



News you might have missed

A concise, mobile-friendly selection of veterinary news and features.

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Animal Trust Vets invests £400,000 in new CT scanners



Animal Trust Vets has completed a £400,000 investment in two new Siemens 32-slice CT scanners for its Ellesmere Port and Bolton sites, “enhancing referral imaging capability and access to advanced diagnostics for veterinary practices” across the north-west.

The systems deliver high-resolution imaging, supporting efficient investigation of orthopaedic, soft tissue, neurological and oncological cases. The scanners also support advanced clinical applications including 3D visualisation and virtual endoscopy tools and advanced post-processing for surgical planning.

In a recent emergency referral from Shropshire, involving a dog presenting with suspected upper oesophageal obstruction following ingestion of a stick, CT imaging confirmed the presence of a 14.7cm linear foreign body lodged within the

oesophagus: detailed cross-sectional imaging enabled accurate localisation and informed decision-making in what was a potentially life-threatening case.

In addition to being available to Animal Trust clients, the service operates as a dedicated outpatient CT service. Scans are reported by VetCT, with structured reports returned directly to the referring veterinary surgeon. Full image datasets are accessible and referred cases can be discussed collaboratively with the referral surgical team when needed.

Pricing, which Animal Trust says is significantly below market averages, is £1,045 for two body regions and £360 per additional region.

Animal Trust has appointed Sámar Riziq, a residency-trained small animal surgeon with advanced soft tissue and orthopaedic training. Sámar joins the established team alongside Dylan Payne (RCVS and EBVS European Specialist in Small Animal Surgery) and James Portsmouth (RCVS Advanced Practitioner).

Owen Monie, founder of Animal Trust, said: “This investment is about supporting the profession as much as it is about supporting pets. By combining advanced imaging technology, efficient workflows and affordable pricing, we’re enabling earlier diagnosis and better outcomes

for patients.”

CVS rebrands MiNightVet out-of-hours service as CVS Vets 24/7



CVS has announced that its MiNightVet out-of-hours services will now be branded CVS Vets 24/7, “creating a clearer and more consistent identity for emergency and overnight veterinary care across its UK network”.

The new name, says the group, reflects its commitment to providing accessible, high-quality veterinary care whenever pets need it, while strengthening awareness of the dedicated emergency and out-of-hours services available to both CVS practices and referring veterinary practices; the 24/7 brand “will make it easier for pet owners and veterinary professionals to identify and access out-of-hours services, while reinforcing the connection between first opinion, emergency and referral care within CVS”.

The new brand will be rolled out across CVS out-of-hours sites, communications and digital channels by the end of August.

New quality improvement project to advance equine asthma care



CVS Equine has launched a new equine asthma quality improvement project aimed at enhancing the diagnosis, treatment and long-term management of equine asthma across its practices.

As a first step, the group is asking veterinary surgeons, nurses and client care teams to consistently record equine asthma as a formal diagnosis within their clinical management system, to allow accurate identification of cases and support detailed review of real-world treatment approaches across the division.

The project will then move into a structured review of current prescribing and management strategies, alongside environmental and owner-led management factors. Findings will directly inform the development of updated, evidence-based clinical guidelines for equine asthma, led by CVS Equine specialists.

The initiative also aims to strengthen the role of veterinary nurses in the ongoing management of horses with asthma, recognising the importance of long-term monitoring, owner education and environmental management alongside medical treatment.

In addition, the project will consider emerging evidence around treatment efficacy and sustainability, including growing discussion within both veterinary and human medicine regarding inhaled therapies and their environmental impact.

Once sufficient data have been gathered and reviewed, the group will introduce updated equine asthma guidelines across the division, with plans for continued audit and evaluation to ensure changes translate into improved patient outcomes.

'Career-defining' development plan for group's care co-ordinators



Independent and family run veterinary group Harrison Family Vets has launched a new development plan for its care co-ordinators (CCs), offering a clear career pathway for learning, progression and leadership.

