



# Tails & Tales

## Animal Welfare Centre updates

Jan  
2026

Welcome to the Animal Welfare Centre updates, **Tales and Tails**.

We will provide regular (monthly) updates via email and socials. If you would like to sign up to the mailing list to receive emails to your inbox, please complete the [MS Form](#)

1. **Happy New Year and 2026 Developments:** We want to wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. 2026 will bring some exciting new developments, including: new research, publications, new online courses, and collaborations. We will continue to share this via our socials, website, and Tales and Tails.

### Special Edition: Focuses on Vet Nursing

2. **Vet Nursing and Animal Care Assistants:** An area that the Centre will be focusing on in 2026 is supporting vet nurses and animal care assistants. This includes a new research project, new continuing professional development (CPD) online courses, lectures, and a grant application. [New webpage](#)

3. **Survey:** If you are a vet nurse, animal care assistant, or veterinary paraprofessional (UK and international) we would be delighted if you could take 5-10 minutes to complete our online survey. We want to understand what topics and species are priority for different audiences; as well as understanding what barriers or challenges exist relating to delivery approaches or engagement. [survey link](#) (and QR code)



4. **New Grant:** The Centre is delighted to announce that Jess Davies, Martyna Godniak, Hayley Walters, Katharine Ross, Stella Mazeri and Rebecca Doyle, have been awarded one of the University of Edinburgh's Fiona and Ian Russell Seed Corn Fund for Companion Animal Research. The project will focus on the development of a tool to support decision making in cases of complex care needs, and critical cases, for companion animals in a clinical context.

5. **New lectures:** Hayley Walters, RVN, MBE, will be delivering a number of international lectures in January. Dr Yuki Otani, has invited Hayley to deliver an online workshop on 'Euthanasia and its welfare implications' to students at Hokkaido University, **Japan**. In addition, Hayley has been invited by Dr Syamira Syazuana, a former Edinburgh PhD graduate, to deliver two online lectures to students at Putra University's Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, **Malaysia**. The lectures aim to increase the students' knowledge on how to improve patient welfare in the clinic and ways to reduce dog bites within the clinical setting through a greater understanding of normal, anxious and fearful dog behaviour.

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