

Fostering talent in the veterinary profession

Vets across multiple species, veterinary nurses, receptionists, university staff and industry trailblazers have been recognised in Vet Show 30 Under Thirty – a new initiative that will bring together tomorrow's veterinary leaders...

Vet Show 30 Under Thirty was founded by the London Vet Show, in partnership with Pioneer Veterinary Products, to give tomorrow's veterinary leaders a chance to contribute to industry-wide initiatives. The first alumni – listed on these pages – will be officially inducted in a ceremony at the London Vet Show on Thursday 17 November at 4pm, before an informal networking event the following day. A five-strong judging panel had the task of picking the class of 2022. They were:

- Peter Wright, of The Yorkshire Vet
- Rory Cowlam, TV vet and author
- Clive Groombridge, managing director, Pioneer Veterinary Products
- Julie Northway, RVN
- Jill Maddison, professor of general practice at the RVC

The judges said they were blown away by the quality of applications. It was so uplifting to read about the wonderful achievements of such a diverse range of young vet professionals. The future of the profession is in good hands with all these nominees.

I have very much enjoyed reading and learning about all the achievements our nominees have accomplished in their careers so far. What a strong set of individuals that challenge our industry to be better – we are very proud of them all.

Clive Groombridge
30 Under Thirty is such a wonderful initiative. The veterinary industry has been difficult for all involved

over the past few years, so to see such an amazing array of candidates for this was incredible.

Rory Cowlam
The nominations were all such an inspiring read and it illuminated a bright light of who may help lead our profession forwards. The younger members of our profession are our future, and should be championed and encouraged for their hard work so far.

Julie Northway
Furthering awareness One alumna is Kiah Hann, a veterinary surgeon who works for Medivet Scunthorpe. She has autism and is in a wheelchair. On joining the class of 2022, she said: "It is important to me because

The judging panel...



I am a member of the vet community with a visible disability, and my aim here possible is always to try and further awareness of disability within the community, whether that's visible or not. "There are hundreds of us out there who, with the right accommodations, can

continue to be in practice should we so wish. "We should be supported and have people focus on what we are able to do, and what we are bringing to the profession – not what we're not able to do, especially during times of a recruitment crisis and a retention crisis."

The class of 2022 (listed in alphabetical order)

AMY LEATHER

Amy, a vet at Kings Bounty Equine Practice in Hampshire, "possesses a maturity beyond her years". Her nominator said: "Not only has she shown jaw-dropping clinical skills for someone aged 26, she has also shown a maturity that is only seen in people under the age of 40. "At times it has been easy to forget her age, given the amount of support she has offered to clients and staff, and her clinical skills have caused senior practice members to question their own skills. "Clients describe her as 'special' and the feedback has been at times emotionally moving."

CHARLOTTE GRAHAM

Charlotte is equine therapist at VetCET, and consistently goes above and beyond to promote the service to improve horse welfare, client happiness and job satisfaction for equine vets. Her nominator said: "She has a great depth of understanding of the equine veterinary world, matched with fantastic people skills, a calm and considered manner, and empathy for colleagues and clients. "Charlotte has been involved in everything from copy and creative, to successfully pitching and writing articles for the veterinary press."

DAVID CHARLES

David, a farm vet at Scarsdale Vets, exemplifies what it is to be a veterinary surgeon, according to his nominator. They said: "He is a future leader within the profession, and we eagerly await how this will manifest itself – whether I will be down the business line (he has already launched two sub-brands for Scarsdale, and will launch a clinic later this year), by using his public speaking to effect change, or if he sets his sights on the RCVS. "Anything David has turned his hand to so far has been a success – and he's only just getting started."

GEMMA CROWLEY

Gemma is "such a dedicated and caring, wildlife warrior, and very skilled veterinary nurse". She has volunteered around the world – including working with rhinos in South Africa and saving pangolins in Vietnam – and was her nominator's first choice. "I admire her ethic and determination to create her own path if the opportunity isn't there. Being COO of Vetfit shows her passion for well-being. She is a true entrepreneur in the making."

