131 650 6253**.

## A REAL STICK IN THE MUD

### Dick Vet helps Lothian and Borders Fire Brigade rescue pony

**Fifteen firefighters and vets battled for almost four hours to rescue a pony stuck up to its neck in mud at Loanhead Farm, Pathhead, Midlothian on the morning of 10th May.**

Firefighters from Dalkeith and Newcraighall fire stations arrived at the scene to discover Dartmoor pony, Lightning, stuck fast in deep mud. Battling against torrential rain, a complex rescue operation began to free the pony from the thick mud pit. Firefighters had to use shovels to dig a deep trench in front of the animal to gain access to his body and legs and begin the process of freeing him using a special harness.

A vet from the Dick Vet Equine Practice was on hand to oversee the whole process and try to ensure that the pony, who was very cold and suffering from exhaustion, did not become unduly stressed by the rescue operation.

Gemma Pearson, from the Dick Vet Equine Practice, said: “The horse was absolutely fine. After we had pulled him out we got some fluids into him and some painkillers. Luckily, this is not a common thing to happen to a pony but if it does happen owners should ring a vet and the fire service – never try and pull the horse out by yourself.”



# OLYMPIC TORCH PASSES SCHOOL



The Olympic torch passed by the Easter Bush Campus on Thursday 14th June on route to the Borders as part of its tour of Scotland. The torch was passed between Judith Hill from Edinburgh and Darren Luke from Hyde. Volunteer fundraiser for the School, Stevie Matthews (pictured below), also carried the torch as it passed through the North East of England.



## HITTING THE HEIGHTS IN NEW ZEALAND

### Kiwi Kepler charity challenge for Stevie

**Stevie Matthews, a local government worker from the North East of England, began her association with the Dick Vet back in 1995 when her cocker spaniel was diagnosed with Hodgkins Disease. Since then she has become a veteran fundraiser for the Hospital for Small Animals with adventure running activities.**

In December 2011, Stevie celebrated her 60th birthday with the Kepler Challenge in New Zealand, a 60 mile run that is completed in 12 hours by the runners. The average trekker takes four days to complete the same stretch. Adventure running has taken Stevie to seven continents and the North Pole but even she had to admit this was the toughest yet.

"There were very steep ascents, notably the Luxmore Peak and the path to Hanging Valley Shelter where the course was a narrow track on a jagged mountain edge. It was very exposed and the next section was the toughest I have ever experienced, a series of steep ladders zig-zagging down the mountainside, which I found very difficult to negotiate. It's the only time I have ever wished for a run to be over!" she laughs.

Thankfully this feeling was short-lived and Stevie was back in good spirits in time for the glacial valleys, gorges, beech and podocarp (conifer) forests and riverside clearings and finally along the shores of Lake Manapouri back to Te Anau, raising just under £300 for the Dick Vet's Hospital for Small Animals.

## APPLAUSE FOR THE MILKING...



Staff braved the elements at the 2012 Royal Highland Show in June to showcase the School's teaching, clinical practices and research. Over the four days they met around 600 people, including these budding vets who tried their hand at milking 'Daisy' the cow!

## VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE

### Dick Vet hosts Veterinary Public Health conference

On Saturday 28th April the Dick Vet hosted the Veterinary Public Health Association (VPHA) Spring Conference on the theme of "Veterinary Public Health Education".

The VPHA conference was attended by one hundred delegates from the UK and further afield. Following a warm welcome to the participants from the Head of School, Professor David Argyle, highlights of the morning session included a scientific update on the science relating to religious slaughter in Bovines by Professor Neville Gregory (Royal Veterinary College, London) and a presentation by Professor Phil Craig (University of Salford, Manchester) on neglected zoonotic diseases of public health importance, which focused on Echinococcosis.

The afternoon session included a talk from Alex Seguino, Head of Veterinary Public Health at the Dick Vet on the teaching of Veterinary Public Health within the BVM&S curriculum and Dr Chris Low, who gave an overview of the MSc in One Health and Postgraduate education at the Vet School. The main speaker, Professor Frans Smulders, from the European Association of Veterinary Establishments, gave an EU perspective on Veterinary Public Health education in the UK, which was followed by a stimulating open forum on the subject.

## CLOSER TIES WITH THAILAND



The School hosted a visit from senior staff from Kasetsart University in Thailand on 19th April.

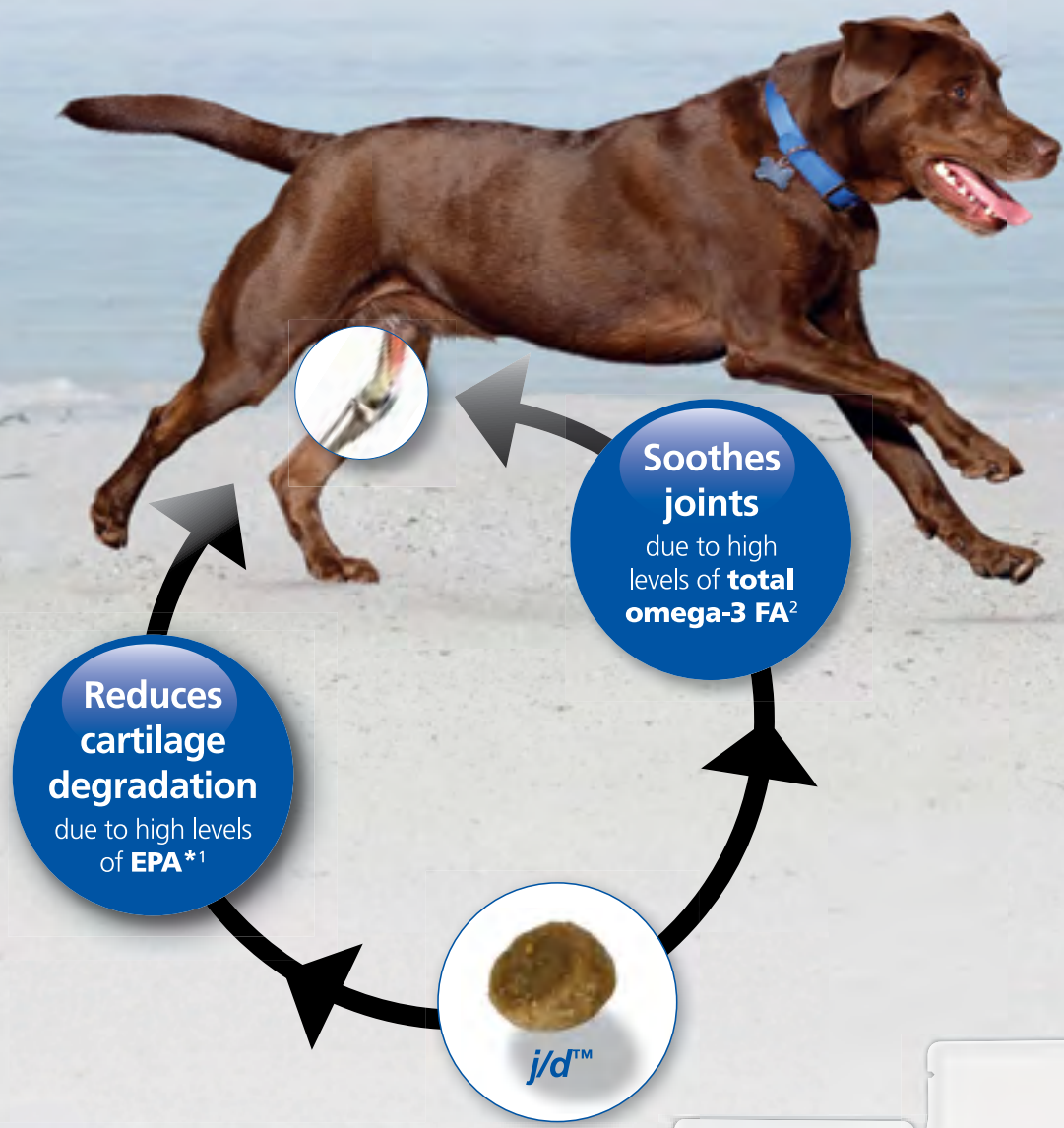
The group included Professor Apinun Suprasert, Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, Dr Khongsak Thiangtum, Director of Veterinary Teaching Hospital and Dr Phitsanu Tulayakul, Deputy Dean for International Affairs and Director of Bio-Veterinary Sciences Masters Programme. They were met by Professor David Argyle and given a tour of the Easter Bush facilities before discussing areas for future collaboration.



