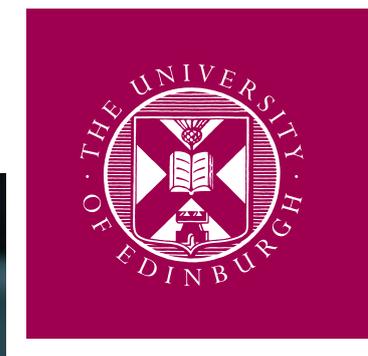


DICK VET

news

Magazine for the Alumni & Friends of The Royal (Dick)
School of Veterinary Studies, The University of Edinburgh



INGLIS
PARTNERSHIP

p.4

NEW HEAD
OF CLINICAL
ONCOLOGY

p.3

▲
PROVIDING
COMPLETE
CANCER CARE

ROYAL
VISIT

p.5

PRACTICE
RESEARCH
NETWORK

p.17



Hill's Pet Nutrition supports the Dick Vet News

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook



@TheDickVet



Facebook.com/DickVet

CONTENTS



Dr Jessica Lawrence

FEATURES

A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE 23

STUDENT EXPERIENCE 24

REGULARS

NEWS 3

STAFF NEWS 10

RESEARCH NEWS 13

CLINIC NEWS 15

STUDENT NEWS 21

ALUMNI NEWS 26

Editor-in-Chief **David Argyle**

Editor **Neil Wilson**

Editorial Services provided by

Tara Womersley

Cover Image **Paul Dodds**

If you have any ideas or feedback for the **Dick Vet News** please email Neil.Wilson@ed.ac.uk

The Royal (Dick) School
of Veterinary Studies
The University of Edinburgh
Easter Bush
Midlothian
EH25 9RG
Scotland
t: +44 (0)131 651 7300

While we are grateful for the support of our advertisers, the appearance of products in this publication does not imply endorsement by the School.

MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Friends,

As we move through 2013, I would like to take the opportunity to reflect on the last year, our achievements and our goals for the coming years.

As you will be aware, 2012 was my first full year as Head of School and it is difficult to believe how fast the year passed. It was a record year for the campus in terms of research, student academic success and the delivery of clinical service, a testament to the commitment, tenacity and talent of our staff and students.

Our students are of great credit to us and they continue to achieve great academic success. A key strategic theme for the school this year is "enhancing the student experience" and to this end the school has invested £200,000 in new appointments in teaching and student support, including a new 'Student Experience' officer and revamp of our support system to create a new Personal Tutor System.

Investing in students and staff is a key priority over the coming year. While we have invested heavily in student support, we have also developed a strong clinical strategy to grow our clinical and clinical research programmes. I believe strongly that the clinical strengths of the School should reflect the research strengths of the Institute. We recognised this year that clinical neurology has been absent from our hospitals for too long, despite our high profile in the area of neuroscience. Consequently, we have decided to appoint in this area, significantly strengthening our referral portfolio. Additionally, we have recently made key appointments in Oncology, Internal Medicine, Equine Surgery, Pathology and Physiology.

In a record year for University research success (£250 million in research grants), it has also been a bumper year for our own campus research growth, based within the Roslin Institute. The strategic decision to incorporate Roslin into the University in 2008 is now paying dividends. With our partner institutes, Easter Bush now has the largest concentration of animal bioscience

in Europe. However, you only achieve great things by surrounding yourself with great people. We have made some key appointments across the school and the Institute over the past 12 months (see this issue and Roslin Reporter), which is securing our future in animal health.

Great credit must be paid to the Director of the Institute and School's Head of Research, Professor David Hume whose drive and enthusiasm is infectious and has supported the growth of such a vibrant research environment. It was fitting that David was awarded the Omics Science Centre Award in 2012 for his long-term contribution to the success of the FANTOM Consortium.

Visitors to Easter Bush comment on how much has been achieved so quickly. However, David and I have been working hard to establish a new development plan for the Campus, which has now been accepted as a key priority for the College. In January, the Princess Royal visited the campus and officially opened the refurbished Large Animal Clinic. As I write this, two new avian facilities (including the National Avian Facility) are being erected on campus. In addition, we are planning a further £80 million expansion to include new research facilities and campus hub, new large animal imaging, research and clinical facilities and expansion of our pathology unit.

These are, indeed, exciting times and we were delighted when the first £10 million was secured from the Scottish Government in December.

There is a great feeling of optimism across the campus in this first half of 2013, and much to be optimistic about. Everyone across the campus plays a part in the School and Institute's success and I am proud to be part of that.

Professor David Argyle

PROVIDING COMPLETE CANCER CARE

For Jessica Lawrence, the new head of clinical oncology at the Dick Vet, recent radiotherapy advances have revolutionised the treatment she is able to provide to animals with cancer

Around one in three dogs and cats will develop cancer and the condition is the leading cause of death in household pets.

Survival rates, however, are improving due to advances in treatment and radiotherapy is playing a key role in both this and improvements in palliative care.

Dr Lawrence, who has trained in both radiation and medical oncology, joins the Dick Vet from the University of Georgia, where she was Assistant Professor of Small Animal Oncology.

She will lead the clinical team at the School's £3 million Riddell-Swan Cancer Care Centre, which was opened three years ago. As well as providing cutting-edge treatment, the centre is also the translational arm of the Dick Vet's cancer research portfolio.

"The cancer centre includes a linear accelerator, which has computerised software that enables us to create tailor-made radiation treatment programmes," said Dr Lawrence.

"Its precision also means that we are able to minimise damage from radiation to healthy tissue. For instance in the past if you were targeting a nasal cavity tumour in a dog, it was likely that severe side effects to the eye would occur as a result of the radiation. Now we are able to target the tumour with much greater accuracy and as a result are much more likely to be able to prevent the eye from being damaged."

The linear accelerator at the Dick Vet also has the capability to be upgraded to provide intensity-modulated radiotherapy (IMRT). This allows for the radiation dose to conform more precisely to the three-dimensional shape of a tumour by modulating, or controlling the intensity of the radiation beam in many small volumes from different directions. This enables control over the intensity of the multiple radiation beams from different directions,



Prof David Argyle and Dr Jessica Lawrence with members of the Veterinary Cancer Centre Team.

thereby maximising the dosage to the tumour while minimising radiation to surrounding healthy tissue.

"I am very evidence-based in approach to my work," said Dr Lawrence.

"If I can't find evidence in veterinary literature, I will look for it in human literature. Indeed, comparative medicine means we can apply what we know about effective therapies in human medicine to treatments for animals and vice-versa. The oncology work here is world-class and I want to build on that."

A key area of Dr Lawrence's research also includes looking at how drugs, combined with radiotherapy, can improve response rates to treatment and optimise radiation delivery to ensure

normal tissue is spared.

Her plans for the veterinary cancer care centre include introducing a training programme in radiation oncology in addition to the School's medical oncology residency programmes. The goal would be to have Dick Vet provide state-of-the-art veterinary radiation oncology training.

Professor David Argyle, Head of the Vet School, said: "We are delighted to have Jessica on board. She has a vast wealth of experience and will be able to further strengthen the work of the cancer centre along with research looking at how treatments and outcomes can be improved. Her expertise will also be of immense benefit for veterinary students interested in oncology."

INGLIS PARTNERSHIP

Students are benefitting from an initiative providing them with hands-on experience in a modern veterinary practice



Ronnie Soutar, Director of Veterinary Services, Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies; Dr Richard Ssuna of Lilongwe SPCA (Malawi), Gordon Brown, MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, and Adam Tjolle of Inglis Vets Ltd.

A partnership between the Dick Vet and the Inglis – Care and Day Surgery is providing final year students to carry out consultations at the practice in Cowdenbeath under supervision by Inglis Staff.

The practice was officially opened by Gordon Brown, who is the MP for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath, in September.

It has been set up by Inglis Veterinary Hospital, in Dunfermline, Fife, and provides reduced rate services of up to 50 per cent, while at the same time offering quality training facilities for veterinary students.

The surgery is hosting all the Dick Vets' 150 final-year students in small groups over the course of a year.

Mr Brown said at the surgery opening: "I am very excited about what has been achieved here. This has been brilliantly conceived and I am sure it will provide a service which will benefit not only the people of Cowdenbeath and beyond but the university students who come here."

Ronnie Soutar, Director of Veterinary Services at the Dick Vet, said: "This is a ground-breaking trial arrangement which will expose our students to a sector of veterinary care which they don't experience in the vet school's own Hospital for Small Animals, which is a world-leading referral-level facility. It will provide an excellent resource where our students will be able to

gain priceless practical training embedded in a resource for the local Fife community."

