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Welcome to our 2nd Vet Sustain monthly newsletter!

To all our new members, thank you for joining our community - we're delighted to have you in our fast-growing network.

London Vet Show

This month has flown by in a flurry of meetings, conferences, ideas and interviews. The highlight was attending the London Vet Show where we had the pleasure of meeting some of you in person and were overwhelmed by the support we received. Thank you to those who attended our thought-provoking community mastermind session and made pledges to drive positive environmental and ethical changes in your workplaces.

Should the vet profession declare a climate emergency?

During the show, we also launched a new initiative that calls on the global veterinary profession to declare a climate emergency. Since then, hundreds of people have signed up. If you haven't added your name, you can do so via the link below. Be sure to share it with your network - the more people that add their voice, the more influence we have.

[Sign up to declare a climate emergency.](#)

Help shape the future of Vet Sustain

Finally, we're excited to share with you our Vet Sustain Draft Strategy which is now open for consultation. We're calling for comments from veterinary professionals across our network to help shape the future of our initiative and ensure we have the greatest possible impact.

Download [strategy and consultation guide](#)

We have more initiatives planned for the coming weeks, so stay tuned! And thanks again for

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Best wishes,

Laura Higham & Amy Firth
Vet Sustain Coordinators

PS. For more regular updates you can also join our [Facebook Group](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), join our NEW [LinkedIn](#) group, and visit our [website](#). You can also contact us at vetsustain@hotmail.com if you would like to contribute to our next mailing.

Top News



Regenerative farming: can meat save the planet?

“A growing body of research shows that livestock, managed properly, help build organic matter and store carbon in the soil which is the second-largest carbon sink after our oceans. Livestock can be our biggest tool to build soil but if done badly it's incredibly destructive. But that's a management issue, it's not a livestock issue.” [Read more](#)



Antibiotic usage pledge put forward



Fish farming is on the rise but is there a catch?

The aquaculture sector is booming, with growth outstripping all other food commodities, but has its environmental impact been properly considered? It's both a significant contributor to climate change and will be profoundly impacted by it. [Read more](#)



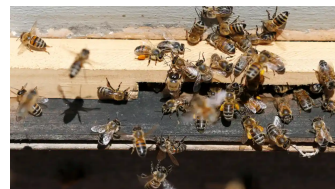
Levy boards respond to BBC's meat programme



Meet the woman saving the great apes of Uganda

Dr Gladys Kalema-Zikusoka, a finalist in this year's TUSK Award for Conservation in Africa, shares her incredible story. Her job is far from glamorous but her research work is essential to the health of Uganda's great apes.

[Read more](#)



'Insect apocalypse' poses risk to all life on earth

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antibiotics in animals has been proposed by a body representing Europe's leading manufacturers of animal medicines, including training for 100,000 vets in responsible medicine use, and investing \$5 million in veterinary training scholarships and grants.

[Read more](#)



Sustainability tips for health professionals

Richard Smith suggests actions that health professionals can take to counter the climate emergency and improve their health, including tips on travel, diet, home, shopping and patient care.

[Read more](#)

the BBC gave an unbalanced and inaccurate view of the environmental challenges facing livestock production in their recent 'Meat: A threat to our planet?' programme.

[Read more](#)



New business model for hill farming

This report, commissioned by the [Royal Society for the Protection of Birds](#), the [National Trust](#) and [The Wildlife Trusts](#), examines how the profitability of upland farming systems can be increased at the same time as protecting the natural environment. [Read more](#)

since 1970 as a result of the destruction of nature and heavy use of pesticides. The report said 40% of the 1million known species of insect are facing extinction. The 'unnoticed apocalypse' should set alarm bells ringing, according to conservationists.

[Read more](#)



World 'may have crossed tipping points'

The world may already have crossed a series of climate tipping points, according to a stark warning from scientists. This risk is "an existential threat to civilisation", they say, meaning "we are in a state of planetary emergency".

[Read more](#)

Latest news from our network



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We launched our 'Vet Sustain Pledges' at the London Vet Show calling on our profession to commit to driving positive environmental and ethical changes in their workplaces. Have you made your pledge? We would love to hear them! Download our [Pledge PDF](#) and don't forget to help spread the word with the hashtag #VetSustain

A CLIMATE EMERGENCY

During the London Vet Show, we also launched our climate crisis campaign which calls on the veterinary profession to declare a climate emergency. Hundreds have added their names but we need thousands. Will you [join us](#)?

