

Dear Reader



Happy New Year to everyone and welcome to the January 2021 issue of the VNJ. I hope you have all recovered from your Christmas and New Year festivities; they were certainly very different this year.

Lily survived her first Christmas but Luci wasn't so sure that he likes sharing presents with her. I'm afraid that I have bought her a coat to try and keep the mud off her (Figure 1); she

is definitely not a lady as she loves scampering through puddles; the muddier, the better. I have always said that I wouldn't have my dogs in coats. Even though she is a whippet cross, she has a decent thickness of hair on her, it must be the Bedlington coming through. Luci came to us with a bright, yellow, duck raincoat (Figure 1). As you can see, it is a little tight across the chest. He is being a typical Staffy and carrying big branches that he finds to show how strong he is – bless him.

This issue will be slightly bigger than normal so we can catch up with the amazing articles we had submitted for December and January. Thank you to all those people who submitted their work, I enjoyed talking to many of you and I hope that now you have done it once, you will keep submitting such interesting content.

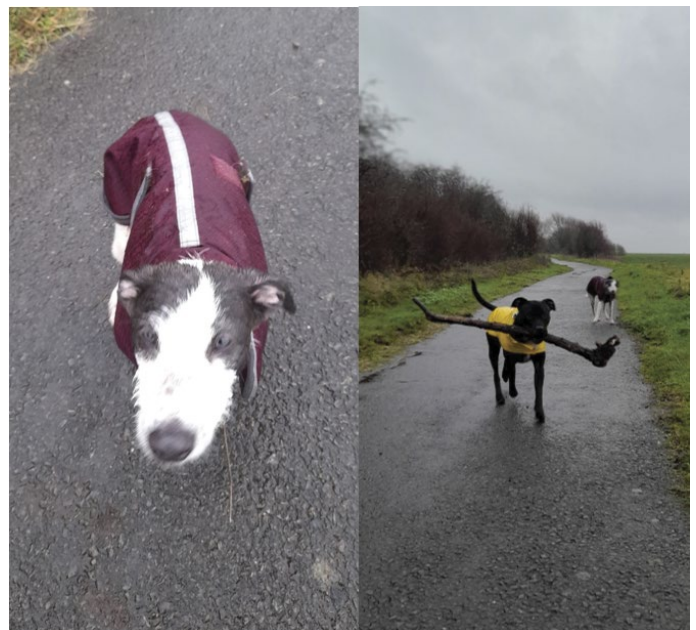
If you would like to write for us but feeling a little bit worried by it, please contact me at nicola@bvna.co.uk and we can arrange a time for a chat. I know I keep saying it, but we can't publish any journals unless you submit articles to us. Have a look at Table 1 below to see topic ideas for each month and their deadlines, we like at least two articles on the feature topic if possible, plus other content of interest.

The BVNA Council will be hard at work this year attending the many working groups on behalf of our members. The Council represent the veterinary nursing profession and it is important that you contact us (council@bvna.co.uk) to let us know your view point. As our new President, Jo Oakden said in her presidential speech, having your say makes a difference, look at how far the veterinary nursing profession has come in the last 10 years. You can be a part of what happens to our profession. Here are the working groups that Council Members are part of:

- VN Futures is a project supported by both the BVNA and RCVS. The BVNA President and Junior Vice President sit on the Board with Belinda Andrews-Jones and Matthew Rendle. Phase one of the project will be completed December 2021 when you will have the opportunity to engage with new working groups for phase two. More information available on: [VN Futures](#)
- RCVS Diversity & Inclusion working group aims to breakdown barriers with regards to selection, recruitment and retention to encourage more diversity within the profession. More information available on: [RCVS Diversity & Inclusion working group](#)
- Practice Standards Scheme working group is a steering committee chaired by a representative of the RCVS and comprising representatives from all of the major veterinary and veterinary nursing organisations in the UK. It is responsible for setting and reviewing

the Scheme's standards, rules and inspection protocol (these recommendations being subject to ratification by RCVS Council) [Practice Standards Group](#)