Vet Adam Tjolle, managing director of Inglis, said: "The Dick Vet is internationally famous for producing the best veterinary surgeons in the world. It has experienced a rise in student numbers, who in turn have asked to get more experience of actual pet/client interaction and in order to turn out the finest vet, it needs to offer its students practical, first-hand experience. We approached them with this concept and we hope now we are providing a training facility for student vets that's unique in the UK and internationally."

The practice's purpose-built facilities include an operating theatre, treatment room, prep area, X-ray/diagnosis room and separate cat and dog wards. There is also the very latest CCTV and audio recording equipment to help monitor the students' activities.

In addition, it has a computerised pharmacy dispensing unit (Cubex) – one of the first of its kind, in practice, in the country.

Andrew High, a final-year veterinary student at the Dick Vet, said: "The final year at university is itself a big jump from what happened before, and this takes my training a step forward. It is sure to help boost my confidence when it comes to dealing with clients."

DICK VET RESIDENCY PROGRAMME

The Dick Vet residency programme in oncology provides vets with the expertise to go on to specialise in this area of veterinary medicine.

Spela Bavcar is a first-year veterinary oncology resident, who graduated two years ago at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia in 2010.

She joins Pamela Martin and Lassara McCartan, who are in the second and third years of their veterinary oncology residencies.

Spela comes to the Dick Vet having carried out international externships which include time spent at the Colorado State University James L.Voss Veterinary Teaching Hospital's Animal Centre, the California Veterinary Specialists Angel Care Cancer Center in San Diego.

She has also carried out externships at the Royal Veterinary College in London and the Oncology Referral Centre of the Animal Hospital Zeeuws-Vlaanderen in the Netherlands.

"I have become interested in small animal oncology through my personal experiences. I strongly believe the facilities and the experienced staff here at the School will provide me with the necessary experience to further my goal of a career as a specialist in veterinary oncology," she said.

ROYAL VISIT

Chancellor formally opens Farm Animal Practice and visits The Roslin Institute



A Royal seal of approval has been given to the University of Edinburgh's newly refurbished Farm Animal Practice.

The Princess Royal, who is the University's Chancellor as well as Patron of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, met staff, students and clients of the practice and officially opened its revamped facilities on Thursday 17th January.

Professor Neil Sargison, Head of the Vet School's Farm Animal Section, gave The Princess Royal a tour of the Farm Animal Practice. The practice's updated facilities include a lecture room for students, a meeting room, new reception



The Princess meets with invited guests and staff during her visit.

area, laboratory and pharmacy. Her Royal Highness was then given a tour of The Roslin Institute and met with researchers whose work focuses on improving the health and welfare of animals, investigating how scientific findings can be applied to improve human and veterinary medicine, livestock practices and food security.



'JUNIOR VETS' STAR ON-SCREEN

The School has been back on TV with 'Junior Vets', a series of ten 30 minute episodes made for CBBC with True North Productions, which was filmed in the summer of 2012. The programmes see a group of six young animal enthusiasts undertake a range of veterinary challenges to find out who has what it takes to become a 'Junior Vet' at the Dick Vet. The tasks give the children a chance to impress leading Vet Paul Manktelow in their quest to be named Head Vet!

COURSE AIMS TO HELP VETS HELP ENDANGERED ANIMALS

The growing number of endangered species has led to the Dick Vet setting up a unique course to help vets tackle this global challenge



Professor Anna Meredith

The MVetSci in Conservation Medicine is being headed up by Anna Meredith, who joined the School in 1992 and was recently appointed as Professor of Zoological and Conservation Medicine.

The course is aimed at international vets, enabling them to study flexibly part-time through online learning, and achieve a Certificate, Diploma or Masters degree over one, two or three years.

The first intake of students, which started in September, includes vets from Cyprus, France, India, North America, Rwanda, Turkey and the UK.

Professor Meredith, who was instrumental in setting up the Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service, said: "Conservation medicine needs biologists, ecologists, public health specialists and vets to work together, but while a lot of vets are keen to become involved there is limited training in this area. This is why we wanted to run such a course that could be accessed by vets from all over the world.

"Animal health and human health are inextricably linked, and human behaviour also has a major impact on many

different species. Vets have an important role to play in wildlife conservation, which needs not only an holistic but also an interdisciplinary approach with regards to looking at ecological health and how ecosystems interact."

Professor Meredith is also involved in research and surveillance related to the conservation of red squirrels and Scottish wildcats. She also chairs the UK Government's Zoos Expert Committee.

Out of more than 63,000 species, including plants, birds, fish, mammals and amphibians, nearly 20,000 are endangered or critically endangered with climate change and habitat destruction as major factors.

This includes the melting of sea ice, which is affecting the fate of polar bears dependent on the ice as a floating platform to catch prey. Rising sea levels are also affecting sea turtles in Brazil, which lay their eggs on beaches.

The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies' Exotic Animal and Wildlife Service, which has 10 staff members, is unique in how wildlife and exotic medicine are fully integrated into its service and its curriculum for undergraduate vets.

More information on the online MVetSci in conservation medicine can be found at:

www.ed.ac.uk/vet/conservation-medicine

FOLLOW US FROM WHEREVER YOU ARE!



The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies may have been founded nearly 200 years ago, but we're always looking for new ways to engage with our students, alumni, clients and friends worldwide.

With this in mind, we are pleased to announce the School's official Twitter and Facebook pages, where we will be posting regular news, events, information and photos from the School.

We are always looking for new ways to engage with the School's audience and throughout 2013 will be launching a series of new initiatives on Facebook and Twitter as well as other platforms, to help make it easier for you to keep up to date with the latest news and events going on around the School. Don't worry, the Dick Vet News isn't going anywhere, but now you'll be able to see what's going on and contact us more easily.

Additionally, we are also looking at ways to use social media

to engage better with our students, especially those new to the school and rapidly bring them into the Dick Vet family. Increasingly, students use social media in their personal and academic lives and it is important that the School keeps up with them. We have a tradition of integrating new ways of learning and teaching into the School, from web courses like our free online Equine Nutrition course, to the use of Second Life and our virtual farm. The Dick Vet always strives use new technology and techniques to improve our students' experience.

The School is embracing Social Media across many different areas, from individual courses to whole areas within the School. To see if there is an account which you'd be interested in following, check out the Social Media Hub, accessible from the our Contacts page, where all of the School's pages are listed.

You can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/DickVet and on Twitter at www.twitter.com/TheDickVet.

IMPROVING ANIMAL WELFARE IN CHINA

Edinburgh vets are contributing to efforts to improve animal care in China's zoos

Animal welfare is a complex, multi-faceted subject that includes scientific, ethical, economic and political dimensions.

It is recognised that due to its growing importance to society, animal welfare must be addressed in a scientifically credible manner.

Increasingly the veterinary profession is being expected to play a pivotal role in identifying where animal welfare problems exist, and assisting in finding solutions to them.

This year the Chinese Veterinary Medicine Association (CMVA), which was established in 2009, held its third annual conference bring together an estimated 5000 delegates.

The Dick Vet's Jeanne Marchig Animal Welfare Education Centre, directed by Professor Natalie Waran, was honoured to be invited to be host the conference's first ever forum on animal welfare.

This three-day event in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, was attended by Chinese veterinarians and government officials. It provided an overview of animal welfare from an international perspective, the role of veterinarians and the challenges as well as opportunities for China in the animal welfare arena.

Following the success of the forum, the CVMA, through its Animal welfare sub-committee will be formally co-operating with the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in promoting courses within the online Masters in International Animal Welfare. This forms part of the CMVA's continuing professional development programme for building capacity in animal welfare expertise within Chinese Veterinary Universities and for up-skilling the profession.

The Jeanne Marchig Animal Welfare Education Centre also ran a workshop at Beijing Zoo in September. The workshop was arranged by the China



Heather Bacon and Hayley Walters (bottom) demonstrate techniques to students at the workshop.

Association of Zoological Gardens, which is responsible for regulating zoos in China, with the itinerary and guest speakers being provided by the Dick Vet's Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare Education and the charity, Animals Asia.

Heather Bacon, veterinary welfare education officer at the Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare, said: "The very existence of zoos can be a controversial topic, but by working together to promote animal welfare in a constructive and practical forum, we can improve the lives of many animals who realistically, will be permanently housed in zoo collections for the foreseeable future."

Topics covered included preventative medicine and physical and mental health, and an interactive zoo animal pathology workshop also took place.



