

Day 1 – RVC Camden campus	
08:30 - 09:00	Registration and welcome refreshments
09:00 - 09:05	President's welcome address <i>Monica Bando, outgoing President of the AVTRW</i>
09:05 – 09:20	80th Anniversary conference opening and welcome to the Royal Veterinary College <i>Professor Stuart Reid</i> <i>President & Principal of the Royal Veterinary College</i>
<u>Session 1: Veterinary Education</u> <i>Chair: TBC</i>	
09:20 – 10:05 Invited keynote	Back to the Future: Competence, Reflection, and AI <i>Ms Perdi Welsh</i> <i>Director of School of Veterinary Nursing, Royal Veterinary College</i>
10:05 – 10:20	Listening to the Student Voice: Investigating medicine and veterinary medicine student and staff perspectives on curriculum co-creation at the University of Nottingham. <i>Jack McCrum, University of Nottingham</i>
10:20 – 10:35	Perspectives on Physical Disability Inclusion in the Veterinary Profession: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Veterinarians <i>Kirsty Chalmers, University of Glasgow</i> AVTRW Acorn Award for undergraduate research presentation
10:35 – 10:50	Fit to practice? How can we best structure support for veterinary students with chronic illness and disability on clinical rotations? <i>Jess Reynolds, University of Nottingham</i>
10:50 – 11:15	Refreshment break

11:15 – 11:30	Investigating the influences of owner behaviours towards indoor resource provision from current multi-cat households with the comparison of indoor-only and indoor-outdoor cats <i>Bibi Tuken Tegi, Royal Veterinary College</i> AVTRW Acorn Award for undergraduate research presentation
11:30 – 11:45	Public Engagement at the Royal Veterinary College <i>Grace Mackintosh Sim, Royal Veterinary College</i>
11:45 – 12:00	Development of a digital pathology algorithm to assess myocardial fibrosis in captive chimpanzees (Pan Troglodytes) <i>Kirsty Doughty, Royal Veterinary College</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Comparative Effectiveness of 2-Dimensional Images, 3-Dimensional Fabricated Models, and Computer-Generated 3-Dimensional Images in Veterinary Anatomy Education: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Study <i>Pamela Carlton, University College Dublin</i>
12:15 – 12:30	Knowledge, Skills and Attitudes of Healthcare Science Students Towards Ecopharmacovigilance <i>Bryony Shaw, University of Nottingham</i>
12:30 – 12:45	The impact of work place culture on clinical outcomes <i>James Russell, University of Nottingham</i>
12:45 – 13:45	Lunch break <i>Poster presentations and tour of the anatomy museum</i>
<u>Session 2: Welfare</u> <i>Chair: TBC</i>	
13:45 – 14:45 Panel Discussion	The Future of Animal Welfare Science <i>Panel discussion chaired by Dr Louise Whatford, Lecturer in One Welfare, Royal Veterinary College</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Stepping Towards Sustainable Sheep Foot Health: One Health One Welfare Framework <i>Katarina Malgo, Royal Veterinary College</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Relocating Non-Ambulatory Cows: A Preliminary Report on a Novel Handling Technique <i>Rachel Hayton, Synergy Farm Health</i>

15:15 – 15:30	Mapping the single-cell transcriptomic landscape of canine (neuro)endocrine neoplasms: Implications for welfare-focused precision oncology <i>Phoebe Y.K. Chan, Royal Veterinary College</i>
15:30 – 16:15	Refreshment break <i>Poster presentations</i>
16:15 – 16:30	Engineered Pulmonary Artery Tissues (EPATs): A Novel Alternative to Using Animals in Research <i>Hassan Chaudhry, Royal Veterinary College</i>
16:30 – 16:45	Incidence of and outcomes following non-fatal musculoskeletal injuries in jump racing Thoroughbreds in Great Britain <i>Sophia McDonald, Royal Veterinary College</i>
16:45 – 17:00	I feel your pain: individual differences in welfare indicators after castration in horses <i>Carrie Ijichi, University of Lancashire</i>
17:00 – 17:15	CareCompass: supporting veterinary decision-making through a social model of contextualised care <i>Bluebell Brown, Royal Veterinary College</i>
17:15 – 17:30	Defining the Age-Related Proteome of the Thoroughbred Suspensory Ligament <i>Jasmine Servant, University of Liverpool</i> AVTRW Acorn Award for undergraduate research presentation, sponsored by the HBLB 
17:30 – 17:45	Pilot study: Development of a 3D cell culture system for equine tendon microvascular cells <i>Cheuk Yin Law, Royal Veterinary College</i>