HOLLY SUTTON

Holly is an associate veterinary surgeon, chief operating officer (COO) at Vetfit, and operations administrator at Vets: Stay, Go, Diversify. Her nominator said: "As a new grad, she realised going part-time was far better – especially as it was risky, but she did it. It has been amazing seeing her develop as she becomes more clinically confident. "I admire her ethic and determination to create her own path if the opportunity isn't there. Being COO of Vetfit shows her passion for well-being. She is a true entrepreneur in the making."

ASHTON HALLWORTH

Ashton moved from Australia to pursue her dream of becoming an exotics specialist. She works at Great Western Exotics in Swindon. She said: "I would love to inspire young vets when they have achieved so far, to show if you love what you do there is no limit to what you can accomplish. "Exotics is a niche part of veterinary medicine, and often one that is shunned. Exotic patients often receive sub-standard care – not from lack of trying by peers, but a lack of knowledge. "My goal is to use my knowledge and skills to educate and guide other vets to best look after exotic patients."

CLARE JONES

Clare is senior veterinary nurse at Hale Veterinary Group in Wiltshire. Her nominator said: "The last year hasn't been easy due to a close friend and colleague having major surgery, and another friend having minor surgery. "In this time, Clare stepped up and spent most of the weeks leading the team while also studying for the Advanced Practice in Veterinary Nursing. "Clare continuously works hard to do the best for the team, and is constantly trying to better herself and further her knowledge for herself and everyone around her."

EMILY COLLINS-WINGATE

A 2020 graduate, Emily is a vet at Westpoint Farm Vets in Winchester. Her nominator said: "I have always been passionate about farm animal practice and wanted to show my dedication to try to open up the conversation about farm practice. I created an Instagram page and have used this to engage with several thousand vet students, graduates and farmers. "So many students discard farm vetting as a potential career option because they aren't from a traditional farming background, so I hope to replace once a day life on farm – and the highs and lows of farm vetting – I can help change that."

GEORGINA JAYNE POWERS

Georgina is head of sales at Medivet Walsby. Her nominator said: "I have known Georgina for more than five years and worked together for this period of time. "Apart from being an excellent nurse and leader able to deal with loads of tasks on a daily basis, she is a person who is future focused. "Her students achieved high scores and became skilled nurses doing their future with love and passion. "Georgina is one who you would want to replace once you worked with her for a while. For me, she is the one and only."

HONOR ROWLEY

Vet Honor joined Daleside Vets as a new graduate in the mid of COVID, but adjusted admirably to the team dynamics and has pursued her learning relentlessly – especially with the usual CPD face-to-face courses available. Her nominator said: "She shadowed, took instruction and is passionate about her role. This includes her excellent patient manner, but additionally with her willingness to mix with all the team and reassure the younger – and, indeed, older – team members. With the usual CPD face-to-face learning from all the nurses, and while learning from them, she has also enthused their confidence."

MOGEN WAINWRIGHT-JONES

As well as working at Crossways Veterinary Group in West Sussex, Mogen has volunteered with StreetVet in Brighton and runs a small art business, through which she reaches out to fellow creative veterinary professionals. She said: "We have so many creative people in our industry, and I'm keen to encourage this as it promotes mindfulness. "I believe the more we interact and learn from each other, the better chance we have of making our profession a more sustainable option for future vets, RVNs and support staff (as well as ourselves)."

JACK PYE

Jack, a locum RVN, qualified in 2018 and has since worked hard to empower fellow nurses. His nominator said: "Jack is a very humble and approachable person, helps and supports so many of his peers, and is an advocate for veterinary nurses – especially in terms of getting staff to reconsider what RVNs are capable of. "I may have taught Jack on the veterinary nursing diploma course, but I can honestly say my student has become my hero and inspiration. Such an incredible achievement before the age of 30."