SENIOR CLINICAL TRAINING SCHOLARSHIPS

Broad spectrum of specialisms offered

For many years the Dick Vet has been at the forefront of advanced training for veterinary surgeons in the UK, offering a broad range of Clinical Training Scholarships to vets who want to specialise in a particular discipline.

The School currently has 26 residents who are undertaking three and four-year Residency Programmes, also known as Senior Clinical Training Scholarships. These cover areas of veterinary anaesthesia, dermatology, diagnostic imaging, small animal surgery, small animal internal medicine (canine and feline), cardiology, oncology, equine medicine and equine surgery (soft tissue and orthopaedics) and exotic animal medicine and surgery.

In addition, the School has recently announced two additional scholarships in farm animal practice and also offers residencies in anatomic and clinical pathology.

The aim of these clinical training programmes is not only to enable scholars to immerse themselves in their given area of interest for the duration of the programme, but also to prepare them for specialist qualifications, for example, for European College Diplomas.

Scholars also carry out clinical research

projects with some of them working towards an MSc during their residency.

Alison Ridyard, senior lecturer in internal medicine who also carried out a residency at the Dick Vet, said: "The Dick Vet has had an excellent success rate in residents achieving qualifications, such as the RCVS and European. Many of the clinicians at the Dick Vet also went through residency programmes here."

In addition to Senior Clinical Training Scholarships, the Dick Vet also offers a number of one-year Junior Clinical Training Scholarships (Internships) within the Hospital for Small Animals which are aimed at vets, generally with one or two years' experience, who are wanting a taster of working in a multi-discipline referral centre and who are perhaps considering applying for residency training programmes here or elsewhere.

Jasmin Paris is a final-year resident in Small Animal Medicine, which encompasses both cats and dogs. She decided to specialise having first spent a year working in a small animal clinic to gain experience of a first opinion practice.

She said: "I enjoy my residency very much, which is a good thing, because it is very hard work at times.

"Residents play a very important role

in the hospital. Most cases we see are not straightforward, which means they take up more time and require greater input than an average case in first opinion practice. Balanced with that, we have access to other specialist services, without which we could not function - for example, many of our medicine cases will require ultrasound, CT or MRI and we are very lucky to have excellent specialists in this area. One of the things I enjoy most is the fact that all the services work together for the best case outcome - a dog might come into medicine, after which it might be transferred to surgery, or oncology, depending on the diagnosis reached."

JENNA JOINS

Jenna Richardson has joined us as Dechra and Companion Care Resident in Rabbit and Exotic Animal Medicine and Surgery. Following her graduation from the Dick Vet, Jenna worked for four years in mixed practice, mainly in small, exotic and farm animal practice, before returning to the University. Currently completing a three year Residency in Rabbit and Exotic Animal Medicine and Surgery, Jenna is also working towards completion of her RCVS certificate in Zoological Medicine.

MARTYN RETIRES

After 41 years working at the School, Martyn Camburn has retired. Martyn joined in 1972 as a veterinary surgeon, when he began teaching large and small animal anaesthetics. In 1976 he became a Large Animal Surgeon, but continued to teach and perform anaesthetics until 1990. Martyn made a major contribution to teaching and clinical service in the Hospital for Small Animals, and to student mentorship. Martyn was joined by colleagues and friends at an event to mark his retirement at the end of March.



PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT

Major investment in state-of-the-art equipment

The teaching of clinical skills is being enhanced with an investment of more than £40,000 on state-of-the-art animal models.

The school is purchasing a range of simulators, which include bovine, canine and equine training models, and will provide students with a flexible means of learning basic clinical skills in a welfare-friendly environment.

The simulators, purchased by the School's Jeanne Marchig International Centre for Animal Welfare, will give students the opportunity to practise techniques in their own time, in a safe, non-stressful setting within the school's Clinical Skills Lab.

The models will enable students to hone practical skills, such as rectal palpation to detect the different stages of pregnancy in cows.

The new equine simulator being delivered is the most up-to-date of its kind in the UK. Along with enabling students to improve their rectal palpation skills to diagnose gastrointestinal conditions such as colic, the model also allows them to practice carrying out peritoneal taps and other procedures.



The new equine simulator is the most up-to-date of its kind in the UK. Along with enabling students to improve their rectal palpation skills to diagnose gastrointestinal conditions such as colic, the model also allows them to practice carrying out peritoneal taps and other procedures.

Different canine simulators will allow students to practice skills such as intravenous injections and endotracheal intubation, as well as a simulator to help them identify irregular heartsounds.

Students can also practice skills such as castration and spaying on other models.

Dr Catriona Bell, senior lecturer in

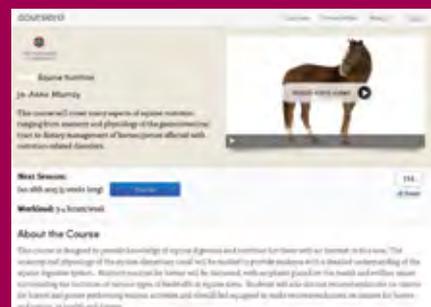
veterinary education, said: "The realistic attributes of these models will allow students to initially learn and then refine their basic clinical skills in a safe, controlled, welfare-friendly environment before undertaking the procedures on live animals. This should be of real benefit to the students, their patients, and their employers."

MASSIVE DEMAND FOR ONLINE EQUINE COURSE

The University of Edinburgh is set to provide FREE degree-level education via the internet, including a course on equine nutrition.

The University of Edinburgh has been announced as the first university in the UK to join the Coursera consortium, the organisation set up by senior academics at Stanford University to provide free online undergraduate-level courses to anyone who wishes to access them.

Dr Jo-Anne Murray of The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies will present a five-week course of equine nutrition, covering the anatomy and physiology of the equine digestive tract and discussing dietary management for different kinds of horses and ponies, particularly those with nutrition-related disorders. Dr Murray is well equipped to deliver this on-line equine nutrition course with her PhD in equine nutrition and Masters in e-learning.



To find out more about the equine nutrition course visit:

www.coursera.org/#course/equinenutrition

VETS WITH HORSEPOWER

The explorer Ranulph Fiennes helped send off Dr Caroline Hahn, a member of the Dick Vet equine staff, on a 3500-mile motorbike ride to raise funds for charity

It is the third year that Dr Hahn, who was joined by colleagues from The University of Liverpool, The Royal Veterinary College and the University of Helsinki, has taken part in a fundraising motorbike ride.

The initiative involves providing continual professional development to vets throughout the world, having arrived at each destination by motorbike.

The motor-cycling team of vets started off for their 21-day trip from the Royal Mews at Buckingham Palace. They then travelled through nine countries, giving 78 talks to raise funds for the only two equine clinics in Mali and Mauritania.

Their journey involved a motorcycle running out of fuel on a German Autobahn, riders getting sodden in freezing rain in the French Alps and negotiating rather scary rush hour traffic in Tangier.

"There were also van drivers doing a very fine job trying to run us off the road in all countries, but special mention to Italy and Morocco, and boiling winds that resembled an industrial hair drier in



Spain," said Dr Hahn.

"But we had the most wonderful support on the way, kind, welcoming people who gave us their homes and hearts to help our cause."

Funds raised will support the charity – Society for the Protection of Animals

Abroad, which is working to provide more free veterinary treatment for working horses, donkeys and mules in Mali and Mauritania.

More information can be found and donations can be made at:

www.justgiving.com/horsepower2012

SCOTTISH NATIONAL SHEEPDOG TRIALS

Archie Aitchison has been the shepherd at Easter Bush Farm for over 30 years and is well known and respected by students for his sheep handling skills and classes.



Students are often treated to an impromptu sheepdog demonstration at the end of a class and his dog demo during the Student Welfare Week was one of the most popular events, despite

the dreadful weather.

Archie also competes at sheepdog trials and in September he and 5 year old homebred Coll competed at the Scottish National Sheepdog trials at Strathaven, where 150 of the top Scottish handlers and their dogs competed for the 15 places in the Scottish team.

Archie and Coll had a great run and came 12th in Scotland and then went forward to compete at the International Sheepdog trials in Cardiff, which the Scottish team won despite a very challenging course.

Archie and Coll's run at the Scottish National trials at Strathaven has also been covered by a BBC Alba programme aired in January. Photograph courtesy of Fiona Limbrick.

STAFF MEMBER SORELY MISSED

Senior Lecturer in Equine Surgery was an outstanding colleague, writes Professor Paddy Dixon

A packed congregation attended the funeral of Dr Martin Weaver, a senior lecturer in equine surgery at the Dick Vet, who died in September 2012.

Martin, who passed away aged 50, will be sorely missed by staff and students. He had a very kind, mellow personality and a great sense of humour

and loved teaching both undergraduate and postgraduate students.

