

# LSVN NEWS

## Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing Newsletter

March 24 - Issue #1



### Lynwood Launches Newsletter

Welcome, and thank you for reading our very first newsletter. Future editions will be released quarterly. Feedback and comments welcomed.

You can contact us on 01305 264140 or email us at [school@lsvn.co.uk](mailto:school@lsvn.co.uk)

### Topics in this issue...

Upcoming Training Events for professionals  
Recent Exams  
Meet Steve: The Bionic Dog by Clare Webb  
Learner-Led Charity Work  
Time Management and Communication  
Mental Health tips  
Upcoming Equality, Inclusion, and Diversity  
Staff highlight  
LSVN Alumni – where are they now?



### Key Dates!

#### Cohort Dates

8th April 2024 - April 2024 cohort starting

21st June 2024 - Sept 2024 Application

Deadline

19th July 2024 - Sept 2024 Group induction  
day

#### Training Dates

13th June 2024 - Clinical Supervisor training  
event

26th June 2024 - Standardisation event at  
LSVN



### Clinical Supervisor Training

If you are a veterinary professional looking to enhance your supervisory skills or support a student in the workplace, this session will be suitable for you! Also a valuable refresher for those who have not had a student for 12+ months.

**Available on 13th June, and 6th August 2024**

### MOCK OSCE Days

If you are a current Clinical Supervisor, we invite you to join us for the day to act as a mock OSCE examiner for our students' mock practical exam session.

The next Mock OSCE day will be **2nd July**.

### Standardisation Event

This mandatory session is specifically designed for those in the veterinary field to exchange ideas about standardisation practices in a relaxed and informal setting. Please enquire if you are a clinical supervisor or practice principal.

Standardisation events happen three times a year, our recent virtual session was on 27th March, and our next session will be **face-to-face on 26th June 2024**.

All of our events are bookable on Eventbrite  
**[www.lsvn.co.uk/  
events/](http://www.lsvn.co.uk/events/)**







# Recent Exams!

**Paper 5— Monday Group**

**Paper 2— Tuesday Group**

**Paper 3— Wednesday Group**

**OSCEs— 19 learners in February**

**Professional Discussions— 6  
learners in March**

**EPAs— 2022 ANAs**

**CONGRATULATIONS ALL!**



# Meet Steve

## The "Bionic Dog"

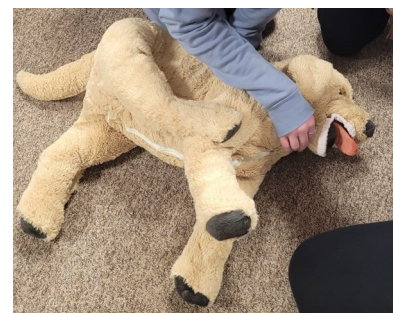
If you haven't heard about Steve yet, you are in for a treat! In late February, Clare Webb, one of our consultant lecturers, brought Steve to meet the LSVN team, and students!

Made collaboratively between Clare and her husband, Steve is a fully functional training model with:

- ⇒ a Bluetooth speaker for his heartbeat
- ⇒ a partially deflated rugby ball to simulate chest compressions,
- ⇒ and even a water pump and circulatory system for I.V. access!
- ⇒ A simulated wound on his leg can even haemorrhage!
- ⇒ Steve's lungs are made of old drip bags and inflate when ventilated.

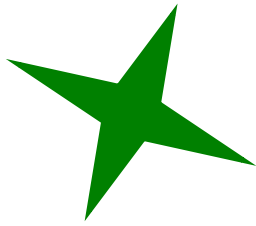
As if he wasn't impressive enough, remote controlled lights around his mouth can simulate cyanosis and other conditions at the touch of a button.

The students had a great learning experience with him and he will no doubt continue to be a valued consulting member of LSVN going forwards!





# Charity work led by learners



## ♦ Dorset Wild Bird Rescue

The Wednesday Group completed a successful campaign! Many thanks from Sandy.



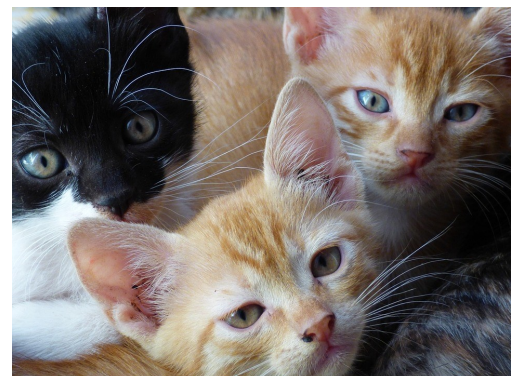
## ♦ Pets as Therapy

Though the weather has not been ideal for a pet picnic yet, Monday group are still determined to go ahead with this! Updates to follow after SSLC on April 12th (please contact your student rep for more info)



## ♦ Cat Watch Rescue Wiltshire

The Tuesday group has kicked off their campaign for Cat Watch Rescue, this will involve a collection for items to donate. Posters can be seen around the school with more details.



