

## Editorial Board

### **Kate Bradley MA VetMB PhD DVR DipECVDI 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).

# The profession's part in a greener future

One consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic has been to reduce carbon emissions. The enforced changes of working from home, greatly reduced travel and curtailing of social lives have at least produced some benefit. Learning to work and meet in a virtual manner will alter our behaviour in the future. The bulk of CPD in this last year has been undertaken remotely. This month's virtual BSAVA Congress has pledged to be carbon neutral. Delegates to this and other conferences from all around the world will be able to attend without the time, cost and environmental impact that travelling to meetings brings.

The profession is definitely more aware of its environmental responsibilities. The RCVS, working with the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, has set up an Environment and Sustainability Working Party to consider the development of a formal policy in this area, both for the RCVS and in relation to the profession as a whole. BVA has an action plan for sustainability and the veterinary profession, particularly looking at responsible farming practices and food production. BSAVA has set up a working group on sustainability, to assess practices within the association and the small animal veterinary community.

With many companies pledging to become carbon neutral by dates ranging between 2030 and 2040, veterinary practice needs to become involved and see how we can reduce our impact. One major corporate, VetPartners, has appointed a sustainability manager to help the group reduce its environmental impact and oversee the social aspects of sustainability. Other groups have included sustainability in their strategy. Some areas of clinical practice generate large amounts of plastic and other waste: syringes, packaging, disposable drapes, gloves and aprons, to mention just some. There is a balance between reducing our impact and ensuring high levels of biosecurity, but we must find ways to achieve this. Vet Sustain has a greener practice working group and can help practices find ways to work with less environmental impact ([www.vetsustain.org](http://www.vetsustain.org)).

As vets we have to look beyond the headline-grabbing issues of carbon emissions, plastic use and waste production. We have a responsibility to ensure that the medications we use are not having adverse effects on the environment. Antibiotic stewardship is one area where we have made great strides. Awareness of the need to avoid indiscriminate antimicrobial use has increased, together with the appreciation that certain classes of antibiotics need to be reserved. Another area which has attracted debate recently is the use of potent parasiticides on a regular and routine basis. Should we be more aware of the environmental effects of the highly potent modern drugs we use to prevent both internal and external parasite infestations? In farm practice, it is understood that routine use of certain parasite treatments drastically reduces the population of dung beetles, to give one example. If they are affected, many other invertebrate species will be as well, impoverishing the environment. It is time to reassess our approach, and to research the ideal way to ensure the health of pets without causing adverse environmental effects. **CA**



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