Harrison Family Vets now has 10 practices and employs more than 100 people, including a 30-strong team of CCs who recently enjoyed a trip to Cannes for CPD and to mark the launch of the new CC Development Plan.

During the three-day trip, the teams attended various training sessions, as well as touring Virbac's main manufacturing site and global headquarters located outside Nice at Carros. Afterwards, the group enjoyed a private catamaran tour of the French Riviera.

Harrison Family Vets now has three tiers of development with everyone starting at level one. Those wishing to participate in the optional programme can then progress to level two by completing Fear Free accreditation, the British Veterinary Receptionist Association's (BVRA) foundation course, a written assignment and attending Harrison Family Vets' in-house CC training day.

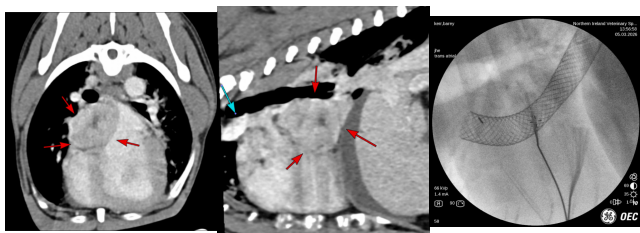
Level two CCs will also have at least 18 months' experience working at Harrison Family Vets and to reach level three, CCs with at least three years' experience will spend several days working at another practice within the group and at its head office, attend the BVRA's congress and complete at least two of the organisation's training courses. They will also organise a social or team building event for colleagues at their practice.

Each level includes a salary increase and those reaching level three will earn 'much more than the industry average', as well as having the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities

and managerial roles tailored to their individual skills and career goals.

Harrison Family Vets launched in 2021, opening its first practice in Woodley near Reading before expanding into Kingswinford at the start of 2022. Since then, the family-owned group has opened in Manchester, Middlesbrough, Doncaster, Wigan, Leeds, Stoke, Sheffield and Newcastle.

Referral centre delivers 'life-saving transatrial stenting' through multi-specialist collaboration



The specialist-led cardiology team at Hillsborough Veterinary Specialists has successfully resolved a complex case of Budd-Chiari syndrome in a nine-year-old

soft-coated Wheaten terrier.

Presenting with a three-month history of refractory ascites, Barney was referred to cardiology Specialist Julie Hamilton Elliott, whose investigations revealed a 4x3.7cm cardiac mass located between the right and left atrium. This mass was causing significant compression of the caudal vena cava as it entered the right atrium, leading to the severe hepatic venous congestion and fluid accumulation that had previously failed to respond to medical management.

To address this life-threatening obstruction, the team opted for a minimally-invasive, fluoroscopic-guided transatrial stent procedure, which involved accessing both the right jugular and left femoral veins to perform a contrast angiographic study, which mapped the exact extent of the neoplastic vascular obstruction. Using a series of specialised catheters and guidewires, the team deployed a woven Nitinol stent through the right atrium, creating a patent channel from the caudal to the cranial vena cava.

Repeat angiography confirmed immediate restoration of flow; Barney made a “seamless recovery” and was fit for discharge to his owners 24 hours after the procedure.

The Hillsborough team collaborated with cardiology Specialists Kieran Borgeat (Bristol Veterinary Specialists) and Liz Bode (ChesterGates Veterinary Specialists), alongside anaesthesia support from Specialist anaesthetist Delphine Holopherne-Doran (Bristol Veterinary Specialists) and diagnostic imaging consultation with Nuria Corzo-Menendez (VetOracle Teleradiology).

At his two-week re-evaluation, Barney showed “a complete resolution of his ascites and a return to his normal self”, with thoracic radiographs confirming the stable position of the stent.

Moores Orthopaedic Clinic expands to support growing demand for specialist orthopaedic care



Independent orthopaedic referral practice the Moores Orthopaedic Clinic has opened a new extension that provides additional consulting rooms, expanded reception facilities and increased kennel space.