17:45 – 18:00	A Hand-Assisted, Less Invasive Approach to Umbilical Vein Resection in Foals <i>Adel Katalin Auth, University of Glasgow</i>
18:05 – 19:00	AVTRW Annual General Meeting <i>Hybrid meeting, all are welcome to attend</i>
19:00 onwards	Conference social evening <i>Drinks reception followed by dinner at the Royal Veterinary College</i> After-Dinner Speech: Celebrating 80 years of the AVTRW <i>Ken Smith, Royal Veterinary College</i> <i>The social evening is generously sponsored by the Royal Veterinary College</i> 

Day 2 - ZSL Institute of Zoology	
08:30 – 08:55	Arrival and refreshments
08:55 – 09:00	Welcome to the second day of the conference <i>Jess Reynolds, incoming President of the AVTRW</i>
Session 3: Wildlife and surveillance <i>Chair: TBC</i>	
09:00 – 09:45 Keynote	Wildlife Disease, Surveillance, and Mitigation – A Personal Journey <i>Professor Andrew Cunningham, Deputy Director of Science at the ZSL Institute of Zoology</i>
09:45 - 10:00 Invited speaker	Post-Mortem Demonstration Overview <i>Dylan Yaffy, Zoological Society of London</i>
10:00 - 10:15	Medetomidine, midazolam, and neuromuscular blockers in Nile crocodiles (<i>Crocodylus niloticus</i>) <i>Hannah Hayter, Royal Veterinary College</i>
10:15 – 10:30	A review of pathological lesions and/or molecular identification of parasites found in zoo-housed gastropod molluscs <i>Tom Bunn, Royal Veterinary College</i>
10:30 – 10:45	Development and Evaluation of a Body Condition Score System for the Royal Python (<i>Python Regius</i>) <i>Deyi Yang, Royal Veterinary College</i> AVTRW Acorn Award for undergraduate research presentation, sponsored by Science for Animal Welfare (previously UFAW) 

10:45 – 11:00	The prevalence of endoparasites and treatment efficacy in commonly kept Macropodidae species within UK zoological collections <i>Catherine Basford, University of Liverpool</i> AVTRW Acorn Award for undergraduate research presentation
11:00 – 11:15	Refreshment break
11:15 – 11:30	Role of Dense Granules in Eimeria spp. intracellular lifestyle <i>Daisy May Bright, Royal Veterinary College</i>
11:30 – 11:45	Feline chronic gingivostomatitis (FCGS) in cats under primary veterinary care in the UK within VetCompass: Epidemiology and clinical management <i>Hayley Shone, Royal Veterinary College</i>
11:45 – 12:00	VetCompass Epidemiology and Clinical Management of Tick Infestation in UK Cats <i>Marisa Marino, Royal Veterinary College</i>
12:00 – 12:15	Using serological approaches to investigate incursions of non-notifiable low pathogenic avian influenza virus into UK poultry over a 10-year period <i>Georgina Ward, Animal & Plant Health Agency</i>
12:15 – 12:30 <i>Invited speaker</i>	Post-Mortem Demonstration Findings <i>Dylan Yaffy, Zoological Society of London</i>
12:30 – 12:45	Evaluation of Medetomidine-Butorphanol-Alfaxalone as Part of a Multimodal Approach to General Anesthesia in Columbiformes <i>Kyra Reid, Royal Veterinary College</i>
12:45 – 13:00	Patterns of antimicrobial resistance in equine Escherichia coli: findings from the REIN In AMR surveillance initiative (2023–2025) <i>Charlotte Barber, University of Cambridge</i>
13:00 – 13:30	Lunch break