Following his talk, Alex Seguino was presented with a gift by Juan Avila from the VPHA



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References: 1. Caterson B, et al. in: Proceedings, Hill's European Symposium on Osteoarthritis and Joint Health 2005; 14-18. 2. Frantz N, et al. J. Vet. Int.



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# PFIZER PARTNERSHIP PLATFORM

*A platform for fighting disease and improving welfare*

**Since the signing of this £1.5 million agreement in October 2010, much progress has been made.**

The original intention was to create new partnerships in animal health research in order to find better ways of preventing and managing disease and advancing sustainable animal agriculture and welfare. This has been honoured in a variety of different ways.

The One Health MSc Programme is now well established, training vets who will go on to work at the crucial juncture where human and animal health meet.

The first cohort of students has recently completed the taught component of the programme with international experts from the School, from the world famous Roslin Institute and

the wider University, including the Medical School's Centre for Population Health Sciences and the University's School of Biological Sciences.

The International Education Programme is currently operating in India, providing CPD for local vets. In addition to this, the funding has supported various PhD students conducting research into animal sciences across the EBRC consortium with some 13 projects being funded so far.

Said Head of School, Professor David Argyle: "The quality and innovative nature of the research and initiatives resulting from the Pfizer Partnership Platform has been exceeding our expectations. We look forward to making a significant difference to animal health over the course of the five-year lifespan of the funding."

## PUTTING VETERINARY EDUCATION CENTRE STAGE



Delegates from across the world were welcomed to the Dick Vet in July when it hosted VetEd 2012.

The annual conference included a programme of workshops and poster sessions and keynote plenaries from Professor Jean Ker from the University of Dundee; Professor Sheila Crispin from the RCVS Council and Professor Sarah Baillie, from Bristol University, pictured.

## VISIT FROM AUSTRALIA



Director of Veterinary Teaching, Professor Susan Rhind, welcomed Dr Martin Cake from Murdoch University in Perth, Western Australia to the School in December.

During his visit, Martin gave a presentation on his School's experiences of introducing an integrated, whole-of-course 'Veterinary Professional Life' stream. This stream is designed to strengthen non-technical skills in the veterinary course, and was complemented by an associated 'Professional Life Skills' programme, which supported staff at Murdoch University Vet School.

# CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN

Mark and four-legged friend Tess climb for charity



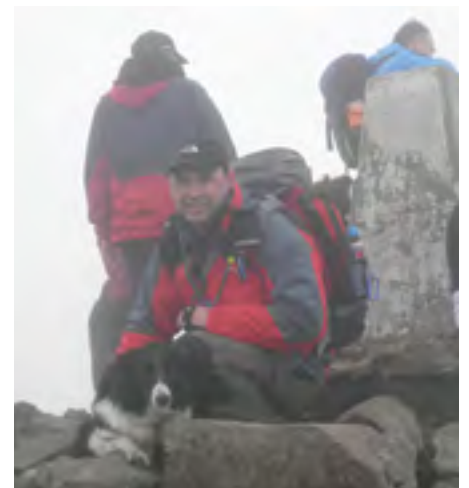
Animal Care Assistant Mark Gerrard took part in the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge with his border collie Tess in May, raising £1000 for Prostate Cancer Research. The intrepid pair climbed Pen Y Fan (886m) in the Brecon Beacons in one hour thirty minutes (the average time for Pen Y Fan is about two and a half hours). They then tackled Cadir Idris (893m) a stony uphill climb, which they managed in five hours (the average is six hours) descending in thick fog.

The following day brought the challenge of Mount Snowdon, which they also managed in an impressively short time.

Mark, who has worked at the Hospital for Small Animals for four years, took on the challenge in memory of his Dad, Uncle and a close friend who all passed away within the last year after battling cancer.

"My Dad would have been proud of me for taking up this challenge," said Mark. "I'm also keen to raise awareness - of the 30,000 new cases of prostate cancer each year, 10,000 will die of the disease. That's why you get people like me doing these challenges. I'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported me and Tess."

Mark and Tess will be taking on 'The Great Pentland Push' in September in aid of St Columba's Hospice and hope also to do the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge again next year.



## CONGRATULATIONS TO...



- Michael Thrusfield for being awarded the Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal. This award is presented to a member of the BVA to recognise work of outstanding merit, which it is considered will encourage the advancement of veterinary science.



- Russell Fraser, a student on the One Health MSc programme, who has been shortlisted for the Wellcome Trust Science Writing Prize in association with The Guardian and The Observer. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in September.



# FAREWELL TO IGGO AND FRASER

## The passing of two veterinary greats

**Professor Joe Fraser and Professor Ainsley Iggo, two former members of staff who have both left a significant mark on the profession and the School, have passed away in January and March 2012 respectively.**

Following a PhD on the functional characteristics of the vagus nerve in sheep, Ainsley Iggo moved to Edinburgh as a lecturer in Physiology, winning the Royal Society's Locke Research Fellowship in 1959. In 1962 he was appointed to the Chair of Veterinary Physiology and built the department into an internationally recognised centre of excellence.

Professor Joe Fraser devoted his entire career to the Dick Vet, from his graduation in 1954 to his retirement in 1994. He forged a career in equine orthopedics and was liked and respected by colleagues and students alike. Many will remember his momentary silence and gradually elevating eyebrows in response to the wrong answer! However, many of his former students continued to contact Joe for advice, years and even decades after they qualified.



