

## Editorial Board

### **Kate Bradley MA VetMB PhD DVR DipECVDD MRCVS**

Kate is a Senior Clinical Fellow in Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging for the University of Bristol/Langford Veterinary Services.

### **Giunio Bruto Cherubini DVM DECVN MRCVS**

Giunio is responsible for neurology/neurosurgery service at DWR and contributes to the undergraduate teaching programme at the University of Nottingham School of Veterinary Medicine and Science.

### **Iain Cope BSc BVM&S Cert AVP (Zoo Med) MRCVS**

Iain is an RCVS recognised Advanced Veterinary Practitioner in Zoological Medicine. He runs his own practice at Newmarket Vets4Pets.

### **Mark Craig BVSC MRCVS Cert SAD**

Mark runs Re-Fur-All Referrals, a veterinary dermatology referral service in the south of England and the Midlands.

### **Valerie Lamb BVM&S DipECVIM-CA MRCVS**

Val is a specialist in small animal internal medicine working at Southern Counties Veterinary Specialists in Hampshire.

### **Mark Lowrie MA VetMB MVM DipECVN MRCVS**

Mark is an RCVS and European specialist in veterinary neurology (ECVN). Mark works at Dovecote Veterinary Hospital, Castle Donington, part of CVS Group plc.

### **Anna Meredith MA VetMB PhD CertLAS DZooMed MRCVS**

Anna is Head of Melbourne Veterinary School, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.

### **Paola Monti DVM MSc FRCPath DipACVP (Clinical Pathology) MRCVS**

Paola is an American Specialist and RCVS-Recognised Specialist in Clinical Pathology. She is a Clinical Pathology Consultant with Dick White Referrals, Cambridgeshire

### **Jo Murrell BVSc PhD(Bristol) DipECVA MRCVS**

Jo is a European specialist in Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia, primarily based at the School of Clinical Veterinary Sciences, University of Bristol.

### **Malcolm Ness BVetMed MRCVS DipECVS CertSAO FRCVS**

Malcolm is a European Specialist in surgery and heads up the surgery team at Croft Veterinary Hospital in Northumberland.

### **Matthew Oxford BVM&S GPCert(SAS) MRCVS**

Matthew is a referral Veterinary Dentist and oral surgeon with clinics at Lumby Park Veterinary Specialists, South Devon Referrals, Stone Lion Veterinary Hospital and Priory Veterinary Hospital. He is the Course Organiser for the British Veterinary Dental Association, included in which he lectures at Bristol University.

### **Karen L Perry BVM&S CertSAS DipECVS FHEA MRCVS**

Karen is Assistant Professor in Small Animal Orthopaedics at the Veterinary Medical Center, Michigan State University, Michigan, USA

### **Sarah Shull DVM CCRT**

Sarah leads the Veterinary Rehabilitation Service at the Michigan State University Veterinary Medical Center.

### **Kit Sturgess MA VetMB PhD CertVR DSAM CertVC FRCVS**

Kit is an RCVS Recognised Specialist in Small Animal Medicine and an Advanced Practitioner in Veterinary Cardiology; he sees clinical cases 3 days per week at Optivet Referrals in Hampshire.

### **Molly Varga BVetMed CertZooMed DZooMed (Mammalian) MRCVS**

Molly is an RCVS Recognised Specialist in Zoological Medicine. She works at Cheshire Pet, Cheshire.

### **Sam Woods BSc (Hons) MA VetMB CertSAS Dipl.ECVS MRCVS**

Sam is a European and RCVS Registered Specialist in Small Animal Surgery and is currently a Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Surgery (Soft Tissue and Orthopaedics) at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh.

### **Ian Wright BVMS BSc MSc MRCVS**

Ian has a Master's degree in Veterinary Parasitology and is a member of the European Scientific Counsel Companion Animal Parasites (ESCCAP UK and Ireland).

# Looking backwards and forwards: what a year

This year has seen unprecedented changes across society, and the small animal veterinary profession. 2020 has brought challenges and experiences that no vets could have anticipated in their wildest dreams. The small animal profession has responded and adapted rapidly, enabling vets and their teams to ensure that pets have received the essential care that they needed. We still face a backlog of routine work, the conundrum of how to return to more normal ways of working and the frustrations of missing the benefits of face to face education. The silver lining is the development by the CPD suppliers of remote delivery of education, enabling those in remote locations or with family and caring commitments to fully participate in learning experiences. *Companion Animal* has always strived to ensure that it supplies high-quality, relevant educational material and we will continue to do so as we move into the next phase of practice.

As the year comes to a close, we have been looking back over the articles *Companion Animal* has published this year. A few that have stood out are those that discussed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on companion animals: dogs (<https://doi.org/10.12968/coan.2020.0032>), cats (<https://doi.org/10.12968.coan.2020.0036>), equines, parrots, birds and rabbits (<https://doi.org/10.12968/coan.2020.0037>). The trio of articles by Clare Hargrave not only drew attention to how pets would be affected by the restrictions and changes imposed on their human carers, but will have led to vets and practices reflecting on an aspect of animal health and wellbeing that can often come in second place to their physical health (usually the reason the client has brought their animal to the vet in the first place). Another popular article was 'How do I know if this tortoise is dead?', by Sarah Brown (<https://doi.org/10.12968/coan.2020.0023>), highlighting the ways in which we can ensure best practice for tortoises and their owners.

In this issue, we have the second in the series of papers on raw diets. The first, a review of the benefits and disadvantages of feeding companion animals a raw diet that aimed to highlight the areas of the discussion where there is least consensus, contributed by Conor O'Halloran at the Royal (Dick) (<https://doi.org/10.12968/coan.2020.0003>), was well received. The second, appears in this issue, by Paul Overgaauw, who discusses the risks from parasites to pets fed raw-food diets. Articles that will be accompanied by CPD online are Oscar Bautista Diaz-Delgado's article on the issues to consider when performing anaesthesia on patients with chronic kidney disease and Ellie Groves' discussion of the gut microbiome, and its role in the patient's health. DNA profiling is the subject of a Product Focus and Nicola Bates give a helpful practical overview of poisons affecting the skin.

Many thanks are extended to the editorial board, who contribute ideas and suggestions throughout the year, as well as reviewing papers when requested. Their help and expertise is invaluable.

As we approach 2021 with uncertainty as to what practice will look like over the next year, which changes will remain and which will fade to be distant memories, the *Companion Animal* team wishes you all the best for the new year. **CA**

