IN THIS ISSUE

BVA Live 2024

How to make the most out of EMS

Calling all final years!

Other news and opportunities

BVA Live 2024

Charlotte Jones

President

Once a year, the NEC Birmingham hosts BVA Live. Spread across two days, the event boasts a wide range of world-class speakers from the small animal, equine and farm sectors. This year members from the AVS committee flocked from all over the country - even driving from Glasgow - to attend the show.

There were 9 theatres total, including the BVA interactive zone which hosted a range of debates such as ‘CMA Review - good or bad for the profession?’. From rabbit anaesthesia to equine standing surgery, there truly was something for everyone.

As if that wasn’t enough, there were tonnes of exhibitors with the highest quality of freebies! To name but a few, I came away with a free kong toy for my labrador, the sharpest bandage scissors in a pretty little case, tiny notebooks perfect for EMS and about 100 different types of pens. There were also plenty of edible freebies such as ice cream, coffee and cocktails too!
I had the pleasure of speaking this year on a panel hosted by Olly King from The Meraki Initiative, alongside Sophie Eaden and Claire Hodgson. We spoke about what is involved in a good clinical EMS placement, and some of the common pitfalls practices go through. It was interesting to hear from the audience - primarily practice owners and practising vets - as to what practices currently do to ensure students feel comfortable. It was also discussed the ways we can improve EMS for students with different needs, or from traditionally marginalised or underrepresented communities. Affinity Futures do some fantastic work surrounding this, and their website has a plethora of information to read through.

BVA Live is a fantastic opportunity for students to start to integrate with the wider profession. This year BVA had an application for an ‘educational bursary’ waiving the full fee of the ticket for those successful...with this in mind, the event is highly accessible for students! The event will once again come to Birmingham on the 12-13 of June 2025, so register your interest now for further updates.

How to make the most out of EMS

Jack Conway
Senior Vice President

EMS offers invaluable experience and opportunity to improve clinical and work up skills as well as networking within the veterinary industry. After completing 20 weeks of EMS and finally graduating vet school, there are a few things I’ve picked up on to make your EMS placements a bit more interesting and useful!

Set Goals

One of the best tips I learned during EMS was to set 3 goals that you want to achieve and write it on the whiteboard at the practice. This can be anything from surgery skills to client communication to working up cases. Then during your two weeks, focus on those goals. This allows you to have a focus during your weeks to improve on those few things you want to improve on. For example, for the weeks I was at a practice, I wanted to improve my surgical skills and handling, client communication, as well as vaccine consults.
The one thing I hear vets complain the most about is when a student comes in first day, never having been to the practice before and immediately wants to do a solo bitch spay. Chances are it’s never going to happen. Most practices will let you do surgery etc IF you build up trust with them beforehand. Take time to get to know the team, do the small things like cleaning a table, helping with catheters – show the vet and the practice that you are able to take responsibility and the chances of you being able to get in on the surgery are higher.

Let’s face it, you’re not used to standing all day. Use that chair, sit down when you can. If you need a break or a drink let the vet and staff know – there’s nothing wrong with a break! Your wellbeing is just as important. As long as you keep the vet / practice updated with what’s going on than it should be fine.

Vets are rushed off their feet – we’ve all seen it. But it is important to talk about cases and reflect on what you have seen. Why did they do this, why did it happen that way, what else could have been done? Make sure to do this at an appropriate time. Vets need their breaks too.

Honestly, some of the best EMS placements are ones I still keep in contact with. I know they will answer questions if I need help and will help me out in any situation. This may even lead to jobs. It also will open several doors in the future – from job offers to extra opportunities within the veterinary world. I probably wouldn’t have got my job without the networking from EMS.

Overall, EMS is a great way to improve and network – when done correctly by both the practice and the student. With these few tips, you can maximise your time and learning at EMS to enjoy it further.
We’re here to help as you transition from student to qualified vet. Rely on us to keep you up to date with the latest developments in our fantastic, ever-changing profession. From day one, feel supported with:

- Contract checking, 24/7 legal advice and resources in our BVA Employment Hub.
- Help navigating conversations around pay and flexibility with our expert guides.
- CPD from world class journals Vet Record and In Practice, delivered to your door or device.
- Plus, FREE personal accident insurance for every new grad member.

Read more about benefits of being a BVA member at [bva.co.uk/graduates](http://bva.co.uk/graduates). Pre-order your [grad gift here](http://gradgift) and receive it when you join or renew as a [Year 1 young vet member](http://year1).
Other news and opportunities

The Student Sustainability Guide
Vet Sustain have put together a Student Sustainability Guide to provide tips and tricks for veterinary and veterinary nursing students to champion sustainability whilst completing their studies. The guide provides suggestions for students to consider while at university during clinical and preclinical placements with EMS hosts. Complete the form found on the Vet Sustain website for a free PDF download of the Student Sustainability Guide!

Meraki EMS Grant Launch - 1st July
At Meraki, they understand how integral clinical EMS is to increase new graduate confidence. As a recognition of the increasing financial pressures vet students are facing, Meraki are launching an EMS grant in collaboration with us here at AVS starting 1st July!

Meraki are giving away a £70 and £30 EMS grant every month for 12 months. See details on the website for how to apply. We can’t wait to see your entries!

JAVS submissions OPEN
Our JAVS editors Phoebe and Jess work on pulling articles from students together to release JAVS ("Journal of the Association of Veterinary Students") twice a year. We’re currently accepting applications for JAVS 2025, which will be released at Congress in Cambridge, February 2025. We welcome all types of articles, from student experiences on EMS to rebuilding the vet community post-covid. To submit or ask questions, please email Phoebe at javseditor@gmail.com.