He obtained the highest student teaching appraisals, including for his regular voluntary tutorials after normal working hours with final year students.

His talent as a teacher was also due to his great ability as a story teller. He never

tired of telling his famous “Gorilla Story”. When working in University College Dublin, he had to treat a gorilla in Dublin Zoo – first needing to anaesthetise it with drugs fired from an anaesthetic dart rifle. However, whilst aiming the rifle through the bars of the cage, the gorilla suddenly shot across the cage and pulled the rifle out of Martin’s hands – after an anxious pause, the gorilla then bent the rifle in two and handed it back to a partly grateful Martin.

“

In addition to his undergraduate teaching - Martin was also very supportive of younger staff members and ran imaging and surgery rounds for them in the morning before normal working hours. ”

Martin, who specialised in equine orthopaedics and was at the forefront of equine imaging in Europe, was also treasurer of the Dick Vet Students’ very successful Exmoor Pony Trekking Society and helped enormously with its administration and financial stability for many years.

He joined the Equine Department of the Dick Vet in 2001, and at the end of 2010 found out that an illness that he had been receiving treatment for a prolonged period was, in fact, cancer that now had metastasised and was untreatable.

He bore this illness bravely without complaint, continuing to work at the Veterinary School until just three days before his death.

Sincere condolences to his wife Jane, his parents David and Ruth, siblings Christoph and Annette and their families.



Dr Martin Weaver

ONE DAY, THIS DOG'S INFECTIONS MAY BE UNTREATABLE

Is it time to change?

The growing issue of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) could eventually make dermatological conditions like otitis hard to treat. So we've developed a three-step approach to help you address ear disease:

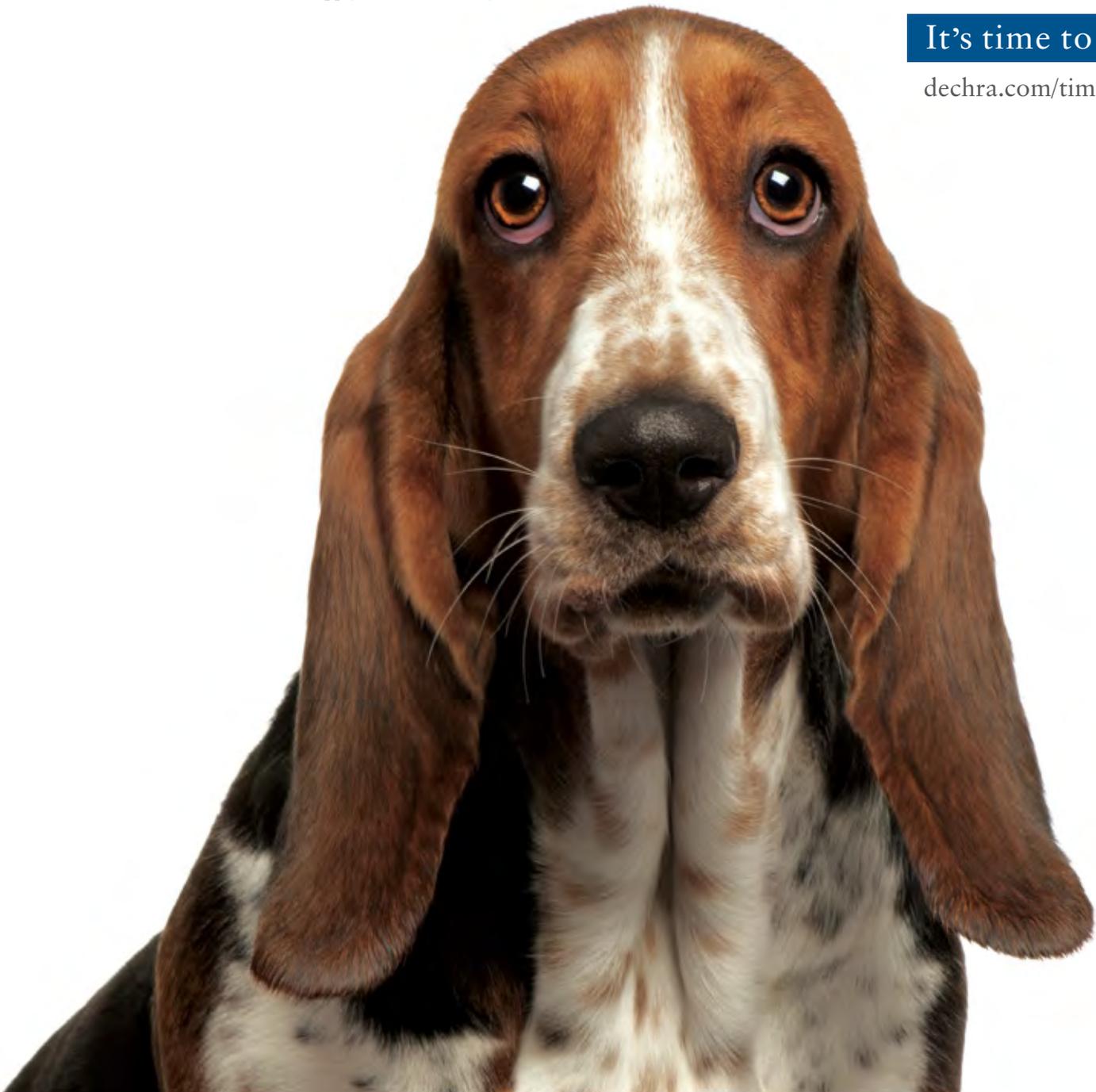
- **Diagnose** – identify which bug you are dealing with
- **Control** – use the right drug for the right bug
- **Maintain** – educate owners to apply and use correctly

Using this approach in combination with our ear product range can help you address AMR.

For more support and information scan the QR code or visit www.dechra.com/timetochange

It's time to change

dechra.com/timetochange



Canaural*

CleanAural*

CerumAural

TrizAural

MalAceticAural



CANAURAL: Each g of Canaural contains Fusidic acid (diethanolamine fusidate) 5 mg, framycetin 5 mg, nystatin 100,000 units, prednisolone 2.5 mg. UK: **POM-V** | IE: **POM**

For further information contact: Dechra Veterinary Products Limited, Sansaw Business Park, Hadnall, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, SY4 4AS.
Tel: +44 (0)1939 211200. Fax: +44 (0)1939 211201. Dechra Veterinary Products Limited is a trading business of Dechra Pharmaceuticals PLC.
www.dechra.com/timetochange Use medicines responsibly: www.noah.co.uk/responsible


Dechra
Veterinary Products

MAJOR INVESTMENT IN ANIMAL SCIENCE RESEARCH

The Roslin Institute has been awarded £10 million capital funding to support the development of an international livestock improvement centre

Cabinet Secretary for Education Michael Russell confirmed the additional investment in The Roslin Institute, which will help deliver a world leading campus for livestock improvement and animal health.

Mr Russell said: "Scotland has great strength and expertise across many research fields and the Roslin Institute is leading the way in the animal health sector. We want to build on existing excellence to develop our reputation in research and maximise the benefits for our economy.

"By investing in our research and development capacity, we will help sustain and improve Scotland's livestock industry

while leading efforts to relieve poverty in developing countries. It will position Scotland at the forefront of animal science research across the globe."

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs Richard Lochhead said: "Attracting capital funding for new infrastructure and creating employment opportunities in Midlothian is a key objective of the Easter Bush Research Consortium, of which the Roslin Institute is a part. This investment should benefit all members of the Consortium and will help to create a fantastic resource for Scotland and the world."

Professor David Hume Director of The Roslin Institute said: "This investment

complements the current development of the National Avian Research Facility at Easter Bush and will help to keep Scotland at the forefront of Livestock research internationally."

The Principal for the University of Edinburgh Professor Sir Timothy O'Shea said: "The support from the Scottish Government provides a wonderful opportunity for the University to enhance its research excellence in animal biosciences and food security. This additional resource on the Easter Bush Campus will allow the Roslin Institute to continue to provide solutions to global challenges within the livestock industry."

GROUND-BREAKING STEM CELL RESEARCH

Hannah is the founding Alumni member of the RCVS Trust

Hannah Hodgkiss-Geere was not only awarded her PhD from the Dick Vet this year but also become the founding alumni member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Trust, which funded her studies.

Hannah's PhD looked at characterising mesenchymal stem cells – derived from the bone marrow but found in connective tissues – and cardiac stem cells in dogs.

Her work, which proves that these stem cells exist in dogs, will help in determining potential applications of these cells. The research led to three papers, which were published in The

Veterinary Journal and the International Journal of Stem Cells.