*Professor Joe Fraser*



*Professor Ainsley Iggo*

## RAIN CAN'T STOP THE RACE FOR LIFE



**On Sunday 17th of June, Team MVM braved the miserable weather and took to Arthur's Seat to raise money for cancer research as part of The Race for Life.**

Carolyn Morton (and son in his special jogging buggy), Antonia Robb, Julie Gifford and five colleagues from the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine got round the course in a variety of ways and times. They have raised almost £1000 to date, double their initial target. Thanks to all who supported them.

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARD FOR PROFESSOR DIXON



*Professor Paddy Dixon has been awarded the 2012 Petplan Scientific Achievement Award for his major contribution to the advancement of veterinary science through his work in head and neck diseases in horses.*

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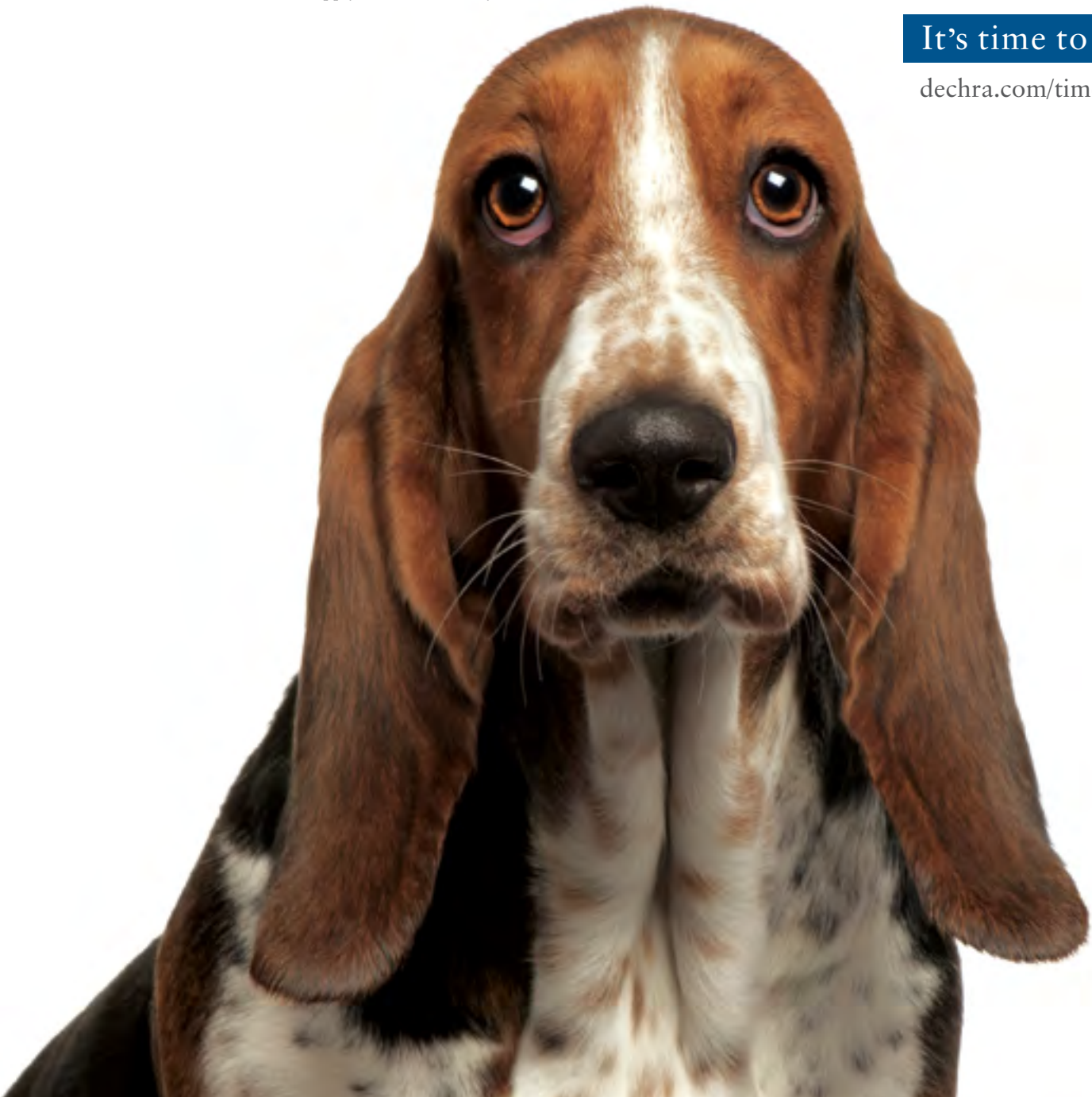
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# RESEARCH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## FURTHER FUNDING FOR DOGSLIFE

Innovative canine health study extended for two years



*Dr Dylan Clements with a Labrador puppy*

**Two years into Dogslife, leader of the research project, Dr Dylan Clements, has had the welcome news that the project has attracted funding for another two years. Thanks to further funding from the Kennel Club Charitable Trust and the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC), Dylan and his team are continuing to follow a cohort of Labradors through their lives and assess the impact of lifestyle on their health.**

So far more than 2,600 dogs have been recruited to the study and over 300,000 separate pieces of information on these dogs have been provided. Analysing the data is a meticulous process and Carys Pugh, a PhD student funded by the BBSRC, has been travelling the length and breadth of the UK to interview participants and collect veterinary records from over 100 practices to validate the information recorded into the website ([www.dogslife.ac.uk](http://www.dogslife.ac.uk)).

Dylan is quick to point out that the

project's gains will be long-term: "Setting up and developing the project is a slow and labour-intensive process. Everyone wants Dogslife to make recommendations on how to improve canine health, but it's going to take several years to fully dissect the information that owners have provided. However, I am delighted with the accuracy and detail with which owners have recorded the health events of their pet."

The dog owners themselves are hugely important to the study and Dylan is full of praise for their commitment to the project.

"When we first presented the project we didn't know what the response would be, but the owners have done a fantastic job. It's a very altruistic study; people do it because they want to improve the health of dogs."

In continuing to receive information on the health and lifestyle of dogs, Dogslife will be able to analyse incidence and risks for common diseases, as well as identifying potential risk factors for common and rarer conditions.

## MOST POPULAR LABRADOR NAMES

Ruby and Bailey top the charts

**One interesting by-product of the research is that Dylan and his team have happened to notice the most common name choices. Certain names appear to distinguish themselves as fashionable choices for the 21st Century Labrador.**

Remarkably, the most popular names for dogs bear little similarity to those which are popular for children. For male dogs, there are 420 different names registered in the Dogslife project, the most popular being Bailey (with 33 dogs registered with this name), closely followed by Max (28), and Alfie (27).

By comparison, the Office for National Statistics (ONS), lists the top three most popular children's names for boys in 2010 as Oliver, Jack and Harry. Alfie was the fourth most popular name, Max was ranked twenty-third, but Bailey was not in the top one-hundred.