The barn extension was always “part of the clinic's long-term vision” when it first opened its doors three years ago; as referrals have grown, the team has transformed the space into a

“welcoming new reception” with separate waiting areas for dogs and cats, three additional consulting rooms and extra kennel facilities, creating more capacity.

Clinical director Andy Moores says: "When we opened Moores Orthopaedic Clinic three years ago, it was always our ambition to develop this part of the building. We're delighted to now be welcoming clients into this fantastic new space. The extension has allowed us to create an environment that reflects the high standard of care we strive to provide while giving us the capacity to support more pets and referring practices in the years ahead."

Veterinary hospital in Hampshire celebrates two decades of care



Hampshire-based veterinary hospital Anderson Moores Veterinary Specialists is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The practice, in Hursley near Winchester, first opened its doors in September 2006 with three clinicians and two veterinary nurses.

Twenty years on, the specialist referral hospital employs more than 160 people, including specialist vets, residents, veterinary nurses and support colleagues.

Elaine Chivers, out-of-hours team leader, has been part of Anderson Moores since it first opened while its longest-serving vet, James Grierson, head of surgery, has been part of the team for 16 years.

Services span neurology and neurosurgery, oncology, internal medicine, orthopaedics, soft tissue surgery, diagnostic imaging and physiotherapy.

The practice's anniversary coincides with its Feline Hyperthyroid Clinic's 10-year celebration. The clinic first opened to patients in November 2016 and has since treated almost 1,300 cats from across the area.

Classical music calming patients in practice's new cattery



A West Yorkshire veterinary practice is “comforting frightened felines with soothing classical music”.

Palmer & Duncan Vets in Ossett reports that Classic FM is played in the new cattery, which has dim lighting and pheromone plug-in diffusers and is located well away from the sound of barking dogs. The team has also created a cat-only consulting room to minimise the scent of dogs, while feline patients are offered a choice of litter in their trays and food and water are served in a selection of different types of bowl.

Veterinary nurse Jo Wood, who holds an ISFM Certificate in Feline Nursing, said every detail had been designed with cats' well-being in mind: "We want every cat to feel as relaxed and comfortable as possible from the moment they arrive. By creating a calmer environment, we're not only improving their experience, we're also helping to reassure their owners that their pet is in the best possible hands."

"Simple changes, such as playing soothing classical music, having a dedicated cat-only consulting room and keeping them away from barking dogs, can make a real difference. It's about understanding what matters to cats and adapting our care around their needs."

Merseyside practice achieves Silver iiE accreditation



A MERSEYSIDE veterinary hospital is proving it cares for the planet as much as it does for pets after embracing a greener way of working.

Rutland House Vets in St Helens, which also has practices in Widnes, Gateacre, Haydock, Huyton and Warrington, reports that it has significantly reduced its carbon footprint and cut waste as part of its commitment to sustainability.

The practice has now been awarded Investors in the Environment (iiE) Silver status in recognition of its success in improving environmental

performance and embedding sustainable practices across the business.

Among its achievements, the practice has reduced the use of anaesthetic gas during operations by 17%; staff travel between branches has also fallen by 17%, while gas consumption has been reduced by 5%.

Vets, veterinary nurses, receptionists and support team members have all played their part, the practice reports, embracing a range of recycling initiatives covering everything from paper to clinical waste. A dedicated sustainability group was also established to drive environmental improvements and help the practice achieve its iiE award.

Rutland House is a part of VetPartners, which says it is committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045, with targets accredited by the Science-Based Targets Initiative (SBTi); it was also the first veterinary group to provide 'Zero Waste Boxes' for more than 300 of its sites in England, Scotland and Wales.

Rutland House practice manager and clinical director, Janie Clare, said: "Our team has fully embraced our sustainability initiatives, and it's been fantastic to see everyone working together towards a common goal. We've had a really

positive response from clients, and we're looking forward to building on that support as we continue introducing new ways for our practice and community to make a difference.”