"The characterisation of these stem cells will help research into stem cell therapies as well as research looking at how these stem cells could be used in the laboratory for pharmacological testing," said Hannah.

"We found that the cell populations behaved in a similar way to these types of stem cells in humans. This is good for not only improving understanding of certain diseases in dogs, particularly with a view of finding new treatments, but also for comparative medicine looking at human disease.

"Stem cell research is certainly very topical as stem cells offer a wealth of possibilities, such as looking at pathological disease, pharmaceutical testing and therapeutic applications. It is growing field so it is great to be involved in it."

Hannah's research, which was supervised by Dr Sally Argyle, received a £250,000 grant from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Trust – the largest grant the trust has given.

She is currently carrying out a residency in cardiopulmonary medicine at the Dick Vet, where she also completed her veterinary degree.

PIG GENE DISCOVERY COULD HELP COMBAT ANIMAL AND HUMAN DISEASE

Insights into the genetic code of pigs that reveal how the species evolved could improve the health of animals in future

Researchers compared the genome or genetic make-up of domestic pigs with those of wild boars – from which domestic pigs are descended.

Their study found significant genetic differences between wild boars from Asia and Europe, which split from a common ancestor around a million years ago.

These differences are also reflected in the genes of current day Western and Chinese breeds of domestic pigs, confirming the theory that pigs were independently domesticated in each region.

The scientists identified about 21,000 genes in the pig genome and compared these genes to their counterparts in people, mice, dogs, horses and cows.

These comparisons revealed that the immune response genes associated with fighting infection are evolving rapidly. Improved understanding of how these genes have evolved could help combat disease and improve pig health, scientists say.

Their findings also revealed several instances where pig genes resembled a human gene associated with disease, such as diabetes, obesity and Alzheimer's. These discoveries extend the potential of pigs to shed light on human diseases.

The study, published in the journal *Nature*, was led by scientists at The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh and the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Wageningen University and the University of Illinois.

The analysis also showed that of all mammals whose genetic make-up has been decoded, pigs have the most genes linked to smell.

Scientists say that this is consistent with the known importance of smell to pigs and could explain the pig's ability to hunt for truffles.



Photograph courtesy of Martien A.M. Groenen

Professor Alan Archibald, of The Roslin Institute at the University of Edinburgh, said: "Pork is the most popular of all meats to eat and with a growing global population we need to improve the sustainability of food production. The improved knowledge of pigs' genetic make-up should help us breed healthier and more productive animals."

Professor Lawrence Schook, of the University of Illinois, said: "The new analysis has important implications for agriculture, particularly since the domestic pig still has an ancestor-like wild cousin on the loose. Unlike the domestic cow, whose ancestors, the aurochs, are now extinct, the porcine lineage has a lot of genetic diversity remaining. We can easily find genes that

might be still in the wild that we could use for breeding purposes today."

Professor Martien Groenen, of Wageningen University, said: "This study marks the beginning of the sequencing of the genomes of hundreds, perhaps even thousands of individual pigs. This knowledge will be invaluable for pig breeding and exploring fundamental questions in biology and evolution."

The study involved more than 40 institutions in 12 countries. It was funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, the European Commission, the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, The Wellcome Trust as well as pig industry groups in Europe and the United States.

EQUINE TRAINING FOR VETERINARY NURSES

Qualification provides practical experience

Two years ago the Equine hospital became registered with the RCVS to allow the training of veterinary nurses.

The RCVS is the awarding body for veterinary nursing qualifications. The qualification is an apprenticeship style award and the students continue to work in practice to gain practical experience and complete a log of competencies in a variety of nursing tasks.

College is attended on block release over a two year period to complete the theoretical training. Subjects covered are the Essentials of Veterinary Nursing, Animal Health, Husbandry, Form and Function and Technical Support of Veterinary Practice and are assessed through multiple choice examinations. In addition to this work, assignments must be written on veterinary communications,

surgical nursing, medical nursing, ethics, neonatal nursing, and emergency care.

Following successful completion of these, the final hurdle is to pass the OSCE's examination. There are twelve 6 minute stations that test the practical skills of the student, including radiography positioning, laboratory techniques, bandaging, preparation and administration of medications. Once completed the student may register with the RCVS as a Qualified Equine Veterinary Nurse and carry the post-numerals REVN to demonstrate they are qualified. They must continue to keep up their further education by completing 45 hours of CPD every 3 years.

Carolyne Sheridan, who has worked as an equine theatre technician for over ten years became the first student to

undergo the equine veterinary nurse training. Carolyne showed commitment throughout, spending many unpaid hours at the hospital to gain nursing experience to enable her to complete the nursing progress log.

Attending Myerscough College allowed Carolyne to develop friendships and receive support. The opportunity to discuss with other equine nurses broadened her knowledge and improved her perception of the nursing role within other practices and this helped Carolyne to move forward as a trainee veterinary nurse.

Carolyne's dedication and hard work over the last two years paid off when she was informed that she has successfully passed the course. Carolyne has gained well over 80% in all coursework and exams that she has taken.

NEW SPECIALIST FOR INTERNAL MEDICINE

Internal Medicine specialist Dr Tracy Hill joins the School

A new specialist in internal medicine has joined the Dick Vet, bringing with her expertise in interventional radiology.

Tracy Hill, who completed a fellowship in interventional radiology and endoscopy at the Animal Medical Centre in New York, is interested in researching new techniques in this developing field.

She will also work in the clinic at the Dick Vet's Hospital for Small Animals and as a senior lecturer.

"Interventional radiology is a rapidly expanding area in veterinary medicine," said Dr Hill.

"The use of imaging means that we are able to see obstructions, whether in the respiratory or urethral tracts or in the cardiovascular system. We can then look at bypassing these obstructions less

invasively than with surgery, which can lead to better outcomes."

Dr Hill, who carried out her residency in small animal internal medicine at North Carolina State University, where she also completed a PhD, will help the Dick Vet to provide interventional radiology procedures.

This includes using interventional radiology to carry out liver shunts, as opposed to traditional surgery that carries a high mortality rate. Such procedures are currently only carried out at a few centres in Europe.

The treatment involves using fluoroscopy to guide a catheter down the jugular vein so that coils can be inserted to close off abnormal blood vessels. These abnormal vessels bypass the liver, meaning that toxins are not removed and

are then carried throughout the body.

Dr Hill said: "I am delighted to join the Dick Vet. There is no denying the expertise at the vet school, as well as its partnership with The Roslin Institute for research."



Tracy Hill

NEW

**Expect
something
different**



Metabo
Advanced Weight

Weight
Perte de Po
Perdita di P
Gewichtsab



**Look out for a new weight solution
proven to work at home.**

Visit us at BSAVA at stand 520 to find out more!



**RECOMMENDED
BY VETERINARIANS
WORLDWIDE**

™Trademarks owned by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. ©2013

PRACTICE RESEARCH NETWORK

The Dick Vet is establishing a ground-breaking Practice Research Network (PRN). In this initiative, we will work with our referring practices to identify and prioritise important research questions relating to the clinical needs of general practice.

The PRN will draw on the relative clinical and academic strengths of general practices and the Dick Vet to develop a synergistic approach to the promotion, support and dissemination of the results of high quality research within the practice setting. The aim is to improve the evidence base for clinical veterinary practice.

Acting as a forum to discuss the needs of general practitioners, the PRN will bring together vets in practice who have an interest in research and will develop the research capability and capacity of these vets, support their professional development and educational needs.

By maintain and building upon our existing partnerships (including referrals and EMS), the PRN will foster stronger links and communication between the Dick Vet and general practitioners.

In order to develop a sustainable expert research network, we will design and develop research protocols to take key aspects of the research agenda forward but also identify relevant funding bodies and submit research funding applications to support and develop the PRN.

The PRN will help the Dick Vet to promote the dissemination and translation of research findings into practice, locally, nationally and internationally.

At this stage, we are informing practices of the PRN initiative to establish level of interest. This will be followed by an official launch of the PRN, then by the collection of basic demographic and practice data to establish a PRN database at the Dick Vet campus.

If you are interested in being part of the PRN initiative, please contact Dr Scott Pirie at Scott.Pirie@ed.ac.uk or by phone on **0131 650 6253**.



The Practice Research Network will draw on the relative clinical and academic strengths of general practices and the Dick Vet.

BABY BARN OWL SCOOTS WAY TO RECOVERY

A baby barn owl has made a remarkable recovery after being treated for a birth defect that prevented him from standing up.