For female dogs, there are 387 different names registered. Ruby is the most popular (29), followed by Poppy (28), then Molly (26). Again, by comparison, the top three children's names for girls in 2010 (reported by the ONS) were Olivia, Sophie and Emily. Ruby was ranked seventh, Poppy sixteenth and Molly was in forty-second place.

# NO CHICKENING OUT

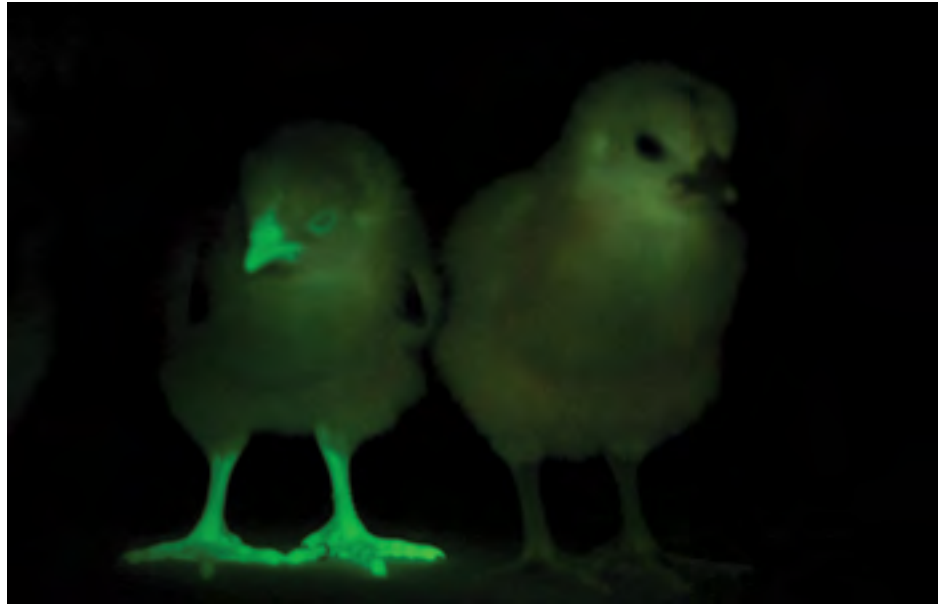
## Important genes identified for the study of Developmental Biology

**Large scale mutagenesis screens in chicken, similar to those carried out in mice and fish, are now possible and will help us to identify new genes important for development, fertility and disease resistance, says a new study published in the American Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS).**

Genetically modified chickens are models for studying developmental biology, bioreactors for the production of therapeutic proteins and models of disease resistance to enhance agricultural production.

However, transgenesis in chicken is difficult compared to other animal species such as mice, fish and flies, as spermatozoa and oocytes originate from an embryonic stem cell population called primordial germ cells (PGCs).

Mike McGrew is a career track fellow at The Roslin Institute and his laboratory has previously shown that these stem cells can be cultured for extended periods in vitro while maintaining germ cell function. Unfortunately, chicken PGCs resist deliberate genetic modification, probably by silencing the



introduced genes in the genome.

Mike used transposons, naturally occurring mobile genetic elements that “cut and paste” themselves, to genetically modify PGCs.

“Transposons are very efficient at genetically modifying germ cells. PGCs containing integrated transposons

were able to colonize the gonad of host embryos and form functional gametes that produced green transgenic offspring,” he explained.

He also made a gene trap version of the Tol2 transposon vector and showed that genes could be ‘trapped’ and mutated in PGCs.

## DOES THE EQUINE INDUSTRY NEED A BIOBANK?

**Laura Corbin, a final year PhD student at The Roslin Institute, has been working with the British Equestrian Federation to address the question of whether or not the equine industry needs an equine biobank.**

Biobanks are large collections of biological samples and associated data. While there are many for human health such as UK Biobank and Generation Scotland, there is no such resource for equine health.

Given that the past decade has seen phenomenal progress in the field of genetics, gene mapping, identification of gene variants and DNA sequencing,

a biobank could enable the industry to make the most of advancing genomic technologies.

Laura, who is supervised by Professor John Woolliams, is inviting anyone with an interest in the equine industry to complete a questionnaire, the results of which will provide an indication of the need for an equine biobank.

The most significant development in horse genetics was the Horse Genome Project, which culminated in the release of the draft genome sequence of the horse in 2007. This was followed by the creation of new sequencing technology which allows the characterisation of each

horse’s genome in great detail. During the course of her PhD, Laura has been exploring the potential use of this new technology in tackling common complex diseases, focusing on osteochondrosis.

Laura says, “In order to further exploit new genotyping technologies to help understand complex traits and diseases, large collections of DNA samples from well-characterised animals are needed.”

To find out more about the project, have your say about whether we need a UK equine biobank and complete the questionnaire, visit [www.roslin.ed.ac.uk/john-woolliams/equine-biobank-project/](http://www.roslin.ed.ac.uk/john-woolliams/equine-biobank-project/)



# EPIDEMIOLOGY OF BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Study examines Cattle and their Herders in Cameroon



*Cattle being herded in Cameroon*

**The significance of the zoonotic *Mycobacterium bovis* infection in both the human and cattle populations in sub-Saharan Africa is relatively unknown. However, bovine disease can result in devastating production losses and death, not to mention the subsequent public health risk and loss of income to livestock communities.**

The Epidemiology and Economics Group (EERA) led by The Roslin Institute's Mark Bronsvort collaborating with the University of Buea, IRAD (Cameroon) and the Swiss Institute of Tropical and Public Health are conducting a three-year Wellcome Trust funded Bovine TB project in Cameroon. They hope to gain vital understanding of the epidemiology of the disease and the limitations of the diagnostic tests in the field. Few epidemiological studies have been undertaken in West Africa. This is due to variable performance of diagnostic tests, logistical and funding challenges.

Firstly, the project involves an abattoir-based study validating Bovine

TB diagnostic tests, such as a gamma-interferon ELISA with observed TB lesions in animals at slaughter. These lesions are also being cultured and genotyped by a Cameroonian PhD student, Franklyn Nkongho, working with staff at Bamenda's Tuberculosis Reference Laboratory. The fieldwork is being led by Rob Kelly.

The role of co-infections on the outcome of Bovine TB diagnostic tests will also be assessed and from autumn 2012 into 2013, a field study will be undertaken in the North West region. Cattle will be sampled from herds and abattoirs to estimate prevalence of Bovine TB. A questionnaire-based study will be conducted with herders to investigate risk factors, to both cattle and humans. Herders who exhibit symptoms of TB will also be sampled to estimate the prevalence in this demographic.

It is hoped this exciting project will advance our understanding of Bovine TB and encourage development of integrated Bovine TB control programmes in Cameroon, benefiting both animal and human health.