From first shift to firm friends: a lifelong friendship shaped by emergency care



The date is forever etched in the memories of Samantha MacGregor and Isla Sutton-Peat, writes Bill Gibb. It was a chilly November day in 2019, and the pair met for the first time as they each started full-time vet nursing careers at Vet

Now's Dundee clinic.

They bonded not just over their experience as newbies on that night shift - but also their shared love for all things Disney! Since then the pair, who have become the firmest of friends, have been to Disneyland Paris more than 30 times. They have also supported each other's careers, with Isla now principal nurse manager at the busy Dundee clinic and Samantha as an area resource manager.

Isla graduated from Edinburgh Napier University in 2016, working in orthopaedics at IVC Evidensia's East Neuk Vets before wanting to further expand her nursing knowledge. Having experienced ECC with some Sunday locum shifts at Vets Now, she jumped at the chance when a full-time role came up.

Samantha, meanwhile, graduated from the College of Animal Welfare in 2017 and worked in small animal practices in Edinburgh before wanting to do something new and moving to Vets Now. Both clearly recall that first night as full-time 'newbies'.

"I knew a few of the team from my locum shifts and remember thinking Samantha was really quiet and hoping she'd come out of her shell," says Isla.

But it was the Mickey Mouse connection that was to break the ice and establish a bond.

“Isla mentioned she liked Disney, which I did too, and that was the start of a really good friendship,” Samantha says.

The two nurses instantly took to ECC and relished the teamwork and camaraderie always present during sometimes demanding shifts. Samantha, in particular, appreciated the support as she was totally new to emergency medicine.

“We had double-up shifts where necessary, which was so helpful,” says Samantha. “I remember a few months in taking charge when a dog crashed after coming in with a GDV. We got it back and I walked away feeling great about leading a team and making a difference.”

While she too made that difference, Isla wasn’t as sure about ECC and left to try a couple of other jobs before returning to Vets Now. “It wasn’t until I saw the skills I had developed being used on other jobs that I realised how much I knew,” she says. “But I wasn’t getting challenged as much as I liked, and it took me stepping away to appreciate that I was actually pretty good at ECC. It gave me the confidence I didn’t have before and to know that this is where I should be.”

When she returned in January 2026, she did so as PNM at Dundee, a role that Samantha had previously held before a new opportunity arose.

“I became an area director, covering maternity for a year, before going back to PNM briefly and then the area resource manager job came up,” Samantha says. “I’ve always wanted to learn new skills and get out of my comfort zone, so taking on leadership roles definitely did that.

“There were skills from being PNM that I could take into being area manager and there are skills from that which transferred to becoming area resource manager. There has been a real career progression, and that often isn’t the case for nurses in the veterinary sector.”

Samantha, who lives in the Perth area, oversees 10 clinics in the south of England, looking after rotas, staffing and all their resources. “I love supporting the teams and being able to talk things through as I know just what they’re dealing with,” she says. “Much as I loved the clinic, working from home is really suiting my lifestyle.”

And equally, Isla is relishing her PNM role and being at the cutting edge of clinic life. “I graduated 10 years ago now and I was definitely ready to take on a senior role. This felt right and with all my experience I knew I had every

chance to succeed.

“If I was going to learn new management skills, I’d be doing it somewhere I felt comfortable. And at the end of a shift I feel I’ve really done my job, fixed things and even saved lives.”

Vets Now is committed to staff having good work-life balance and the flexibility of days off means the pair probably see more of each other than ever than when they worked together. That gives lots of scope to indulge their Disney passion.

“We are two self-confessed Disney adults,” laughs Isla. “We’re just back from Disneyland Paris, which was my 17th time in three years and Samantha’s 14th.

“We love the food, the rides and a hug from a character. We don’t need to be grown-ups, and we don’t need to be boss ladies. You can put your Mickey Mouse ears on and no one know who you are. Being in clinic or out, our jobs have such emotional impact, so it’s like therapy.”