Scooter, who is based at the Owl and the Pussycat Centre, was born with a one of his legs sticking out at a right angle due to a growth deformity in the bones of his legs.

Staff at the centre, which also looks after owls from the Harry Potter film – Hedwig and Errol, noticed the problem when Scooter was taken out from under his parents at six days old.

Scooter was taken to the Hospital for Small Animals at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, where experts knew that surgery was the only option.

Kevin Eatwell, a specialist in exotic animals at the Dick Vet, said: "For many

other birds, we could have looked at amputating the worst leg but birds of prey, such as Scooter, need to have perfectly positioned legs for catching prey and landing and any imperfections can lead to long term foot problems. We needed to put the bone in place using pins and bars. Because Scooter is growing, the bone will now be able to grow at the right angle so he can regain full use of the leg. Scooter should have no problem being able to take off and land on his two legs now."

Just over 10 weeks on from the operation Scooter was able to take his first flight.

Ruth Hicking, Centre Manager of the Owl and the Pussycat Centre, which is based in Maud, Aberdeenshire, said: "His first flight did involve crash landing

on the floor but it was still a great start. We run visits for children with special needs and Scooter has had everyone enraptured. He's a real cutie and not only has he won the heart of all the children, he also seems to have won the hearts of everyone at the Dick Vet's Hospital for Small Animals."



Scooter the barn owl.

NOW
available in pouches



VETESSENTIALS

Address metabolic changes in neutered cats

With Hill's™ Science Plan™ **VETESSENTIALS**
NeuteredCat range:

- Clinically proven levels of L-carnitine to help burn fat and maintain body weight
- Controlled pH levels for urinary tract health
- Smaller kibble* for cats who like tiny morsels

NEW POUCHES now available in great tasting flavours, with Salmon or Chicken

www.hillspet.co.uk/vetessentials

For more information, contact Hill's
Customer Services on 0800 282 438



Young Adult
Tuna



Young Adult
Chicken



Mature Adult
Chicken



**RECOMMENDED
BY VETERINARIANS**
WORLDWIDE

* vs Hill's™ Science Plan™ Feline Optimal Care Chicken or Tuna
™Trademarks owned by Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc. ©2013, Hill's Pet Nutrition, Inc.



DICK VET LAUNCHES MRI SCANNER APPEAL

As part of our aim to provide the best in clinical practice, we are pleased to launch a new appeal to raise funds for an onsite MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) unit

When Fi Harris brought her six month old Labrador, Hector, to the hospital last year with neck problems, the clinician suspected it could be meningitis and advised getting an MRI scan to confirm the diagnosis.

MRI is similar to an X-ray in that it will provide the vet with images of the inside of a pet, but it also provides far more detail, and it is safer, because it does not use radiation.

However, Fi was then given the news that Hector (pictured below) would need to wait two weeks for a scan in Edinburgh because the mobile MRI unit only visits twice a month.

It was a worrying time for Fi as she knew that having the MRI could be fundamental to getting an accurate diagnosis. Fortunately, Hector made a full recovery and Fi is now urging everyone to support our campaign to raise £400,000 to buy a permanent scanner so this anxious situation is avoided for other pet owners.

The huge cost of owning, operating and maintaining an onsite unit means that even large veterinary practices will not have their own MRI scanning equipment. Whilst a visiting service is useful, this still severely restricts our ability to deal with urgent diagnostic needs, so for some time it has been an ambition of the Dick Vet to install a permanent unit.

Last year, 60 small animal patients were scanned at the mobile van. Our own onsite scanner would allow this service to be offered quickly to many more clients and referral practices. Fortunately, we are now able to meet the on-going maintenance and running costs a permanent unit would require, but we still need the funds to purchase the machine.

As a friend of the Dick Vet, could you help us reach our target this year? If you would like to donate to this special appeal please complete the donation form opposite ticking 'MRI Scanner Appeal', or for further information please contact **Sandra Chilton** on **0131 651 1407** or email **sandra.chilton@ed.ac.uk** All donations, whatever their size, are greatly appreciated.



The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies welcomes donations to maintain excellence and opportunity. If you would like to become a friend of the School by making a donation please complete the form. We welcome Direct Debit gifts by monthly payments. This provides a predictable income which helps us to plan expenditure properly. If you wish to make a single donation, please complete the Single Gift Form overleaf. Please note that all donations are administered by The University of Edinburgh Development Trust.

- MRI Scanner Appeal
- Dean's Development Fund (where need is greatest)

Now we can reclaim tax on all your donations. All you need to do is complete the Gift Aid Declaration below.

NAME _____

HOME ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

EMAIL _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

GIFT AID DECLARATION

Please reclaim tax on all donation(s) I have made to the University of Edinburgh Development Trust in the past four years, and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise. I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 28p of tax on every £1 that I gave up to 5 April 2008 and will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I give on or after 6 April 2008.

Signature _____

Date _____

giftaid it

REGULAR GIFT FORM BY DIRECT DEBIT

I wish to give £ _____ per month / quarter / year

The University of Edinburgh Development Trust -
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies



Instruction to your Bank or Building Society to pay by Direct Debit

Originator's Number **3 8 8 3 9 9**

Name and full postal address of your Bank or Building Society

To: The Manager _____ Bank/Building Society

Address _____

Postcode _____

Name(s) of Account Holder(s) _____

Bank/Building Society Account Number Branch Sort Code

□□□□□□□□

□□ □□ □□

Instruction to your Bank or Building Society

Please pay the University of Edinburgh Development Trust Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with the University of Edinburgh Development Trust – The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies – and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/Building Society.

Signature _____

Date _____



SINGLE GIFT FORM

Here is my gift of £ _____

I enclose a cheque payable to The University of Edinburgh Development Trust - The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

I wish to give by VISA / Eurocard / Mastercard / Switch

Card Number:

Expiry Date (mm/yy): /

Card Security Code: (the three digit number printed on the signature strip directly after the card number)

Switch Payments only:

Issue Number: Start Date (mm/yy): /

Signature _____

Date _____

Please return this form to:

Sandra Chilton
The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies
Development & Alumni
FREEPOST EH565
Edinburgh
EH8 0BR
Scotland, UK

- Please let me know how I might help by making a gift in my Will.
- Please send me details about gifting shares.
- Please tick here if you would like your donation to be anonymous.



THE DICK VET NEEDS YOU!

The Dick Vet is looking for friends and supporters to raise money on its behalf

It takes a lot of money and hard work to bring the Dick Vet's ambitions of world-class quality veterinary care and education to fruition. We, therefore, rely heavily upon the generous support of our clients, alumni and friends to maintain this standard of excellence.

We are very grateful to all our supporters who have already raised funds through fundraising events or challenges. For example, Joy-Innes Greig and her husband John (pictured below) supported us after their dog Indy underwent an operation on his neck. Instead of presents for their Silver Wedding Anniversary, the couple asked for donations and raised £200 for the Dick Vet and a further £200 for Cancer Research UK. Beth Munro, a University employee and client of the Dick Vet Equine, raised £500 by completing a gruelling trek in South Africa.

As an animal lover would you consider fundraising on behalf of the Dick Vet? Whatever your interest or hobby, from cake baking to canoeing, there is always a way to turn it into an event to support our work. We can help you create an online giving page, supply sponsorship forms and assist with marketing materials such as posters to promote your event. We can also provide you with tips and advice to make fundraising for the School as easy, fun and financially successful as possible.

We really hope that you can help – all money raised through your fundraising will directly help the animals in our care. If you would like more information, or are keen to get started, we'd be delighted to hear from you.

For more information please contact **Sandra Chilton** on **0131 651 1407** or email **sandra.chilton@ed.ac.uk**



Joy-Innes Greig with her husband John, Indy the dog and Sandra Chilton.

HALLOWE'EN EVENT

To celebrate Hallowe'en and officially launch the school's new House System, students and staff came together for the event with activities including face painting, cake decorating and eating doughnuts from a string.

A "Hallowe'en Gymkhana", organised by the Exmoor Trekking Society, also saw large numbers of staff and students competing for prizes which involved an obstacle course with challenges such as apple dookin'. A stall, set up by members of Scald Law House, included a mummy

wrapping competition and scary cakes.

Roshni Jethwa, Student Experience Officer, said: "The evening was a huge success with both staff and students getting involved in all of the activities. It has definitely helped to get the year off to a good start. A special mention must be made for our fancy dress competition winners, who had all made a huge effort and looked fantastic. In addition to this Professor Rhind also deserves a mention for being the best dressed member of staff."



UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ALIVE AND KICKING

Despite the increasing challenge of securing funding for laboratory based student projects, this summer yet again we saw the enthusiasm of our undergraduate students to undertake laboratory based research.