JADE URQUHART-GILMORE

Jade is passionate about sustainability of the veterinary profession, combining her job at Vet4Pets. Working with being director and communications lead for Vet Sustain. She is also a trustee for British Veterinary Chronic Illness Support. She said: "I am interested in the 'bigger picture' and want to cultivate a sustainable profession suitable for the many people who make it the profession I love. "Jade was described as a "total powerhouse", and someone who "has a passion for making positive changes on a large scale."

JAIME KIEM

Jaime never shies away from a challenge in her role at the British Veterinary Receptionist Association. Her nominator said: "In the time she has been with us, I have seen Jaime grow in confidence and ability, having had no previous experience of working in an operational role. "Jaime has taken on projects that six months ago she never thought she would be capable of doing. She is supportive of members and always on hand to listen to concerns, or to help members with coursework issues."

JAMIE-LEE BRADLEY

Jamie-Lee – a senior vet at Drumshoe Veterinary Clinic, County Londonderry – was described by her nominator as an "exceptionally energetic girl who has come to our clinic and encouraged a very deflated staff, pioneered new ideas and brought a great team closer together". The nomination added: "She has optimised the expertise and efficiency of each staff member, and has made herself available to support staff over and beyond what I would expect a senior vet to do. "I have only worked with her for eight months, but she has encouraged me to stay in clinical practice."

JANIKA PATEL

Janika is "a great inspiration to aspiring vets – especially people of colour". The nomination added: "She regularly posts a variety of content about her life as a vet on her Instagram page (@janikaher). She doesn't shy away from discussing the harder topics affecting the profession, such as the staff retention and cost crisis. She is also passionate about issues such as racism, equality, and diversity within the profession and outside. "She has helped mentor many school and vet students, and is a great model for ethnic minorities."

JESSICA SURRIDGE

Jessica is head RVN at Rowan House Vets in Norfolk and was described by her nominator as "the best head nurse I've worked for". The nomination said: "She supports each and every one of the nursing team, and never fails to show it. She always has the nurses' best interests in mind and fights for us to be recognised as qualified professionals, as well as making sure we all have work satisfaction. "As well as this, she is constantly looking for ways to support the new generation of nurses. "Jess is a testament to what a nurse should aspire to be."

KATHRYN ENGLISH-BAILLE

Kathryn is a mixed vet at Market Vets in Devon and "smashes it", according to her nominator. The submission added: "She has wowed us all with her knowledge of medicine, her ability to deliver our critical patients alive under anaesthetic (no puns on call in this practice), while still keeping the tricky horse owner happy and doing a great job with all the farm work (her previous commercial role). "She's got some metal in her and isn't afraid to stand her ground when it comes to the big issues, whether that's the welfare of an animal or the safety of a colleague."

KIAH HANN

Kiah, a veterinary surgeon who works for Medivet, is still in practice despite being a wheelchair user – and tries to bring visibility to disability within the profession, as well as the importance of access accommodations. She has a love of teaching and mentoring young vets, and vet and nurse students, as well as learning new things herself (she is targeting a certificate or two), and bringing new skills and changes to her workplace. She is also known as the practice encyclopaedia of drug doses and add veterinary information.

KERRY GORHAM

Multiple nominations were submitted for Kerry, a brand manager at Eonco Animal Health. She joined Blanco as an intern in 2015, and risen through the ranks to become a brand manager. She is also working in a referral hospital, and is a clinical coach. The nomination said: "Her passion for canine welfare and determination to succeed will lead to a highly successful career in veterinary research and education, where she will be an incredible role model for future generations."

MACIEJ SZCZEPANSKI

While studying veterinary medicine at Warwick University of Environmental and Life Sciences, Maciej created fully autonomous 3D printed prostheses to replace dogs' limbs. After global interest, he co-founded Wimbo with the aim of changing the perception of animal orthopaedics around the world. Maciej's nominator said: "He is a great person who can bring the industry closer to photogrammetry technology, 3D printing and the use of its capabilities in the veterinary profession."