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER AWARD FOR SONJA

**The Roslin Institute's Business Development Manger, Dr Sonja Vujovic, has been recognised as the Knowledge Transfer 'Achiever of the Year' at the Praxis Unico Impact Awards.**

Sonja is one of Edinburgh Research and Innovation's (ERI) Business Development Executives based at The Roslin Institute, where she provides dedicated business support to the Institute and The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Sonja joined ERI in 2008 and from the outset her approach has been to increase the number of Institute researchers involved in, and aware of, the added advantages of working with industry internationally. At the same time, Sonja has worked to place this informed industrial engagement, input and market need at the heart of all technology and knowledge transfer activities conducted at the Institute.

In just over three years, this focused culture change has resulted in over 75% of the group leaders becoming engaged in knowledge transfer associated activities. Her industry-focused, client management-based approach has resulted in over 40 funding awards from various streams, the value of which exceeds £8 million, and underpinned the establishment of the five year EBRC – Pfizer multi-million pound partnership in animal health.



*Sonja is pictured receiving her award from Maggie Philbin and Praxis Unico. Chairman, Dr Douglas Robertson, of Newcastle University. Photograph courtesy of Praxis Unico and the Impact Awards.*

# STUDENT RESEARCH DAY

Annual showcase followed by Charnock Bradley Lecture



Prize-winners and staff are pictured at the Research Student Day in April

**The annual Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies Research Student Day took place on 18th April at The Roslin Institute Building.**

The School's Postgraduate Convenor, Dr Bernadette Dutia, welcomed everyone to the event and introduced the day. Students took part from across the Easter Bush Research Consortium (EBRC).

Their presentations highlighted the diverse range of research within the School and the wider EBRC. Nineteen final year PhD students and two Clinical Scholars gave oral presentations and a further 80 students, made up of PhD, MSc, MPhil and Clinical Scholars, presented posters detailing their research.

The event showcased the excellent research that our students undertake and provided an opportunity for students to present their work to staff and fellow students in familiar surroundings.

The high quality of both oral and

poster presentations certainly posed a challenge for the various session judges all of whom commented on the quality of the students' work and the difficulty of choosing winners. As one of the judges commented, the standard of posters was higher than at some international meetings.

The day's presentations were concluded with the Charnock Bradley Lecture given by Professor Massimo Palmarini, Chair of Virology from the University of Glasgow who gave an inspiring lecture entitled "An evolutionary journey with sheep and retroviruses".

After a full day's programme, a reception and prize-giving ceremony took place. Professor David Argyle and Professor David Hume congratulated the students on the high standard of the presentations and presented the certificates and prizes to the winners.

Sponsors included The Roslin Institute and The Charnock Bradley Memorial Lectureship Fund.

## NEW LINKS WITH BRAZIL

Embrapa-Scottish Institutions Workshop on Animal and Veterinary Sciences



**EBRC scientists visited Brazil for the Embrapa-Scottish Institutions Workshop on Animal and Veterinary Sciences in April.**

Embrapa is the Brazilian Agricultural Research Corporation and its mission is to provide feasible solutions for the sustainable development of Brazilian agribusiness through knowledge and technology generation and transfer.

Adroaldo Zanella at the Scottish Agricultural College coordinated the collaborative workshop between Embrapa and EBRC, with the Institute for Animal Health, to investigate the potential for scientific collaboration and teaching and training opportunities with Brazilian Partners.

Roslin scientists Jean Manson, Pete Kaiser, Cheryl Ashworth and Kim Summers, along with the Vet School's Brendan Corcoran, travelled to the Embrapa Headquarters in Brasilia to meet representatives of Embrapa and some representatives from the University sector in Brazil.

A number of research opportunities and key Brazilian partners were identified for further discussion. Among the potential research areas were Salmonella and Campylobacter and genetics of disease resistance; scrapie genetics with a focus on Brazilian sheep breeds; genetic studies in aquaculture; reproductive biotechnology and animal welfare.



# £23 MILLION BOOST FOR ROSLIN INSTITUTE

Animal health and livestock production research funding award

**The Roslin Institute has received a £23 million grant from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) as the first part of a larger five-year funding stream.**

The award, from the UK's leading bioscience agency, will facilitate the world leading research at The Roslin Institute bringing the Institute's vision of improving animal health, welfare and productivity in the livestock sector closer to reality.

The grant will fund new and existing facilities at The Roslin Institute, such as those looking at how genomics and genetics can help better understand diseases in livestock. The Institute will form part of a number of UK National Resource Centres.

Professor David Hume, Director of The Roslin Institute, said of the award, "I am delighted to receive this support from the BBSRC. The Roslin Institute is one of the leading Animal Sciences Institutes in the world and this award highlights the importance of our research to the productivity of the UK livestock sector. Government support for research institutes is critical and vital for economic success. It is estimated that since the mid-1960s, The Roslin Institute alone has generated approximately £101.8 million in



*The funding announcement was made by Minister of State for Universities and Science, David Willetts MP, who was welcomed to the Institute by Prof David Hume, Director of The Roslin Institute; Val White, Campus Operations Officer; Prof Nigel Brown, Senior Vice-Principal for Planning, Resources and Research Policy at the University of Edinburgh and BBSRC Director of Communications, Paul Gemmill.*

terms of value for productivity gains in the agricultural and food production sectors across the UK."

A report published by BIGGAR Economics found that The Roslin Institute's contribution to the Scottish economy was worth more than £40 million in 2009/10, with the Institute supporting 1,179 jobs.

The Institute also generates an additional £25 million for research,

following on from BBSRC strategic funding.

Professor Hume said: "This new funding will enable us to undertake research that will lead to gains in the sector at a time when food production practices must be refined to accommodate the expanding world population."

BBSRC funding to support National Resource Centres will enhance the work of The Roslin Institute's ARK Genomics – the UK's major centre for livestock genetics and genomics.

It will also support a multi-million pound National Avian Research Facility, a collaboration between The Roslin Institute and the Institute for Animal Health. The centre, planned for construction on the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush Campus, will look at the biology of diseases, such as Salmonella and Campylobacter. Research will include looking at developing vaccines and treatments to improve the health and welfare of around one billion chickens raised in the UK every year, as well as ways to address the impact of poultry infections on human health.



*During his visit, the Minister was given a tour of the Roslin Institute Building*

# FAMILIAR FACES IN NEW ROLES

The Dick Vet News catches up with two staff members taking on new challenges

## RICHARD MELLANBY

Head of Medical Sciences, Hospital for Small Animals

Richard graduated from Glasgow in 1998 and, after a couple of years in practice, did a three-year small animal medicine residency at the University of Cambridge. With RCVS and ECVIM Diplomas in Small Animal Medicine under his belt, he started out on his first Wellcome Trust Fellowship to study the role of MHC Class II in non-obese diabetic mice at the University of Cambridge.

After the award of his PhD in 2007, there followed two years as a clinical fellow, after which he secured a second Wellcome Trust Fellowship to further his studies in T-cell biology with Professor Steve Anderton at The University of Edinburgh.

This year he has been made Head of Small Animal Medicine and Head



of Veterinary Clinical Research at the University of Edinburgh and the good news has not stopped there: "Last week I found out I'd been awarded a third Wellcome Trust Fellowship to continue my studies in T-Cell Biology and in particular to explore how autoreactive T-cells are activated in vivo," he said.

