

# Spring News



## Welcome

As we bid farewell to the gloomy winter months and welcome the warmth of spring, Vets Now Glasgow is gearing up for an exciting year filled with new opportunities and a renewed commitment to continuous professional learning.

The upcoming months are set to be bustling with activities and events as Vets Now Glasgow prioritises knowledge sharing and professional development. The hospital has prepared a full calendar of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) events to keep the veterinary community abreast of the latest advancements and best practices in the field.

One of the key initiatives in the coming months is the expansion of CPR refresher sessions. Vets Now Glasgow will be reaching out to partner practices to conduct these vital sessions.

In our Spring newsletter you will find an in-depth discussion with our Emergency and Critical Care team, plus an interview with Paula Bartolome, our surgical intern here at Glasgow.

Vets Now Glasgow remains dedicated to excellence and improvement, prioritising knowledge sharing and professional development to provide the highest standard of care to patients.

**Martin Merifield**  
Relationship Manager



## Welcome to Kara

We are delighted to welcome Kara, our new ECC resident to our expanding ECC team.

Kara studied at the University of Sydney, Australia and worked in both general practice and out-of-hours before moving to the UK in 2022. Kara started her ECC residency at Vets Now Glasgow in January 2024.



# Upcoming CPD events for Glasgow



Click here  
to see all  
upcoming  
events



A recent CPD event

All of our free evening events will be at:  
DoubleTree by Hilton Glasgow Westerwood  
Spa & Golf Resort, 1 St Andrews Dr,  
Cumbernauld, Glasgow G68 0EW

**07/03/2024**  
ONCOLOGY

**Behind The Gluteal Curtain:  
Diagnosis and Management  
of Anal Sac Carcinoma**

With Pamela Martin,  
Oncology Referral Clinician.

**04/04/2024**  
ORTHOPAEDICS

**Straight to the Joint:  
Stabilisation Techniques for  
Traumatic Joint Instabilities**

With Leonor Roses,  
Orthopaedic Specialist.

**07/05/2024**  
MEDICINE

**Streaming Success: The  
Latest Flow of Information  
on Urinary Tract Infections**

With Alex McBrearty, Medicine Specialist.  
The latest insights and advancements in the  
understanding of urinary tract infections,  
providing a comprehensive and up-to-date  
overview of this critical medical concern.

**06/06/2024**  
NURSE

**When it Hits the Fan:  
From Guts to Glory**

Daisy Dickson, Lead Medicine Nurse. Discover the  
nuances of nursing care for chronic GI patients.  
The lecture simplifies nursing interventions  
and nurses' vital contributions to assessing,  
diagnosing, and managing chronic GI disorder.

**05/09/2024**  
OOH

**What Happens After Dark,  
Shouldn't Leave You in the  
Dark: A Guide to Out of  
Hours Care**

With John Sheppard, Lead OOH Veterinary  
Surgeon, and Robin Herrings, OOH Veterinary  
Surgeon. Presenting how the out-of-hours  
departments work nightly through an increasingly  
varied caseload and support partner practices.

**03/10/2024**  
SOFT TISSUE

**Gut Feelings:  
A Surgical Approach to  
Gastrointestinal Crisis**

With Ana Marques, Soft Tissue Specialist.

**07/11/2024**  
ECC

**Crash Course: Picking  
Up The Pieces**

An ECC guide to trauma patient  
management with Cormac  
Dolan, ECC resident. Exploring  
treatment options for critical  
cases such as road traffic  
accidents, impalement,  
and falls from a height.



# Spotlight on...

## Paula Bartolome Surgical Intern

Vets Now Glasgow is proud to contribute to the development of the next generation of surgeons and play a crucial role in shaping the future of specialist clinicians in referral veterinary medicine.



In our recent conversation with Paula Bartolome, our Surgical Intern, we delve into her experiences and gain insights into her placement at Vets Now Glasgow.

“Hi Paula, thank you for joining us today. You have been in post for 7 months now, let's talk about you and your time at our hospital.

### **Can you tell me a little about your background and what inspired you to pursue a career in veterinary medicine?**

Growing up, I was immersed in the world of veterinary medicine as my dad is a vet. From a very young age, I found myself captivated by veterinary surgery, often trying to join him in theatre. The passion for this field ignited during those early experiences, and it became clear to me that I wanted to contribute meaningfully to the veterinary world.

I graduated from the Cardinal Herrera University of Valencia in 2018, and since then I have completed rotating and discipline specific internships, as well as working as a first opinion and as an out-of-hours veterinary surgeon. In 2021, I decided to move to the United Kingdom to pursue further specialization in small animal surgery.

### **How's your placement been so far? What kind of cases or surgeries have you had a chance to work on?**

My placement at Vets Now Glasgow has been incredibly enriching, and I felt a sense of belonging right from the first moment. The entire team shares a deep passion for their work, and there's a collective commitment to providing the best care for our patients.

The diversity of cases we handle at Vets Now Glasgow has allowed me to be involved in a wide range of surgeries, both orthopaedic and soft tissue, spanning routine procedures to emergency interventions. This exposure has been invaluable in honing my skills and broadening my understanding of veterinary surgery.