For some this was their first experience of "bench research" for others it was a re-connection with research from a previous career or degree. In addition to report writing students were given the opportunity to present their work to staff and other students during a poster afternoon run in parallel with the Vet Choice event.

The standard of the posters and the science contained in them was

outstanding. All participants should be congratulated for their hard work. Very importantly, project supervisors should be acknowledged, as none of this would be possible without their

willingness to give up time, resources and expertise.

Hopefully the flame of enthusiasm for research has been ignited to produce some researchers of the future.



TOASTING THE BARD!

Second Burns Night celebration is a huge success

Following the success of last year's inaugural event, Professor Susan Rhind, Dr Catriona Bell, Dr Neil Hudson and Dr Geoff Pearson again joined forces with the Veterinary Student Council, led by President Marc Silpa and organised a fantastic follow up celebration.

The event was conceived, not just to recognise the Bard, Robert Burns, but also to create an opportunity for staff and students to enjoy an evening with a Scottish flavour!

The night was kicked off by a toast to Burns by Dr Geoff Pearson, followed by a toast to the staff by Marc Silpa, and one to the students by Professor David Argyle. The night continued with a traditional Burns Night meal piped in by Laura Bond from Second Year, a pub quiz, and traditional music played by the Dick Vet Musicians. The feedback on the night from both students and staff was hugely enthusiastic, with the event now firmly established in the School's social calendar!

Marc Silpa, Vet Student Council President, said: 'It was fantastic for the students from so many different countries to be able to enjoy such a significant Scottish cultural event. The speeches, the quiz and the music - not forgetting the food - made it a really special evening!'



A VIEW FROM OUTSIDE

Alan Rowland recounts his time at the Dick Vet

I was born and bred in Middlesbrough, where I grew up during the war. From the age of 12, I got into horse riding as there were some stables near the house. Back then there was no traffic on the roads, just the occasional army convoy.

I joined the Dick Vet in 1951, having carried out my national service. There was lots of basic science and anatomy in the first year as lots of us had not got a background in science from school. Over the first two or three years we did 700 hours of anatomy, all crouched over bodies of dogs, sheep and horses that were on frames.

I was in the last portal of students that received a separate Bachelors of Science from the University but was externally examined by Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to gain our MRCVS. After my year, students then were able to gain the BVMS from the University, which was recognised by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

Charities' Week was a highlight in the social calendar. Buses were hired out raids carried out in the borders going to pubs and mills shaking our collection tins. Saturday was a big day. We would go into the city in cheap fancy dress – I seem to remember mine involved sacking – and the students would run wild.

Veterinary students were predominantly male, we had a quote of 10 per cent women – so five females – and this was not removed until the Sex Discrimination Act was passed in 1979 making such quotas illegal. Women had not even been allowed to join the vet school until 1948 on the grounds that there were no female toilets.

The rugby team was also very powerful, and played in the senior echelon of Scottish Rugby. The gym in the Pleasance was run by a Colonel Usher, who was very keen that the Dick Vet rugby team join with the University rugby team. Dick Vet supporters and players would sing "We won't play for Colonel Usher, We won't play in lily white" – the colours of the University team to the tune of the great Welsh anthem Cwm Rhondda. I think the song is still sung at matches today.

We would start Saturday nights off in a pub called the Vaults, which is now Drouthy Neebors, on West Preston Street, where we would sing raucously. Afterwards we would make our way to the dance, but would arrive after 10pm by which time the evening was well underway and all the girls were snapped up so we would go rather disconsolately on for fish and chips.

During the Coronation in 1953, a black and white television was set up in the old pathology lecture theatre and people would come in and out. It was the first major event on television.

After graduating, I went into predominantly large animal practice in Lincoln working for Barr and Duguid, but I love the hills and Lincoln was flat so I migrated south and north as a locum. I was passing through Edinburgh on the way to go fishing in Aberfeldy, when I saw a vacancy for a pathology assistant at the Dick Vet. I applied and returned to the School in 1960. A couple of years later



Alan dressed as William Dick as part of the celebrations to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth.

the field station was set up at Easter Bush and I moved out there with Mortan Gellatly. I ran the diagnostic service, before spending various periods as associate dean. I retired in 1996.

Since retirement I have done plenty of trekking, which has included going to Peru and Nepal, I also go with friends from college abroad to work on annual conservation projects. This has included working with elephants in Kenya, orangutans in Sumatra and lemurs in Madagascar as well as working in the Galapagos on a reforestation project. Looking back, on a hugely changed world, I have been lucky indeed to be able to say that if I had my time again I would follow the same path.

STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The names of the Pentland Hills that surround the Dick Vet have taken on a new meaning for veterinary students

An initiative has been introduced at the school, whereby students are members of houses named after the hills.

The house-system is designed to enhance interaction between students in different years, as well as provide academic and pastoral support through personal tutors who are also assigned to specific houses.

“Each house has a Senior House Tutor to oversee activities and we hope that everyone will enjoy the greater opportunities the system will offer for staff-student interaction” said Dr Geoff Pearson, Senior Tutor and Director of Student Affairs at the Dick Vet.

“Following the opening of the new teaching building at Easter Bush in 2011, students from all years are now on one site. We want to make sure they get the most out of their time here, which includes not only the cutting-edge facilities but also social interaction as well as a strong system of support.”

There are 10 houses in total, with between 70 and 80 students in each house. Students are allocated a personal tutor in each house, but also have access to three other house tutors as well as the senior house tutor.

The houses are called Capelaw, Castlelaw, Turnhouse, Carnethy, Scald Law, West Kip, East Cairn, Spittal, Allermuir or Caerketton.

To encourage social interaction between students from different years each house has its own committee in charge of organising events. This could include walks on the hill after which the house is named, inter-house sports days and inter-house quiz nights.

“The aim is for this to also be student-driven, with students being actively involved in planning activities and events,” said Professor Susan Rhind, Director of Veterinary Teaching.



Students are encouraged to get the most out of their time here, which includes not only the cutting-edge facilities, but also social interaction, as well as a strong system of support.

“From speaking to students, one of the main themes was that they wanted more contact with students from other years. The house system will help immensely with this, enabling students from earlier years to benefit from the experience of students who are further through their course.”

The University of Edinburgh is currently investing £4 million over three years to enhance the student experience.

As part of this, the Dick Vet has appointed Roshni Jethwa, who previously worked as an academic advisor for Edinburgh University Students' Association, as a student experience officer.

“A major part of my role is looking at enhancing the student experience both on an academic and a pastoral front, which includes making sure the personal tutor system is running smoothly and overseeing the house system,” she said.

The Dick Vet also has two teaching fellows – Dr Jessie Paterson and Stacy Spielman – who have also been employed as part of the University-wide initiative to enhance support for students.

Their posts include providing direct study development advice to students, for instance through one-to-one or groups sessions or through workshops.

Ms Spielman, who is a graduate of the School, has an additional focus in providing support to the international student body and developing the Dick Vet's peer support system.

Dr Paterson, who joined the Dick Vet's veterinary education team from the University's School of Divinity, is also focusing on helping students improve techniques and learning strategies, which includes support for students with specific learning difficulties.



NEW

Low fat nutrition clinically proven to help GI tract recovery



New Prescription Diet™ i/d™ Canine Low Fat Gastrointestinal Health

is clinically proven to decrease fasting serum triglycerides, reducing a risk factor for pancreatitis in dogs. It's a great tasting, highly digestible nutrition specially formulated with:

- **Omega-3 fatty acids** to support the GI tract by breaking the cycle of inflammation
- **Ginger** to soothe the GI tract by helping to improve gastric motility
- **Prebiotic fibre** to normalise intestinal microflora

Try i/d™ Low Fat and see the difference in your patients.



RECOMMENDED
BY VETERINARIANS
WORLDWIDE

www.hillsvet.co.uk/GI www.hillsvet.ie/GI

Hill's Customer Services 0800 282 438 / 1800 626 002 (ROI)

ALUMNI IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Class of '50

TIM GLOVER

The importance of male desire in the life of mammals is explored in a new book by a former Dick Vet graduate.

Tim Glover's book, *Mating Males – An Evolutionary Perspective on Mammalian Reproduction*, takes a conversational-style and is also geared at those without specialist knowledge of the field.