# TIME MANAGEMENT



Students will have recently received an update to the student behaviour policy via OneFile, and been asked to upload their declaration that they have read and agree to this policy update to their OneFile profile (please get in touch if you are struggling with this).

Effective time management is the goal, with LSVN's latest policy advising that any student who is more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted into a class session until after the morning break.

Students who are late need to call ahead if they can and speak to staff in the main office when they arrive.



# COMMUNICATION

Both the Employer Survey and Learner Voice survey have been active this month, and the responses are encouraging! Employer feedback has been 94.5% positive overall, and responses are still coming in from the learner voice survey, thank you! The LSVN team are busy working on ideas to implement suggestions received as a result of the surveys.

In progress at the moment is the creation of forums on OneFile—one for each cohort! This will allow learners to discuss their learning and ask questions in a public forum at a time convenient to them, and also allow tutors to respond and share information!

One learner feels that LSVN would benefit from an anonymous suggestion box, which will be discussed further at SSLC on April 12th with the Student Reps.

A general reminder to all learners that Tutors are always happy to go over topics again, and answer specific questions—So please ask!

Thank you again to all who took part in the surveys..





## Tips from VetPartners On Mental Health and Wellbeing

- ✓ Take a moment to think about today
- ✓ Acknowledge *one* thing that was difficult on your working day - let it go
- ✓ Be proud of the care you gave today
- ✓ Consider *three* things that went well.
- ✓ Check on your colleagues before you leave - are they OK?
- ✓ Are you OK?
- ✓ Your team are here to support you
- ✓ Now switch your attention to home - *rest and recharge*

More info: [nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/stress/](https://nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-health-issues/stress/)





# Equality, Inclusion, and Diversity

Dates to put in your diary! Let's celebrate together!

March 11th-8th April: Ramadan

March 29th-1st April: Easter

March 30th: World Bipolar Day

March 31st: International Transgender Day of Visibility

## What else is on in March?

Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, Endometriosis Awareness Month, National Nutrition Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Women's History Month

April 2nd-8th: World Autism Awareness Week

April 6th: International Asexuality Day

April 7th: World Health Day

April 10th: Eid al Fitr

April 22nd: Earth Day

April 22nd-28th: MS Awareness Week

April 23rd: Passover

April 26th: Lesbian Visibility Day

## What else is on in April?

Autism Awareness Month  
Stress Awareness Month  
Bowel Cancer Awareness Month  
Irritable Bowel Syndrome Awareness Month  
Parkinson's Awareness Month

May 1st-7th: Deaf Awareness Week

May 4th: National Fitness Day

May 13th-19th: Mental Health Awareness Week and Dementia Action Week

May 16th: Global Accessibility Awareness Day

May 17th: International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia, and Biphobia

May 20th-26th: Epilepsy Awareness Week and Learning at Work Week

May 21st: World Day for Cultural Diversity

May 26th - 2nd June: National Epilepsy Week

May 31st: World No Tobacco Day

## What else is on in May?

Stroke Awareness Month  
Veterinary Nursing Awareness Month  
Celiac Awareness Month  
Mental Health Awareness Month





# STAFF HIGHLIGHT

For this newsletter, we are highlighting our visiting Veterinary

Nursing officer: Kris!

You will see him around as he carries out practice visits— be sure to say hi!



## Fun facts about Kris!

- Originally trained as a gas fitter after school
- Started his RVN career by volunteering at Southfield Vets
- Completed his Level 3 diploma at LSVN and was Student of the Year!
- Worked in a few different practices in both support roles and as an area manager before returning to LSVN as our Visiting Veterinary Nursing Officer in 2023.

Thank you Kris for your hard work!



**SCHOOL OF  
VETERINARY NURSING**

# ALUMNI - Where are they now?

## Emily Pearce



*Emily with her Dachshund, Dyllis*

I first studied at LSVN in 2016 and completed the Level 2 Animal Nursing Assistant course alongside volunteering in practice. This course was a great way for me to gain the skills and knowledge needed to start working in practice and become a vital member of the veterinary team. After a few years in practice, I started the Level 3 Veterinary Nursing Diploma with LSVN in 2019.

The school supported me throughout my studies right up until I qualified in 2022 when I became a Registered Veterinary Nurse. After leaving LSVN, I have completed several CPD courses in my area of interest – Canine Behaviour.

I am now the Dog Friendly Advocate for my practice and I have set up Confidence Clinics for nervous dogs to help with muzzle training, handling for examinations and vaccinations. I am currently studying to achieve a Level 5 Diploma in Canine Behaviour in order to become a behaviourist in the future to help improve both the lives of dogs and their owners.

I have also recently returned to LSVN to become a clinical supervisor for one of our student nurses. I am very grateful for all the guidance and support during my studies at LSVN as it has helped me achieve my dream of becoming a Veterinary Nurse.

# ALUMNI - Where are they now?

## Sadie Best

Becoming a fully-fledged Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) has been an incredible journey, one filled with passion, dedication, and the unwavering support of Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing, which has played a role in shaping me into the nurse I am today.