What sets our hospital apart is not only the variety of cases but also the exceptional facilities available. Working alongside specialists in other departments provides a holistic approach to patient care.

This collaborative environment allows for a thorough assessment of each case, ensuring that we can deliver the highest standard of care.

### **Are you settling into the hospital routine comfortably? Any interesting or challenging experiences you've had while adapting to this environment?**

I have found myself settling comfortably into the hospital routine at Vets Now Glasgow, thanks to my prior experience in a rotating internship at the Vets Now hospital in Manchester. The shared ways of working between the two locations have facilitated a smooth transition.

Adapting to this environment has presented its challenges, but each one has been met with a sense of reward. One notable aspect has been the increased case responsibility, which has been both challenging and immensely fulfilling. The opportunity to take on more responsibilities has allowed me to further

develop my skills and decision-making abilities. Despite the increased responsibility, there is always a strong framework of supervision from experienced clinicians. This balance has made the experience invaluable, creating a supportive learning environment where I can grow as a veterinary professional.



Paula in surgery

**What made you choose the path of becoming a vet? Was there a specific moment or reason that pushed you in this direction?**

Seeing my dad's dedication to providing compassionate care, witnessing the intricate procedures, and understanding the profound impact that veterinary surgery has on the well-being of animals, inspired me to follow in his footsteps.

The unconditional and unequal love that animals provide is truly special, and I've always felt a strong calling to contribute to their health, happiness, and overall well-being. The innate connection between humans and animals is a source of joy and comfort, and I wanted to play a role in preserving and enhancing this bond.

**It can be tough work at times. What keeps you motivated and excited to come to work each day?**

Maintaining motivation in our demanding profession is crucial, and for me, it hinges on the importance of working in a healthy environment.

At Vets Now Glasgow, the emphasis on creating a workplace where each individual feels valued and an integral part of the team

has been a driving force. The veterinary profession undoubtedly comes with its share of stress and challenges, but the presence of a supportive team makes a significant difference. Knowing that we are surrounded by colleagues who understand the demands of the job and are committed to each other's success creates a positive and uplifting atmosphere. The collaborative and encouraging spirit within the team serves as a daily source of motivation.

**Are there any specific surgical procedures or aspects of surgery that you find particularly fascinating or fulfilling?**

I find both emergency surgeries and routine procedures equally fascinating and fulfilling. While the urgency and complexity of emergency surgeries are inherently captivating, I also place significant value on routine surgeries that aim to improve the quality of life for our patients.

For example, I find procedures such as BOAS surgery and surgical strategies to manage elbow dysplasia to be exceptionally rewarding. These routine surgeries play a pivotal role in enhancing the well-being and comfort of our patients. Witnessing the tangible difference that these procedures make in improving their quality of life is truly gratifying.

**In what ways do you feel you've been growing and learning as a surgical intern at the hospital? Any valuable lessons or skills you've gained?**

My time as a surgical intern at Vets Now Glasgow has been a dynamic and enriching learning experience, extending beyond the realm of surgery. The multidisciplinary nature of the hospital environment has allowed me to gain valuable insights into various facets of veterinary medicine.

One notable aspect of my growth is the exposure to emergency and critical care, anaesthesia, internal medicine and imaging, among other specialties. Collaborating with interns and residents from diverse specializations has been instrumental in this broadened knowledge spectrum.

The unique opportunity to work in a multidisciplinary environment has taught me the importance of seamless collaboration among different specialties. It has enhanced my ability to approach cases comprehensively, considering various aspects of patient



health and well-being. This broader perspective not only contributes to my growth as a surgical intern but also fosters a well-rounded skill set that I believe is crucial for providing the highest standard of care.

**What's been the most challenging aspect of your internship, and how have you been tackling it?**

I think communication is always the part of the surgical process that you need to get right every time. You want your client to be well informed with a realistic and honest discussion. It can be very challenging conversation at times. I have been tackling this by looking at the example set by the clinicians and management within the hospital, how they can react but also customise these moments to give the clients what they need with professionalism. It's incredible to watch the impact of good communication on the client experience.

**Lastly, what do you hope to achieve or take away from this experience as a surgical intern, both professionally and personally?**

On a personal level, I hope to carry the friendships and professional relationships forged during this time. The colleagues and friends I've made here have become not only mentors but also important figures in my life. Their dedication, passion, and commitment to the veterinary profession inspire me daily, and I aim to maintain these connections as lifelong references and friends.

Professionally, my overarching goal is to advance towards achieving an ECVS residency in small animal surgery. This experience has been pivotal in refining my surgical skills, broadening my knowledge, and exposing me to a multidisciplinary approach to veterinary care. The aspiration for a residency aligns with my commitment to continuous improvement and learning. I aim to become the best surgeon I can be, providing the highest quality of care that our pets deserve."