"I'm extremely excited to be taking up this role as Head of Small Animal Medicine," he enthuses. "During these very exciting times at the Easter Bush Campus there are tremendous opportunities with the development of close ties between Roslin and the Hospital for Small Animals. This gives us opportunities for important research that will benefit not only companion animal patients, but also hopefully humans."

"It's great to be working with our colleagues in EBRC and also with our colleagues at Little France," he continues. "We really do have a world-class campus that creates the infrastructure for world class clinical care, under- and postgraduate teaching and translational research."

## JOHN MOSLEY

Head of Companion Animal Sciences, Hospital for Small Animals

A Dick Vet graduate himself, John qualified in 1988 before heading to Lincolnshire, where he spent three years in general practice. Taking the decision to follow an academic career, he moved to the Royal Veterinary College to research the mechanisms that control fracture resistance in bone. He freely admits becoming "hooked" on this topic, and following the award of his PhD, secured a Wellcome Trust Research Fellowship, which allowed him to continue this work for a further four years.

Ultimately though, he missed clinical work, and so returned to the Dick to take up a residency in small animal surgery. A lectureship, followed by a senior lectureship in small animal orthopaedics, has led him to this new role.

"I'm responsible for helping to shape the academic direction of the hospital", he explains. "It's my job to give thought to



areas where we might develop or expand clinical services, establishing a staffing profile that allows us to remain at the forefront of veterinary clinical science."

John's job is to encourage an academic environment in which both staff and students can thrive, ensuring that the hospital remains more than an exclusively clinical environment.

"We have an internationally respected hospital staff, and recent appointments are strengthening our clinical team further. For example, we are developing our ability to treat patients using minimally invasive and interventional radiology techniques. This opens up new avenues for us to treat anomalous blood vessels, such as liver shunts, or diseases, such as kidney or ureteral stones which, until now, have sometimes been difficult to manage using traditional surgical or medical approaches.

A nucleus of clinicians with the necessary skills and training is being brought together and we will soon be installing a state-of-the-art digital x-ray unit bringing benefit to all our patients, but especially those receiving these interventional procedures. I hope that this is going to provide a fabulous opportunity for medics, surgeons, cardiologists, imagers and anaesthetists to collaborate, further developing and refining these techniques."



# SOLVING THE MYSTERY OF 'ROBOTIC CATS'

Research probes neurological condition

**A team from the Dick Vet, led by Chair of Feline Medicine, Professor Danielle Gunn-Moore, is working to identify a cause for a condition that has been affecting Scottish cats during the last decade. They have joined together with colleagues from the Animal Health Trust to try and understand the condition that is believed to be a slowly-progressing neurological disease.**

The symptoms include an odd walking gait with a stiff, extended tail. This strange movement has seen the cats dubbed - 'robotic cats'. The condition develops over 11 months when cats become blind and then have problems swallowing.

The illness is currently untreatable, but it is hoped that, if experts can determine its cause, they will be able to find a treatment.

Around 50 cases of the disease have been identified, mostly in Scotland, over the past decade. Now vets can send videos and full clinical histories of cats to the Hospital for Small Animals to help diagnose cases of the condition.

Neurologists from the Animal Health Trust have analysed samples from 21 cats with the condition and believe that an infection to the central nervous system could be responsible. They believe the infection causes lymphohistiocytic meningoencephalomyelitis, a condition where the brain becomes inflamed. The samples and case histories were taken between 2000 and 2010 and involved cats from the North East of Scotland. A resulting paper was published in the *Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery*.

All the cats included in the study, belong to the rural population accustomed to hunting birds and rodents. It is believed that the causative agent may be transmitted from these animals to cats.

"We have ruled out many possible causes so far," explained Professor Gunn-Moore. "If we can find a cause, we can try to develop treatment. This is a

devastating illness, in which the cats may be in distress and lose all quality of life, and as a result the only humane option is to euthanise them."

The disease seems to affect cats at around nine years of age. They display

a downward chin, with their head and ears jutting forward and have a stiff walk and tail. They also show other changes including blindness and altered behaviour, with affected cats typically becoming friendlier.



Professor Danielle Gunn-Moore

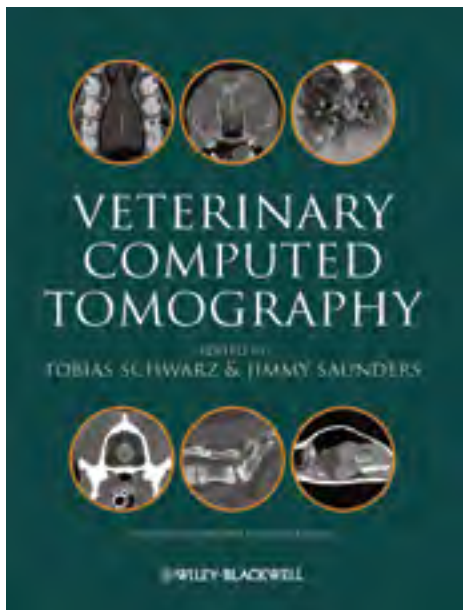
# NEW BOOK ON COMPUTED TOMOGRAPHY

Bringing Computed Tomography to Veterinarians Worldwide

Computed Tomography (CT) is an increasingly popular diagnostic imaging modality for a wide variety of animal patients. Until recently there was very little information available to veterinarians on how to perform and interpret a CT scan. Senior Lecturer, Tobias Schwarz, who is Head of Diagnostic Imaging at the Dick Vet, has co-edited the first comprehensive textbook to address this issue.

CT has been performed in veterinary institutions since the 1980s, allowing cross-sectional imaging. Initially, this was mainly performed for diseases of the nose and brain in dogs and cats and was a major step forward from radiographic techniques.

The interest in the veterinary community has risen dramatically again within the last five years when the newest generation of helical multi-slice CT scanners made their way into veterinary practice, including at the Dick Vet's new Veterinary Cancer and Imaging Centre.



"I've had a passion for veterinary CT since my student days in Berlin and residency years in Glasgow and I'm continuing to develop this in Edinburgh," says Dr Schwarz. "Installations of CT

scanners in small and equine practice are booming, yet until recently there was very little information available for veterinarians on how to use them."

So, to address this lack of information, Dr Schwarz took on the challenging task of editing this book with his colleague, Jimmy Saunders, from Ghent University and with the help of forty other expert authors. Recent Dick Vet Dermatology resident, Marcel Kovalik, has contributed some excellent illustrations to the book.

In over five hundred expertly illustrated pages, the principles of the instrumentation, physics, artifacts, practical image acquisition and interpretation, use of contrast media, specific software, interventional and radiotherapy use of CT are demonstrated.

The book also includes detailed descriptions of CT diagnosis for all body parts and major organs in dogs, cats and exotic animals as well as of all currently scannable body parts in horses, ruminants and pigs.

