



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH

## ***News Release***

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### **Vet students to tackle ethical dilemmas in landmark welfare event**

Students and leading ethics experts are to co-host an event highlighting difficult moral challenges facing vets.

Ethical issues around euthanasia and welfare concerns associated with breeding animals for attractive physical traits will be discussed by prominent expert speakers, including TV vet Emma Milne.

The conference will explore how these key ethical dilemmas can impact vets wellbeing and will aim to better prepare students for working life, organisers say.

The event follows research showing that stress caused by moral dilemmas is the top reason for vets' compassion fatigue, which is common in caring professions and can lead to feelings of hopelessness and anxiety.

The event – set to attract 150 participants – has drawn notable speakers including Chief Vet at the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, James Yeates, and specialist surgeon, Romain Pizzi.

How best to tackle suspected animal abuse by clients and the extent of surgical intervention are further topics to be discussed.

Event organiser, Morgan Brown, a student at the University of Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, said: "Ethical dilemmas are a really common issue for vets and significantly impact vet wellbeing. We hope that by encouraging dialogue about challenging animal welfare issues, vet students will be better prepared for these issues in practice."

The 2017 Veterinary Ethics and Welfare Conference will be held at the University of Edinburgh's Easter Bush Campus from September 30th - October 1st, 2017. Tickets are available [here](#).

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