Session 4: Pathology, forensics, and surgery*Chair: TBC*

13:30 – 14:15 Keynote	Re-examining the Familiar: Integrating Traditional Forensic Methods into Wildlife Crime Investigations <i>Dr Alexandra Thomas, Conservation Training Manager, Durrell Conservation Trust</i>
14:15 – 14:30	Causes of mortality and indicators of poor welfare in pet rabbits: a retrospective comparison of forensic and diagnostic post-mortem cases submitted to the Royal Veterinary College between 2013-2025. <i>Maisa Korchi, Royal Veterinary College</i>
14:30 – 14:45	Expression Profile of Splenic Messenger RNA in Dogs with Non-Associative Immune-Mediated Haemolytic Anaemia <i>Rachel McDonnell, University College Dublin</i>
14:45 – 15:00	Time until contralateral rupture in QMHA patients presenting with cranial cruciate ligament rupture <i>Finley Westwood, Royal Veterinary College</i>
15:00 – 15:15	Evaluation of Surgical Management and Outcomes of Right Auricular Appendage Masses at the QMHA <i>Disha Nagari, Royal Veterinary College</i>
15:15 – 15:30	Survival to discharge of splenic torsion cases seen at the QMHA <i>Jasmine Chong, Royal Veterinary College</i>
15:30 – 15:45	Characterisation of alkaline phosphatase enzymes in the cat small intestine <i>Rona Zhou, Royal Veterinary College</i>
15:45 – 15:50	Short break
15:50 – 16:00	Conference closing <i>Presentation of the award for best first presentation</i>
16:00 onwards	Opportunity to explore London Zoo

Ms Perdi Welsh

Director of School of Veterinary Nursing, Royal Veterinary College

Perdi Welsh is the Director of Veterinary Nursing at the Royal Veterinary College, where she has spent much of her career shaping how veterinary nursing and veterinary students develop, demonstrate, and reflect on their professional competencies. She established the UK's first veterinary Clinical Skills Centre at the RVC and led the creation of the BVetMed Day One Skills before going on to design the College's online suite of distance-learning qualifications in Advanced Veterinary Nursing.

Perdi's work continues to focus on how professional competency, and practice can be meaningfully developed through assessment that supports the growth of confident, capable practitioners. She is now exploring how emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, will reshape the skills and capabilities expected of future veterinary professionals. She is also an Editor for The Veterinary Nurse.

Dr Louise Whatford

Lecturer in One Welfare, Royal Veterinary College

Dr Louise Whatford is a Lecturer in One Welfare at the Royal Veterinary College. Her work explores the connections between animal welfare, One Health, One Welfare and sustainable food systems, with a particular interest in how animals are represented, valued and included in decision-making. With a keen interest in sheep research, her research and teaching span livestock health and welfare, systems thinking, animal ethics, and the role of animal welfare science in shaping more sustainable and just ethical futures.

Professor Andrew Cunningham

Deputy Director of Science, ZSL Institute of Zoology

Professor Andrew Cunningham is a veterinary surgeon who has worked at the Zoological Society of London since 1988, initially as veterinary pathologist and latterly as Deputy Director of Science.

Andrew's research includes investigating infectious and non-infectious disease threats to wildlife conservation, including the drivers of disease emergence and zoonotic spill-over. Andrew discovered a new epidemic ranaviral disease of amphibians in Europe, and he published the first definitive report of the global extinction of a species by an infectious disease. He has led several international and multi-disciplinary wildlife disease research projects, including the investigation of vulture declines in South Asia and the international team that discovered the chytrid fungus that is currently causing global amphibian population declines and extinctions, for which he was awarded a medal by the CSIRO in Australia.

In 2010, he won a Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award for his work on zoonotic viruses in African bats and in 2016 he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. In 2025 he was awarded the British Veterinary Association's Advancement of Veterinary Science award (Dalrymple-Champneys cup and medal). He was a first term member of the Quadripartite's One Health High Level Expert Panel, and a member of the WHO/Europe One Health Technical Advisory Group. He currently sits on the British government's Wildlife Disease Core Group and on their One Health Vector Borne Disease surveillance group.

Dr Alexandra Thomas

Conservation Training Manager, Durrell Conservation Trust

Dr Alexandra Thomas leads the development and delivery of conservation-focused training programmes at the Durrell Conservation Trust. Her work centres on knowledge exchange and growth within conservation teams and supporting practitioners working closest to biodiversity challenges.

Alongside her role at Durrell, Dr Thomas conducts independent research specialising in the application of human forensic science to wildlife crime. Her work examines the underutilisation of established forensic techniques, such as touch DNA and fingerprint analysis, and identifies best-practice methods for their effective integration into wildlife crime investigations. A strong advocate for cross-disciplinary collaboration, she works closely with forensic specialists, law enforcement, and academic researchers to promote holistic, evidence-based approaches to tackling wildlife crime.

Committed to empowering those on the front lines of conservation, Dr Thomas designs training programmes that prioritise knowledge exchange, practical skill-building, and multi-stakeholder developed solutions. Her approach emphasises evidence-based frameworks and meaningful partnerships, ensuring that training is both scientifically robust and grounded in real-world needs.