- International Veterinary Nurses and Technicians Association (IVNTA); a federation of national veterinary nurse/technician associations. It seeks to; foster and promote links with veterinary nursing/technician staff worldwide by communication and co-operation, raise the international profile of veterinary nurses and technicians, and raise the standard of veterinary nurses and technicians internationally. [IVNTA](#)
- RCVS Legislation working party. The Working Party is conducting a thorough and wide-ranging review of the legislation with a view to making a coherent set of recommendations to the Department and to Government in due course. The LWP ensure that the vision for the future of veterinary legislation is given proper consideration; proposing a list of principles on which any new legislation should be based and giving consideration to a more comprehensive piece of legislation that could incorporate allied professions and the regulation of veterinary practices. [LWP](#)
- British Veterinary Association (BVA) Council represents members views on matters of veterinary policy and includes four affiliate representatives from the BVNA, VPMA, AVTRW and BVLGBT. [BVA Council](#)
- RCVS Mind Matters Taskforce; meets to discuss the project and its progress, acting as a sounding board for ideas, a facilitative group for promotion and communication, and providing assistance and services (either in kind or financially). The Taskforce typically meets twice a year. More information can be found on [Mind Matters Taskforce](#)
- Links Group's vision is a world free from abuse of people and animals. They raise awareness of the link between the abuse of people and animals through support, training and inter-agency working. [Links group](#)
- Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG) was created in 2001 to combat growing concerns regarding the irresponsible advertising of pets for sale, rehoming, and exchange. The Group



▲ Figure 1. Lily in her raincoat (left). Luci in a raincoat (right)..

comprises animal welfare organisations, trade associations and veterinary bodies. [PAAG](#)

- Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC) is a registered charity and the regulatory body that represents animal trainers, training instructors and animal behaviour therapists to both the public and to legislative bodies. It sets and maintains the standards of knowledge and practical skills needed to be an animal trainer, training instructor or animal behaviour therapist, and it maintains the national registers of appropriately qualified animal trainers and animal behaviourists. [ABTC](#)
- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR Scotland) was formed with the aim of providing leadership and engaging with key stakeholders to develop and deliver a coordinated, quality-driven approach to a genuinely 'One Health' initiative, combining human health, farm and companion animals, wildlife, the environment, food and water. [Scotland's healthy animals](#)
- All Party Parliamentary for Animal Welfare group (APGAW) is an all-party group made up of MPs, Peers and associate animal welfare organisations or groups with a specific interest in this area. The aim of the Group is to promote and further the cause

of animal welfare by all means available to the Parliaments at Westminster and in Europe. APGAW seeks to influence the development and introduction of effective wide-ranging legislation to improve welfare and also acts as a discussion forum of politicians and welfare experts to look at areas of concern. [APGAW](#)

- MSD Research Bursary (judging panel) MSD Animal Health offers a range of research bursaries for veterinary students, veterinary surgeons and student & qualified veterinary nurses. The awards are focused on supporting innovation and research within the veterinary industry, which is viewed as the lifeblood of the veterinary profession. [MSD Research Bursary](#)

I hope 2021 brings you all that you hope for.

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Table 1. Feature topics list

Cover date	Peer review deadline	Feature	Sub section ideas	Student section
January	04.09.20	Equine nursing	Equine nursing Day in the life of an equine nurse	Revision Day in the life of an equine student
February	02.10.20	Pet dental month-	Infection control Dental grading, oral health	Written exams Managing money
March	06.11.20	National pet month	How to advise clients on choosing a pet. Managing specific life-stage/lifestyle pets. Geriatrics.	Practical exams
April	11.12.20	Communication including nurse clinics, dealing with difficult situations	Parasite advice for owners. Communication styles, case studies	Parasite life-stages Team work – communicating with CCs
May	08.01.21	Mental health, mind matters. Awareness of colleague's health.	Mental health first aid, awareness in others Tips for clinical coaches Student wellbeing	Stress/anxiety
June	05.02.21	Rabbits (awareness week)	VN awareness month results Rabbit health and welfare Parasites	Organisation
July	05.03.21	Rehabilitation	Hydrotherapy Day in the life of a physiotherapist Simple physio for 1 st opinion practices	Surviving placement Best case seen so far
August	02.04.21	Diagnostics	How to use and maintain specific equipment Case studies	Things you wish you'd known at the beginning of year one
September	07.05.21	Emergency and critical care	Triage Communication with owner How to work as a team during an emergency	Tips for finding placement Changing placement
October	04.06.21	Behaviour World Animal Day 4 th October	Noise phobia Changes seen in geriatric animals How to manage exotic behavioural issues	Career progression, what can I do with my RVN qualification
November	09.07.21	Anaesthesia and Theatre Practice	Role of the scrub nurse Managing difficult cases – case study based	Keeping track of lectures
December	30.07.21	Nutrition	Clinical nutrition linked to cases Life stage feeding	Work life balance Recipes for meals to keep you going

BVNA Mission Statement

The aim of the British Veterinary Nursing Association is to promote animal health and welfare through the ongoing development of professional excellence in veterinary nursing

The BVNA undertakes to:

- Represent the veterinary nursing profession and specifically its members
- Develop, provide and monitor continual professional development for veterinary nurses
- Provide education and training for associated individuals and allied professionals
- Promote the veterinary nursing profession and work proactively with other organisations and professions to shape its future development
- Disseminate advice and guidance to its members



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