MAHESH BHATT

Locum vet Mahesh is from India, and being committed to welfare, animals and the world he lives in. His nominator said: "He has worked as lead and assistant vet with elephants in Thailand and cheetahs in Samalinda, and is off to Bolivia soon on another journey. "I am sure he will be lead vet in some of the world's most beautiful places, and he will be a great role model for the world, probably creating protocols for the big issues, whether that's the welfare of an animal or the safety of a colleague."

MARTIN PETERS

PSA veterinary technician Martin was nominated for the continued support and encouragement he gives to peers and direct reports. "He promotes energy to everyone involved in his life, both at work and home," the nomination said. "Not content with what has been, he always asks why, to better himself, and stay current and aware – and he encourages others to do the same. "Martin is a big advocate for self-kindness and appreciation, and will make great efforts to recognise it in people, but also ensure they recognise it for themselves."

MICHELLE FARROW

Michelle is an RVN with a skill set "far beyond her career stage". She is undertaking a master's at the RVC relating to dog owners' behaviours seeking health information online (the "DogWeb" study). Thousands of responses have been received. She is also working in a referral hospital, and is a clinical coach. The nomination said: "Her passion for canine welfare and determination to succeed will lead to a highly successful career in veterinary research and education, where she will be an incredible role model for future generations."

MOLLY FIANDER

Molly entered the world of locum nursing six months after qualifying – a move she says "saved me from leaving the profession because of the freedom it has given me". She now runs ManagementforLocums.com to help fellow nurses do the same, as well as MolyMed Supplies. She said: "I have been able to help professionals find their passion and build with it, whether that is using locum, start a side hustle or travel the world. It has been a privilege to build a marketplace and community that allows professionals to fill all those things."

OLIVIA BASS

Despite qualifying in 2018, Olivia is a member of Nottingham during COVID and the world she lives in. His nominator said: "He has worked as a recent graduate in his first role as a teaching associate of medicine, and the development of new teaching students, both in their preclinical studies and on final-year rotations. The nomination said: "Although only a new academic, she has become involved in many projects and the development of new teaching students. The fact she is able to share anecdotes from her time in practice as a new graduate is incredibly beneficial to students' understanding of the transition into practice."

ROSIE HERRINGTON

At first glance, Rosie is a mixed animal vet who enjoys working with all species. However, she also works as a technical specialist consultant for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, and is one year into completing a master's in international humanitarian affairs. Her nominator said: "It is clear to me that Rosie is going to have a varied and exciting career. Being the approachable person she is, I'm sure she will also inspire many young vets and students – proving you can be an excellent clinical vet while also exploring the many alternate career paths that exist within the veterinary sphere."

SHERI-ANNE PEGG

Since graduating in 2018, Sheri-Anne – a vet at Spinney Lodge Vets, Northampton – has strived to change the accessibility of the veterinary profession through volunteering and inspiration. Most notably, she created Vet Mentor to help prospective vet students realise their potential, and develop personal and professional skills required to succeed. She is also developing a project to help students make as most of their veterinary work experience, encouraging them to dig deeper into the understanding of the skills they see vets use in practice and how they can be developing these skills.

SOPHIELO CURTO

Sophie is Colourful CPD's "rock" – having worked six months after qualifying – a move she says "saved me from leaving the profession because of the freedom it has given me". She now runs ManagementforLocums.com to help fellow nurses do the same, as well as MolyMed Supplies. She said: "I have been able to help professionals find their passion and build with it, whether that is using locum, start a side hustle or travel the world. It has been a privilege to build a marketplace and community that allows professionals to fill all those things."

SOPHIE OLIVER

Fifty-year Niamh is a member of Nottingham during COVID and the world she lives in. His nominator said: "He has worked as a recent graduate in his first role as a teaching associate of medicine, and the development of new teaching students, both in their preclinical studies and on final-year rotations. The nomination said: "Although only a new academic, she has become involved in many projects and the development of new teaching students. The fact she is able to share anecdotes from her time in practice as a new graduate is incredibly beneficial to students' understanding of the transition into practice."