STRATEGY CONSULTATION

HELP SHAPE OUR FUTURE

[DOWNLOAD OUR STRATEGY](#)

As a global collective of veterinary professionals, we recognise the value and contribution each of our members brings to our work, which is why we're calling on them to help shape the future of Vet Sustain. Follow the steps below to take part:

- Download our [strategy](#).
- Submit your feedback to vetsustain@hotmail.com by 27 December 2019

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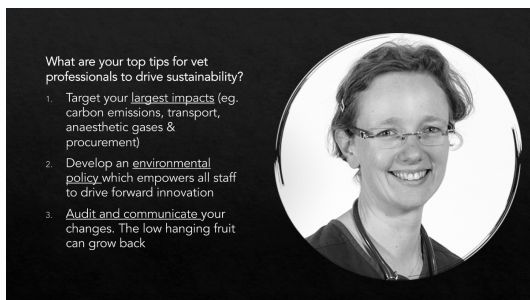
Add 'Vet Sustain' to the subject line

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Inspiration from our profession

In this month's [Day In the Life](#), we caught up with Ellie West, Veterinary Anaesthetist at Davies Veterinary Specialists, who shared her top tips for implementing change in your practice, what keeps her motivated, and managing the work-life juggle.

This month's [blogs](#) from April Sotomayor and Anne Rainbow are packed full of practical tips and words of wisdom about driving the sustainability agenda across our profession. You can also find articles, webinars, interviews and more.



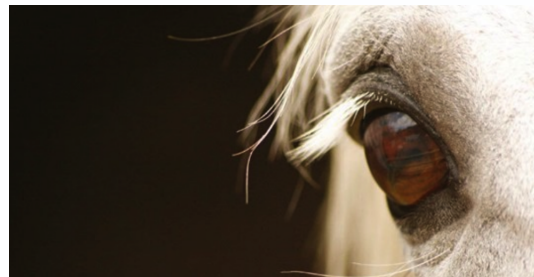
A day in the life of [Ellie West](#), Veterinary Anaesthetist at Davies Veterinary Specialists



April Sotomayor from Investors in the Environment (IiE) makes the case for investing in the environment. [Read more](#)



Anne Rainbow on her career change from vet to climate change activist, to selling solar and batteries. [Read more](#)



'Environmental sustainability in the equine veterinary profession' by steering group member Ellie West and F Malalana. [Read more](#)



Hear from Sean McCormick from Tails in his webinar with the Webinar Vet on 'Pet foods and feeding; ethical, sustainable and welfare concerns'.



Read Vet Sustain's article in Veterinary Practice Magazine this month, 'A fork in the road for the veterinary profession'.

[Read more](#)

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VET SUSTAIN RECOMMENDS



James Rebanks, shepherd and best-selling author of *The Shepherd's Life*, shares the eight tracks, book and luxury item he'd want to take if cast away on a desert island. [Listen now](#)



[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[This environmental book by Jess French is perfect for budding, young ecologists.](#)[Translate ▼](#)

"Everything you need to know about what we're doing to our environment, good and bad, from pollution and litter to renewable energy and plastic recycling."

[Find out more](#)

Free online course: Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Practice

How can good antimicrobial stewardship prevent antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in veterinary practices? Find out on this course. Perfect for veterinary surgeons, nurses and pharmacists with a basic clinical knowledge of antimicrobial prescribing practice. The course has a focus on the UK context but can be applied internationally.

[Find out more](#)

EVENTS THIS MONTH

2 December - Free online course: [Antimicrobial Stewardship in Veterinary Practice](#)

2 December: [Climate Change and Livestock: What next?](#) SCI London

4 December: [Newcastle University Animal Science Conference](#) (free to attend)

4 December: [Sustainable Agriculture Conference: Innovating Change](#), Bristol

2-13 December: [UN Climate Change Conference COP 25](#)

Open for entry: [Aquaculture Awards 2020](#)

FREE online course: [Utilising Social Science and Behaviour Change in Antimicrobial Stewardship Programmes: Improving Healthcare](#)

FREE online courses: [Nature conservation with the National Geographic](#)

BOOK NOW FOR NEXT YEAR

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7-9 January 2020: [Oxford Real Farming Conference](#)

25 January 2020: [SPVS-VMG Congress 2020](#) featuring sustainability streams

30 Mar - 1 Apr 2020: [BSAS 2020 Conference: The Challenge of Change](#)

3 April 2020: [BSAVA Congress](#) featuring sustainability streams

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