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Welcome to the Vet Sustain Network!

Thank you so much for joining our community - we are delighted to bring to you our very first newsletter! It's been a busy month launching Vet Sustain, and we've been overwhelmed by support from our new members from across the world. In recent weeks there's been a global groundswell of activism in response to the climate emergency, and many of you seem to agree that it's time for the veterinary profession to take the lead on sustainability in our workplaces and in the many sectors we influence. We occupy an extraordinary niche at the human-animal-environment interface, which we believe we can leverage further to deliver lasting, positive change in society.

Our [Steering Group](#) is busy behind the scenes developing our Strategy, which we look forward to sharing with you for consultation soon. But in the meantime, we're bringing you information and inspiration including guidance around our six [focus issues](#), and stories from the individuals and organisations working hard across our profession to drive meaningful progress. Enjoy our first newsletter and thank you again for joining the movement!

Best wishes,

Laura Higham & Amy Firth
Vet Sustain Coordinators

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

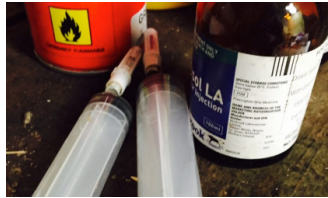
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Top News



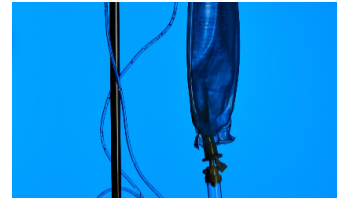
Global Animal Welfare Assurance Launched

On World Animal Day, 4th October 2019, the University of Bristol launched a global farm animal welfare assurance initiative to share knowledge and best practice with farmers and food businesses to increase the proportion of animals farmed to high-welfare standards. [Read more](#)



Vets hail impressive antibiotic sales reduction

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) has welcomed findings from the VMD that sales of antibiotics in food-producing animals have fallen by an impressive 53% between 2014 and 2018. The findings were announced at a recent RUMA Conference in London. [Read more](#)



Can medical care exist without plastic?

Hospitals are filled with sterile single-use plastics. Environmental advocates are looking for less wasteful ways to keep healthcare hygienic, providing some useful parallels for the veterinary sector. [Read more](#)



New metric for the global warming potential of ruminant methane

Ffinlo Costain argues that the focus on ruminant methane in causing global warming is ill-informed and in fact restoration of grass-based systems can result in net-zero emissions from UK agriculture by 2030. [Read more](#)



2019 State of Nature report shows decline in UK wildlife

In their latest report, leading UK wildlife charities report a 13% decline in average abundance across wildlife species studied - a decline that continues unabated. [Read more](#)



Doctors and nurses join Extinction Rebellion

More than 100 doctors, nurses and medical students wearing surgical masks joined the sixth day of Extinction Rebellion protests in London to highlight the health risks posed by climate change. [Read more](#)

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Inspiration from our profession

In our new feature, [A Day In the Life](#), we take you behind the scenes to find out if there is such thing as a 'typical' day for members of the veterinary profession, and how we can all embrace sustainability in our working lives.

We are also showcasing initiatives and opinion from individuals and businesses driving the sustainability agenda across our profession.



A day in the life of vet and Head of Veterinary Programmes at Benchmark, [Ruth Clements](#)



A day in the life of vet and environmental campaigner, [Andrew Prentis](#)



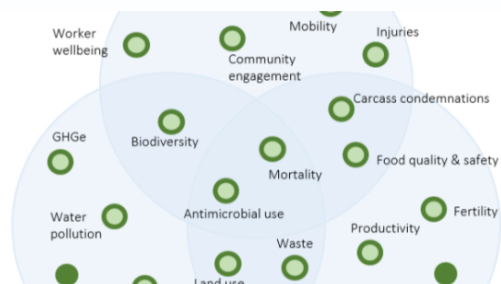
Davies Veterinary Specialists share their experience of transitioning to an accredited sustainable practice. [Read more](#)



Cambridge Cat Clinic share their tips for creating a more eco-friendly clinic. [Read more](#)



Vet and environmental blogger **Jen Gale** talks to insect-based pet food entrepreneur, Tom Neish. [Listen here](#)



Vet and sustainable agriculture consultant **Laura Higham** outlines the case for veterinary leadership in sustainability. [Read more](#)

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Sharon Boyd, aka [The Sustainable Academic](#) explains the concept of climate grief and how to manage it. [Read more](#)



Vet and Agroecology student **Marie Richardson** shares her views about the role of vets in sustainability, with a focus on meat production. [Read more](#)

EVENTS THIS MONTH

3 November: [World One Health Day](#).

5 November: Live streamed discussion with expert panel: *Should City University go meat-free?* [Join here](#)

11–12 November: Wales Real Food and Farming Conference, Aberystwyth University. [Learn more](#)

14–15 November: [London Vet Show](#) including Vet Sustain Community Mastermind Session (now fully booked)

18–24 November: World Antibiotic Awareness Week. [Learn more](#)

21 November: Food Ethics Council 'Food Talks', London. [Learn more](#)

25–26 November: Future Foods: Farming to improve health, Warwick. [Book here](#)

28 November: Antibiotic Stewardship in Animal Health & Food Supply Chains, Manchester. [Book here](#)

Also, look out for the sustainability streams at next year's [SPVS-VMG Congress 2020 on 25th January](#) and at [BSAVA Congress 2020 on 3rd April](#)!

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