

Thursday, 21th September 2023, conference day 1

VN education in Sweden and Masters degree, *Johanna*

VN as a PHd student, *Anneli Rydén*

Anneli earned her veterinary nurse degree at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). She defended her PhD in Veterinary Nurse Science at the same university. Currently, Anneli is teaching veterinary- and veterinary nurse students in anaesthesia and anaesthesia care at SLU. Anneli's overall research interests is within perioperative anaesthesia care on dogs, cats, horses, exotics and on pigs as a research animal model.

The Veterinary Nurse PhD journey

In Sweden A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is a four-year project. A big part of the process is improving yourself as a researcher, demonstrating this through your writing, and defending this in your final oral exam. In this presentation, I want to share my experiences during these years and hope to inspire more veterinary nurses to start a PhD journey.

Anneli Rydén



Collecting data to run clinical audits, *Emily Hall*

Emily qualified as a veterinary surgeon in 2007 then worked in small animal first opinion practice. Emily taught veterinary nursing at Nottingham Trent University, then joined the Royal Veterinary College in 2021 as a Lecturer in Veterinary Education. Emily's research interests include heat-related illness in companion animals and preparing veterinary professionals for primary care practice.

Using Big Data from veterinary patient records to generate evidence-based triage tools

This session will outline how the Hot Dogs (Canine heatstroke education for dog owners) team have used the VetCompass research database to develop an evidence-based clinical grading tool for heat-related illness in dogs. The VetCompass research database collects deidentified electronic patient records from primary-care veterinary practices around the UK, providing access to over 10 million individual canine records. These records can be searched used keywords in both the clinical text and treatment records to identify specific patients, treatments, or presenting disorders for research purposes. As heat-related illness is a relatively uncommon condition in the UK, a population level dataset (such as VetCompass) was needed to gain access to sufficient case numbers in order to conduct an epidemiological study exploring the incidence, fatality rate and risk factors for heat-

related illness in UK dogs. By reviewing the clinical presentation and treatment records of over 800 dogs presenting to UK vets with heat-related illness, we were able to generate a dog specific clinical grading tool that aims to improve the recognition and management of heat-related illness. This presentation will outline the practical application of the VetCompass database for conducting quality improvement research projects that aim to improve patient care and identify key client education strategies.

Emily Hall MA VetMB PGCAP MRCVS MRSB SFHEA



Making assessment meaningful – the art of MCQ writing, *Jude Bradbury*

Jude qualified as a veterinary surgeon from the University of Liverpool in 2010. After working in clinical practice for ten years she transitioned into veterinary education, initially teaching veterinary nurses at Nottingham Trent University before moving on to work in the education department at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons as the Examinations Manager. In January 2023 she joined the Royal Veterinary College as a Senior Teaching Fellow in Primary Veterinary Care.

Jude Bradbury, BVSc CertAVP(SAM) FHEA MRCVS



Innovation as a key driver for better economic performance and mental health, *Finn Kristensen*

With a foundation in the science of nature, many veterinary nurses find it difficult and stressful to master soft topics as marketing and innovation. With the clients behaving more and more like animal parents, the nurses are up to new and different challenges at the desk.

To provide great customer service and to stay alive mentally in the industry, it is necessary that the nurses can handle the dynamic processes of communication and innovation. In this speak I will tell how we at HANSENBERG work with the nurses mindset and change is from victim to entrepreneurs.

Join this session if You are looking for an out of the business point of view, and some good advice on what to do, to improve both economy and daily mental health for both vets and nurses.

Finn Kristensen - Non veterinary background from logistic, economy, project development, fundraising, ICT, and teaching. Diploma of Vocational Pedagogy, current teacher at HANSENBERG within communication, marketing, economy, innovation and ICT.



Friday, 22th September 2023, conference day 2

Vet4VN – conclusion project, *Angelique Withaar, Nienke Dijkerman*

VET4VN project-Vocational Education and Training for Veterinary Nurse Students

Nienke Dijkerman and Angelique Withaar are both veterinarians and teach veterinary nurses at Zone.college in the Netherlands. As project partners of the Vet4VN project, funded with K2 Erasmus, we would like to tell you about this project.

It's being said that in politics, most ideas and decisions are made outside the boardroom. Why should it be different with teachers and their projects and creativity? We, the project partners of VET4VN, experienced the same. We do have to thank the board of VETNNET for organizing the annual conferences, because the project partners' cooperation started at those conferences! Many, many years, teachers from our organizations visited the conferences. They met and got to know each other better every year. And then, in Cambridge in 2017, we decided to make the first small steps that would later turn out into this KA2 project.

VET4VN is the abbreviation of Vocational Education and training for Veterinary Nurses. In the project "Vet4VN" six schools from four different European countries have worked together for three years. These are the schools involved: Taitotalo (Helsinki, Finland), Hansenberg (Kolding, Denmark), BIC (Ljubljana, Slovenia), Aeres (Leeuwarden, Netherlands), Terra MBO (Meppel/ Emmen/ Groningen, Netherlands) Zone.college (Doetinchem/ Deventer/ Zwolle/ Almelo/ Hardenberg, Netherlands).

The work field of the VN is changing at an incredible speed. Big changes are seen in technology, medications, ICT innovations, role of the clinics in human health, and customer behavior. The work field of veterinary nurses is becoming more and more internationally oriented. We see the urgency to cooperate more internationally, in order to better equip the students for this trend.

In this project we worked on four intellectual outputs: An ECVET unit/ unit of learning outcomes; An ECVET unit manual/ unit to develop and work with learning outcomes during exchange of students; A Work-Based learning manual; A distant learning and coaching manual.

Those outputs are worked out by comparing educational systems, relevant literature, and experiences of student's activity pilots. The outputs are meant to be of great help to other educators. As always,

both the process and the products developed are valuable for the future. We like to tell you about our process and the products we developed.

For questions or additional information, please contact one of the project applicants:

Angelique Withaar – withaar@zone.college

Nienke Dijkerman – ndijkerman@zone.college



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



Show and tell: BVNA – Vet nursing journal, *Nikki Ruedisueli*

An evidence based veterinary nursing education, *Lisbeth Hektoen*

Associate professor, Norwegian University of Life Sciences.

Chair of studies at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and responsible for the study programs in Veterinary medicine and Veterinary nursing.



The transfer from school to practice and an overview of survey, *Laura Infanti*

Reinforcing the position of the Dutch veterinary nurse in the clinic.

More than ever, well-functioning veterinary nurses are essential to cope with the acute shortage of veterinarians and the high workload within clinics. Yet one in five veterinary nurses plans to leave the profession within five years, according to our research. The main reasons that are given for leaving the field are lack of appreciation and recognition which is reflected in salary, opportunities for professional growth and professional relations and communication.

Laura Infanti, applied psychologist and veterinary nurse , commissioned by St. Anna Advies



Introduction and organisation of a national veterinary technicians competition – Veticus, *Alja Bordon*

Alja is a veterinarian teaching at BIC Ljubljana. She teaches theoretical veterinary subjects, such as Animal feed and Cynology and also practical work. She enjoys working with motivated students that always cheer her up. Alja likes to spend her spare time active, preferably outdoors with her dog Zigi.

Besides teaching, her professional development includes being part of different national and international projects and therefore she is looking forward to her presentation at the Vetnet conference 2023.

Alja Bordon



Discussion on OSCE training and examination – What do you do at your school? *Alison Simpson*