Further information can be found at: [www.wiley.com](http://www.wiley.com)



The Dunedin Harley Owners Group (HOG) Chapter was invited to visit the Hospital for Small Animals in April, in return for their support and fundraising in the past. The HOG Chapter were joined by 12 children from the Venchie Centre in Craigmillar, who offer after-school and holiday programmes and clubs. The Dunedin HOG Chapter have been supporting the Venchie Centre for some time and were delighted to be able to let the kids see what goes on behind the scenes in a veterinary hospital.



# THE FEEL-GOOD FACTOR

## Great Reception for Student Welfare Week

Organised by the recently-formed Student Welfare Committee (made up of both staff members and students), the Dick Vet's first ever Student Welfare Awareness Week was held in February. The week included lunchtime talks, daily relaxation and meditation workshops and a Wednesday afternoon of fun activities. Representatives from many of the university services (including the chaplaincy, EUSA Advice Place, and Centre for Sport and Exercise) came to Easter Bush to create a 'welfare info hub' of information stalls.

The lunchtime talks were an important part of the week, covering topics such as stress reduction and how your mindset influences your sense of achievement and success in daily life, as well as in veterinary practice.

The daily relaxation and meditation workshops were well attended during the week, reflecting the popularity of the school's regular twice weekly relaxation sessions that take place throughout term.

The Wednesday afternoon activities were enthusiastically embraced by the student body (and staff!), not least the veterinary-themed cake competition – entries astounded spectators



*Veterinary-inspired cake competition winners take a bow!*

with their imaginative designs (and deliciousness!). Archie and his canine team put on an outstanding sheepdog display through the wind and rain, to everyone's enjoyment. The game

of musical chairs that followed in the school's atrium, along with the 'pub quiz' and school-wide treasure hunt were all well received by both students and staff alike.



*Feline face painting*

## AYE FOND FAREWELL



*Final Year students posed for one last photo before their final exams in May*

# DIAMOND JUBILEE FOR EXMOOR PONIES

60 years of the Exmoor pony herd at the Dick Vet



Trekking in 1967

**This year marks the 60th anniversary of the herd in association with the Dick Vet, and the 50th anniversary of the Exmoor Pony Trekking Section at Edinburgh University. To celebrate this achievement a Reunion Dinner was held on the 16th June, which marked the beginning of a process of collecting stories and photographs from alumni to compile into a full 'History of the Herd'.**

Over the years, these very special ponies have introduced hundreds of people to the endangered breed, many of whom have gone on to create their own herds. Mary Speed and latterly the Trekking Section itself have promoted the use and conservation of the Exmoor Pony for over half a century, and will hopefully continue to do so for many years to come.

Exmoor Pony Herd Number 2 was established by Mr F.G. Heal in 1920 from Acland stock, commonly known as the anchor herd. These ponies, and others bred from the anchor herd were acquired by Mrs Etherington, wife of the rector at Withypool Church, and managed as Herds Two and Three. In 1943, the ponies passed to her daughters – Herd Two was given to Mary,



Guests who attended the Reunion Dinner in June at Teviot Row House



Trekking today

and Herd Three to her sister, Joy. Mary Etherington left home in 1949, taking her ponies with her. For the next couple of years she moved the herd all over England, looking for somewhere permanent to keep them. In the early 1950s she heard from a friend at the British Museum that research into native pony breeds was being carried out at the Dick Vet in Edinburgh. In 1952 she, with the herd, took the train to Edinburgh where James Speed, a Professor of Anatomy, helped her to find grazing. Not only were her Exmoors to help in Speed's research, Mary also became his assistant, and much to the surprise of the staff of the Anatomy Department, the two married later that year.

By this time, Highland pony trekking at Newtonmore was proving a great success and Mary was certain that the Exmoors would prove to make a fine trekking breed. She roped in students of the Vet School to help work the ponies, trekking them in the Borders every summer from Snoot Youth Hostel, near Hawick. This continued with great success and Mary was delighted with her accomplishment. In 1962, the Speeds were to sell their ponies, some of them going as far as Canada. A group of students of the Dick Vet formed a syndicate and bought a core group of the Herd Two mares. The Trekking Section was created and vet students were offered the opportunity to work with, breed and handle a rare native breed. It is only within the last 15 years that non-veterinary students were allowed into the section. As riding became a non-compulsory part of the course, other students were welcomed to help with the maintenance of a herd of up to 20 ponies. Ever since, the ponies have been owned and cared for on a voluntary basis by the students of the Dick Vet and of The University of Edinburgh.

If you have memories, documents and/or photographs relating to the herd please contact [exmoorponytrekking@hotmail.com](mailto:exmoorponytrekking@hotmail.com)



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# STUDENTS AND STAFF CELEBRATE TOGETHER

## Inaugural Burns Night in new Teaching Building

Burns Night this year brought a new twist and tradition to the Vet School. Professor Susan Rhind, Dr Catriona Bell, Dr Neil Hudson and Dr Geoff Pearson joined forces with the Veterinary Student Council, led by President Eddie Baker and together they decided to take the opportunity to not only celebrate Burns Night, an age old Scottish tradition, but also to create an opportunity for staff and students, those who use the building most, to celebrate the opening of the new teaching building.

A few more recruits and a few months of planning and the night was kicked off by a toast to Robert Burns by Ronnie Soutar,



*The Dick Vet Musicians who provided the music*

followed by a toast to the staff by Eddie Baker and one to the students by Professor David Argyle. The night continued with a traditional Burns Night meal piped in by Laura Bond from First Year, a pub quiz, and traditional



*The haggis is piped in!*

music played by the Dick Vet Musicians. The feedback on the night from both students and staff was overwhelmingly positive and there was even the promise of a second annual Burns Night Supper in 2013.



*Students and staff toast 'Scotland's Bard', Robert Burns*

# A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

*Karl Linklater reflects on student days fifty years ago*

**I grew up on a traditional mixed farm in Aberdeenshire. From an early age I was heavily involved in caring for the livestock and it was a natural progression for me to want to become a veterinary surgeon. After successfully completing my schooling at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen, I began studying in 1957. This proved to be quite a culture shock for a naive eighteen year old from a quiet rural background and a series of unforgettable experiences ensued.**

Freshers' Week culminated in the "Social" at the Dick Vet and inauguration into the "rituals" of vet students by members of Final Year. During the Rectorial Election we marched from Summerhall to the Old College with a trailer load of horse manure and fish heads to gain the steps at the end of the Quad as part of our active support for our chosen candidate, the actor James Robertson Justice. Then there was the annual Glasgow Field Day, Charities week and the Saturday night dances in the hall at Summerhall - a Mecca for nurses and Atholl Crescent girls!

At this time the School had a particularly strong athletic section. Although there were only approximately 220 students in total (90 per cent male!) on some days we could field three rugby teams, two football teams and two hockey teams. Many of these teams were significant in Scottish sport.