During my time at Lynwood School, I was immersed in a dynamic learning environment that perfectly balanced practical experience with academic study. I juggled full-time work at two Lynwood Veterinary Group practices and did one day at college. This approach not only deepened my knowledge but also gave me the confidence to pursue my dream career.

Guided by a team of dedicated lecturers, covering everything from anatomy and physiology to animal welfare and lab work, the engaging lectures and informative sessions provided me with the tools to help me through the course. I found the lectures to be engaging and the sessions highly informative.

Now, as a fully qualified RVN, I've recently embarked on a new chapter in my career, joining a fantastic team at a new vet practice. Surrounded by supportive colleagues, I continue to expand my skills and knowledge.



I'm incredibly grateful for the invaluable support of Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing, which has equipped me with the skills and confidence to now excel in my roles. I'm honoured to be part of this noble profession. With my newfound knowledge and determination, I'm excited to continue making a positive impact in the lives of animals and their owners for years to come.



# ALUMNI - Where are they now?

## Paul Nicholson



“Hello, my name is Paul Nicholson – I am 34 years old, and I am a qualified Veterinary Care Assistant (VCA).

“I started my journey in the Veterinary profession in March 2010. I have always had a big passion and loved and cared for animals. I had many different species growing up as a child including horses, rabbits, hamsters, goats, pigeons, hens, dogs, and fish. I always toyed with

the idea of working with horses or small animals and could never decide. I attended my local equine college, completing a National Diploma in Horse Management and my BHS Stages 1 and 2, before working on a livery yard and riding school teaching for 3/4 years.

“I was asked by my equine vet whether I would be interested in working in the veterinary industry, as I was “always a good hand”. As it’s something I wanted to do as a child, I considered this and applied for a position in a local mixed veterinary practice dealing with farm, equine and small animal patients. This contained a variety of mixed shifts: days, nights and out of hours (OOH). I found OOH very interesting and thought this work suited me best, so I applied to work for Vets Now as part of their team doing OOH emergency work. I really enjoyed the work; even though these shifts were evening shifts and weekends, I didn’t mind at all as I loved the OOH work. You never knew what was going to come through the door or what emergency was going to be on the end of the phone. After working here for 3 years gaining a lot of experience, I went on to work for PDSA OOH service as an Animal Care Assistant.

“At PDSA as an Animal Care Assistant I used to work 2-3 nights a week, on a 12 hour 8pm-8am shift pattern including weekends working. This included working alongside the Vets Now team also, as they operate inside the PDSA building and covered PDSA OOH. As an Animal Care Assistant within PDSA, I was responsible for OOH emergency calls, liaising with the vets regarding calls and logging calls on patients’ files, feeding and watering inpatients, changing bedding, toilet breaks for inpatients, cleaning and packaging instruments, stock replenishment for the next working day and general cleanliness of the building. I worked here for 5 years before deciding to apply for an Auxiliary Nurse (VCA) position within Westway Veterinary Group, part of Vet Partners.

# ALUMNI - Where are they now?

## Paul Nicholson

“After being a successful applicant for this position in 2018, my shifts included working Monday to Friday shift work, and 1 in 5 Saturdays and 1 or 2 Sundays per year at their main hospital. I found this quite a change from doing OOH emergency work to general first opinion practice – not only the culture of work between OOH and day practice, it was getting used to working through the day too! I really enjoy my role working within Westway, they are very supportive and always want the best out of their staff.

“After working here for 2 years, in 2020 I applied for a Senior Auxiliary Nurse position within the company. This broadened my knowledge and skills massively from a line manager’s point of view; I got to be part of interviews, training new Auxiliary nurse members, engage with the RVN team more and be part of practice meetings. Since then, I have also completed my distance learning apprenticeship with Lynwood School of Veterinary Nursing, enabling me to become a qualified VCA.

“I worked as a Senior Auxiliary Nurse for 2 years, and then in 2022 a brand-new position within Westway became available – Head Auxiliary Nurse. I applied for this position and was successful. After being in this position for 1.5 years, I have enjoyed every minute. I am still learning the role as it has so much scope and the business have really invested into the position. Westway are the only company I have worked for who offer CPD allowance for support staff, so this enabled me to further my knowledge. I have completed my bronze, silver, and gold award within Colourful CPD which has been fab. I’ve also attended London Vet Show with the company, which was a fantastic opportunity for the business and for myself, as I am enabled to utilise any knowledge I have learned across my role.

“A lot of VCAs often want to progress and go onto doing veterinary nursing – but for those who don’t, that’s fine – they can shine within their role as a VCA! The VCA role is a massive part of the veterinary team as we do such versatile things which include reception duties, admissions, discharges, inpatient care, theatre float, clipping and prepping patients, cleaning and packaging instruments, dealing with enquiries and telephone calls, inpatient care, assisting vets for blood samples, lab work including microscopy, running blood and urine – and so much more.

“I often look back over my time within the veterinary field and never ever imagined to be where I am today. Hard work and dedication have really paid off, with massive support from Vet Partners and Westway for the career progression.”