# Case Study



**Emergency and Critical Care:**

**AHDS**

**Tanvi Kamat BVM&S BSAVA PGCertSAECC MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon talks us through AHDS, how our ECC department approaches these cases and we meet Haggis and look at his recovery.**

**Acute Haemorrhagic Diarrhoea Syndrome (AHDS)**, previously called haemorrhagic gastroenteritis (HGE), is a commonly seen gastrointestinal disorder in dogs presenting to emergency clinics. Over the past 3 months, the Emergency and Critical Care (ECC) specialist service have successfully treated 14 critically ill patients with AHDS.

Symptoms typically include haemorrhagic diarrhoea, vomiting/regurgitation (with or without blood), inappetence and lethargy.

Often, a specific cause is not found, however, differentials can include viral infections (e.g. Parvovirus), parasitic infections (e.g. Giardia duodenalis), bacterial infections (e.g. Clostridial spp), dietary indiscretions and inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) amongst others.

Treatment of such cases, where an underlying cause is not found, involves supportive management through the provision of analgesia, anti-emetics and fluid therapy. As large volumes of fluid and protein can be lost into the diarrhoea, some dogs may require intensive resuscitation with crystalloid fluid therapy and plasma transfusions are often also required.

The prognosis for these cases is generally good however, unfortunately, some patients can develop complications such as functional ileus, sepsis, aspiration pneumonia or septic shock among

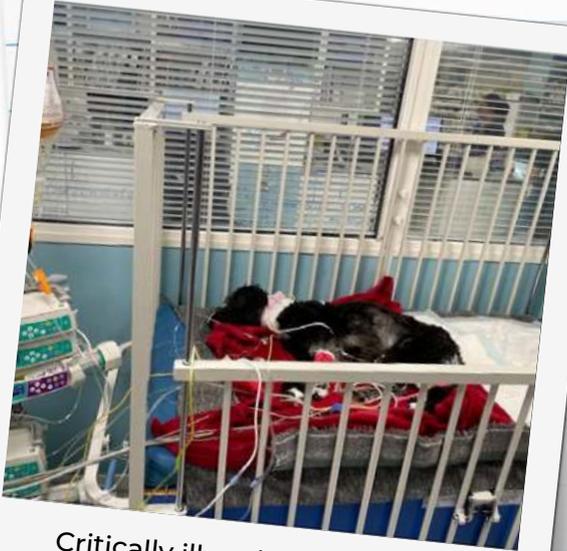
others. In such complex cases, the use of antibiotics as well as vasopressor and inotropic support may be required.

The use of point of care ultrasound (POCUS) can be invaluable in assessing these patients and monitoring response to fluid therapy. Dogs who develop significant ileus with AHDS can require feeding tubes to be placed to facilitate the provision of enteral nutrition and the use of prokinetic medications.

Sometimes, however, severe ileus can lead to recurrent regurgitation and intolerance of enteral nutrition. In these rare cases, total parenteral nutrition (TPN) can be required, and the placement of a central intravenous line will be necessary for its safe administration.



**Frozen plasma transfusion being administered for an AHDS case**



Critically ill patient with AHDS receiving TPN via a central line

During the administration of TPN, the animal's resting energy requirements (RER) are provided via intravenous nutrition.

Once the RER is calculated, the requirements are split to provide protein, fat and carbohydrates in the form of amino acids, intralipid and glucose respectively. Lipid and water soluble vitamins are also added to supplement micronutrients and these patients also receive supplementation of potassium chloride, magnesium sulphate and phosphorus. The central line allows us to provide these concentrated solutions safely.

Haggis is an adorable Cocker Spaniel puppy who presented with symptoms of AHDS. He was diagnosed with parvovirus. Haggis required multiple frozen plasma transfusions as part of his fluid resuscitation plan and a nasogastric feeding tube to provide enteral nutrition until he was eating by himself.

## Client Testimonial

"This little guy has given us the fright of our lives. Last week after a couple of vet appointments, Haggis was referred to the Vet Hospital where he spent one night in a regular ward before they had to put him in ICU. The poor thing contracted Parvoviral Gastroenteritis and was really poorly. He's had blood plasma transfusions, antibiotics, lots of pain relief, had to be fed through a tube for a few days too – you name it. All at just under 6 months old.

We've had some very worrying conversations with the Vet over the 4.5 days he went on to spend in ICU but the wee soldier continued to fight and has made an (almost) full recovery. We are so so proud of our boy and absolutely delighted to have him home. Just need to keep him entertained indoors for a couple of weeks, get him finished on his medicines and slowly get some more meat on his bones as he's lost a good bit of weight.

Can't express enough how fantastic the team at Vets Now Charing Cross have been, especially Lara the ICU Vet. Also our amazing Vets [@hyndlandstreetvet](#) who are always fantastic. Our hearts are full again."



Haggis home and recovered.

Giving people and their pets the care and support they deserve, at the time they need it most.

# Vets Now Glasgow Hospital

We are proud to accept referrals for all of our specialist services:

- Emergency and Critical Care
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Internal Medicine
- Anaesthesia
- Nutrition
- Oncology
- Orthopaedics
- Soft Tissue Surgery



Call our friendly team on **0141 237 7676**



Click here to refer  
your case today

**Vetsnow**  
Hospital  
Glasgow