There was also a very strong Horse Society, which took advantage of the group of hunters maintained at Easter Bush to instruct students in equine management and horsemanship. There was also the very popular Pony Trekking Section which is this year celebrating its 60th anniversary. At that time the Exmoor ponies spent the summer term in grazing at Edinburgh Zoo where the students broke them in for trekking in the Borders during the summer vacation when Dick Vet students acted as leaders of the treks. After summer the ponies returned to Edinburgh before on occasion being ridden to Fife for wintering with the Speeds who initiated and supported this activity for the students.

In parallel, there was the mere question of studies to be addressed. At this time first year consisted of the basic science subjects, Physics, Chemistry and Biology, all of which were shared with the medical and dental students. This meant up to 280 in some lectures. In addition for some obscure reason veterinary students studied Botany and we had to trek down to the Royal Botanic Gardens for this on a Friday afternoon. Second year was blissful as we were introduced to Physiology, Anatomy and Biochemistry but we had no professional exams until Easter of third year. Pharmacology was taken in third year and Pathology, Microbiology and Parasitology bridged third and fourth years with professional exams again taken at Easter. Animal Husbandry was dealt with in fourth year and Medicine, Surgery and Preventative Medicine in final year.



*Karl is pictured with his champion ewe at Peebles Show*

After all this, I graduated in July 1962 and fulfilled my ambition by joining a predominantly farm animal practice in Aberdeenshire, where I stayed for four very happy years. My career after that was very much a "happening" - six years back at the Dick Vet during which I gained my PhD and acted as a Lecturer in the Department of Animal Health. This was followed by 30 years with the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) starting as Veterinary Investigation Officer at St Boswells and ending up as Principal of the whole organisation based in Edinburgh. At that time SAC had a staff of 1150 and operated through 34 sites, primarily throughout Scotland. Along the way I became President of the British Veterinary Association and was elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Scotland's National Academy.



Class of '59

## OGILVIE (JOCK) MATHIESON

Perhaps it was having a great-grandfather who had been an Aberdeenshire farrier that drew Ogilvie Mathieson to the veterinary profession. "In some regards, farriers were the precursors of today's vets," he muses.

He was advised by Professor Willie Mitchell to do National Service first and in 1952 joined the RAVC (Royal Army Veterinary Corps). A voluntary secondment took him to the Microbiological Research Centre at Porton Down as a laboratory animal technician, an experience that reinforced his desire to become a vet.

"Whilst serving in the army my christian name, Ogilvie, was too much of a mouthful for my colleagues," he explains, "So I quickly became known as 'Jock'. When I arrived at the Dick Vet I found several of my former army colleagues already studying there, they naturally continued to call me Jock."



"My first year at the Dick Vet, I found bloody hard work as I had not been taught organic chemistry or biology at school and my understanding of physics did not extend to sound and light!" he quips, adding that a combination of coffee and burning the midnight oil saw him through.

In contrast, with a stock-farming background, animal husbandry practicals required little effort.

Looking back he feels much has changed and yet much remains the same: "The clinical assessments we carried out under Professor George Boddie and his team were simple and basic compared with the tools and techniques available to the students of today. However, the principles of observation, deduction and the application of common sense instilled into us are as valid today as they were 50 years ago.

"Retirement affords the opportunity to reminisce and realise how fortunate one has been in choosing the veterinary profession as a career. I shall be forever grateful that Professor Willie Mitchell's judgement set me on that path and enabled me to enjoy the camaraderie of so many others who can say proudly that they studied at the Dick Vet."

Class of '01

## LAURA HOLM (NEE ROSSITER)

As a self-confessed "studious" type, Laura Holm was in the fortunate position of having five offers of places at Vet Schools but it was the Dick Vet's excellent reputation that lured her northwards from Buckinghamshire, where she grew up.

In second year she moved into a shared house and one housemate - Shawn Holm who was also studying to be a vet - later became her husband. As Shawn is from the USA, the couple headed for America after second and third year and spent the summer working in a small animal emergency and critical care hospital in Chicago. This triggered a crucial shift in Laura's thinking.

"Up until that point I was sure I going to be a horse vet, having had horses as a child. However, working there totally absorbed me. Small Animal medicine is fascinating and from second year onwards it was all I wanted to do."



"My first job was down in Kent, I spent five years down there and got my Small Animal Certificate. Then we moved to Hampshire and I ended up at Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists or Anderson Sturgess, as it was then called. It's a referral practice and when I first took on

the role I was assisting specialist vets and looking after the in-patients. I've now been there a long time and have my own caseload.

"I do a lot of oncology appointments and all the chemotherapy. That's really nice because you see the patients a lot and some of them I've been seeing for two years or more. It's very satisfying. Obviously it's a sad diagnosis to reach but in a lot of cases the treatment works really well and the animal can have a good quality of life for a long period of time."

As if that didn't keep Laura busy enough, she and Shawn are keen ballroom dancers, competing regularly and she recently found time to organise her year's ten year reunion.

"It was wonderful to see everyone again. Going through five years of vet school is a real 'bonding experience'. It's really like a family not just people you knew."

## A PRIZED OCCASION

**Prize-winners, together with their parents and friends gathered for an event to recognise academic and sporting achievement for the Final Year Students of 2012.**

The reception, held on Friday 29th June in the Atrium of the new Veterinary Teaching Building, was attended by a wide range staff and invited guests who awarded prizes.

Head of School, Professor David Argyle, said of the event: "On the evening before our Class of 2012 graduated, it was a pleasure to welcome our Graduands and their families and friends to commend their hard work and commitment. In presenting prizes and sporting Colours, we were delighted to recognise academic achievement and sporting excellence and meet our students' families and friends, who in turn have done so much to support their ambitions of becoming veterinary surgeons."



## THE GLORY OF GRADUATION

The Class of 2012 Graduated on Saturday 30th June at the McEwan Hall in Edinburgh, following which they were formally welcomed as Members of The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.



*The Class of 2012 Graduation photograph can be purchased from [www.rontaylorstudio.com](http://www.rontaylorstudio.com)*

## STATUETTE GIFT



This statuette from the Friedrich Goldscheider factory has been presented to the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies by Archie Baird, MRCVS. He and his brother Roger were the fourth generation of their family to graduate from the School.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### Sat 8th September 2012

Doors Open Day at the Easter Bush Campus.

#### Sat 1st and Sun 2nd September

Love Pets Event, Royal Highland Showground, Ingliston, Edinburgh.

For more details, visit:

[www.lovepetsshow.co.uk/index.php/edinburgh](http://www.lovepetsshow.co.uk/index.php/edinburgh)

#### Fri 14th to Sun 16th September 2012

Reunion for the Class of 1977.

#### Fri 21st to Sun 23rd September 2012

Reunion for the Class of 1972.

#### Thur 4th to Sat 6th October 2012

50th Year Reunion for the Class of 1962.

#### Thur 4th to Sat 6th October 2012

Reunion for the Class of 1967.

Visit: [www.ed.ac.uk/vet/events](http://www.ed.ac.uk/vet/events) or contact [neil.wilson@ed.ac.uk](mailto:neil.wilson@ed.ac.uk) or phone 0131 650 6261.

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