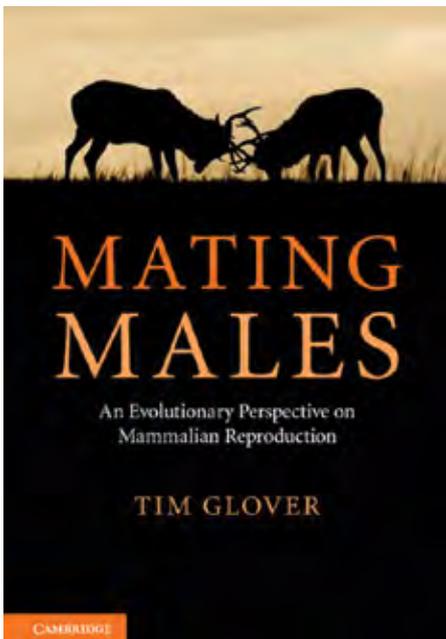
It starts off with a broad overview of sexual reproduction in mammals, explaining the importance of mixing genes, sexual selection and the concept of mating seasons.

As well as mating behaviour, the book also explores the structure and function of the male reproductive organs.

The final chapter looks at human reproduction, explaining how physical and social evolution have contributed to the development of sexual behaviour that is markedly different to that of other mammals.

Glover is Emeritus Professor of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Queensland and has written more than 100 papers on male reproduction.

<http://bit.ly/UVrIU4>



Class of '83

MERVYN DREVER

When Mervyn Drever arrived in Edinburgh to study veterinary medicine it was the furthest south he had ever been.

Having grown up on an island in Orkney, which had a population of around 500, living in the city came as a big culture shock.

Mervyn's interest in veterinary medicine was inspired by the fishing and farming environment in which he had grown up. Although his father was the local baker, his grandfather was a crofter and used to help neighbouring farmers and crofters calve cows. When Mervyn told his school teacher that he wanted to work on farms, he was told that, because his father did not have a farm, he should become a vet instead.

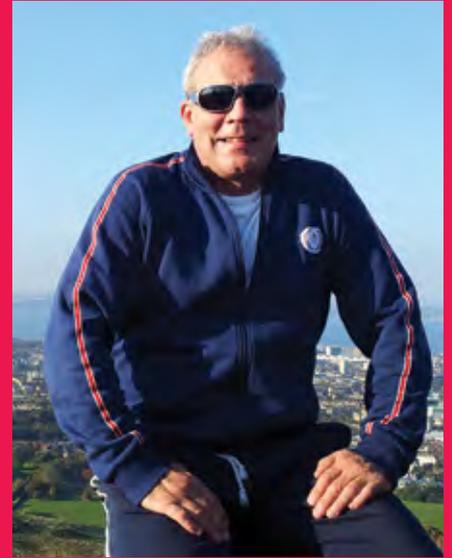
He did part of his interview for the Dick Vet from a call box in Kirkwall with a stack of 10 pence pieces.

"When I arrived in Edinburgh it was 1978 and the weather was very good. I foolishly assumed at the time that it must have been because the climate was much better because I was so much further south and that it was always like that.

"We worked hard but we played hard. I remember playing rugby and I was astounded that we changed in the same dressing room as the International team, but they were never there at the same time and I definitely wasn't an International!"

After finishing his studies, Mervyn returned to Orkney for six months before taking a job in Banffshire in a veterinary practice he describes as akin to that of James Herriot's and where he struggled to understand Doric.

He then worked in the centre of Aberdeen at a practice called Armstrong and Gammack practice. The practice later moved to Kingswell, five miles



Mervyn Drever

out of the city centre, as a result of expansion by which time Mervyn was a partner in the business. Now called the Ardene House Veterinary Practice, after the name of the old building that Armstrong and Garrock used to occupy in the centre of Aberdeen, it is one of the largest practices in Scotland.

"The original Armstrong and Gammack practice would have dated back more than 100 years, where veterinary care was given to working horses at the harbour forge," said Mervyn.

"Aberdeen has the densest population of horses per capita, although now the client base is very different than dealing with horses at the harbour forge."

Although Mervyn retired from the practice a couple of years ago following a series of back operations, he has since sat on committees for charities including World Horse Welfare and Vet Trust. Last year he was also the chairperson of the Equine Executive, the quorum which manages and administers the equine division of XL Vets, which is an organisation for veterinary practices wanting to share knowledge, experience and skills.

Class of '88

NICKI REED

Although Nicki Reed grew up in the city of Edinburgh, from an early age she had plenty of contact with horses, cattle and sheep.

Nicki, who is head of the feline clinic and lecturer in internal medicine at the Dick Vet, has seen many changes at the School since her student days there.

"At the time there were about 60 of us in a class, now there are three times as many and a much greater percentage of females. There is also much more specialism, for

instance we now have medicine sub-specialities of dermatology, oncology, cardiology and of course feline medicine, as opposed to just medicine and surgery when I was a student," she said.

"Clinical facilities have also expanded significantly and the staffing levels are substantially larger."

After qualifying, Nicki spent a few months as a locum in small animal practice before going to working in mixed practices in Yorkshire and Aberdeenshire.

Following an accident, where she tore a ligament in her knee after being pulled off her feet by a horse, she returned to small animal practice working with her husband, David, whom she had met as a student at the Dick Vet, in Falkirk.

She returned to the Dick Vet, just over a decade after graduating, to run the first opinion clinic in Summerhall, when everyone else had re-located to the new Hospital at Easter Bush. The Summerhall clinic closed after four years.

"It was sad to see Summerhall and the clinic there shut down, but you have to weigh up this nostalgia against the major facilities we have now and the fact that there is no way that the patient, staff and student population could have been accommodated in the Summerhall facilities."

In 2004, she started a residency in feline medicine, qualifying with a Royal College diploma in feline medicine in addition to achieving the ECVIM diploma in internal medicine. This led to her lectureship and subsequent appointment as head of the Feline Clinic.

She is now helping organise a reunion for the class of 1988.

"I think it will be easy to pick up with people even if you have not seen them for several years," she said. "We have a very strong background connection as vets so there is always something to talk about even if you have not seen each other recently."



Nicki Reed

PROFESSOR AINSLEY IGGO



Former colleagues, family and friends come together in January to acknowledge the huge contribution made by Professor Ainsley Iggo to neuroscience and the School. In recognition of his work, a teaching laboratory has been named in Professor Iggo's name and a commemorative poster displayed with details of his research and achievements.

OLD COLLEGE REUNION FOR THE CLASS OF 1962

Robertson Medal awarded to Bill Taylor

The Class of 1962 held their Reunion on Saturday 6th October.

The Alumni enjoyed a tour of the new Veterinary Teaching Building at Easter Bush followed by lunch. With the chance to catch up with class-mates firmly on the agenda, the Class then enjoyed a black-tie dinner at the Playfair Library, Old College.

Jim Kelly chaired the proceedings which started with a toast to William Dick by Jill Whaley.

A special presentation was made to Bill Taylor, in recognition of his work in tropical countries throughout his career and especially for his role in the eradication of Rinderpest from the world.

The presentation of the Robertson medal was made by Barbara Robertson, daughter of Sir Alexander Robertson in whose name the award is given.

The evening was rounded off by Peter Jackson who proposed a vote of thanks.



The Class of 1962 pictured at their Reunion at Old College on Saturday 6th October 2012.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thurs 20th June to Sun 23rd June
Royal Highland Show
Ingliston, Edinburgh

Sat 22nd to Sun 23rd June
Reunion for the Class of 2003

Sat 27th to Sun 28th July
Reunions for the Classes of 1991,
1992 and 1993

Sat 7th to Sun 8th September
Reunion for the Class of 1973

Fri 27th to Sat 28th September
Reunion for the Class of 1983

Further events

For details of further events, including the Internal Medicine Clinical Club, please visit:

www.ed.ac.uk/vet/events

HOW TO CONTACT US

We depend on your support to maintain our high standards and fund new developments. You can help us to deliver the future of veterinary medicine. Here's how to contact us:

Donations and Fundraising
sandra.chilton@ed.ac.uk
www.vet.ed.ac.uk/fundraising/

Marketing and Alumni
Neil Wilson 0131 650 6261
neil.wilson@ed.ac.uk

Hospital for Small Animals
0131 650 7650
HFSAreception@ed.ac.uk

Equine Hospital
0131 650 6253
EQH@ed.ac.uk

Undergraduate Admissions
0131 650 6178
vetug@ed.ac.uk

Postgraduate Research Admissions
0131 527 4198
vetpgresearch@ed.ac.uk

Postgraduate Taught Admissions
0131 242 6460
mvmpeg@ed.ac.uk

Or visit our website at
www.ed.ac.uk/vet

Help us to keep in touch. We would like to keep in regular contact with our readers.

If you would like us to email you details of news and events, please email your name and full address to vet.alumni@ed.ac.uk