



Founded in 2016, run by Veterinary Nurses for Veterinary Nurses

## ASSOCIATION OF ZOO & EXOTIC VETERINARY NURSES

2020 NEWSLETTER - #4

### “Run by Veterinary Nurses for Veterinary Nurses”

The **Association of Zoo & Exotic Veterinary Nurses (AZEVN)** was founded in 2016 by Veterinary Nurses who wanted create a unique organisation that was able to offer affordable CPD opportunities; whilst helping to facilitate the exchange of information and networking between RVN's. This in turn would then help to promote and maintain the highest standard of veterinary nursing, within zoo and exotic institutions.

Visit our website to find out more about the AZEVN – [www.azevn.org](http://www.azevn.org)

### 2021 AZEVN CONFERENCE

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> May 2021

**Venue:** West Midlands Safari Park, Spring Grove House.

Keep an eye on our Announcements for when **Booking will Open!!**

**Due to the cancellation of the 2020 AZEVN Conference, all 2020 Golden Ticket Winners will be transferred to the 2021 AZEVN Conference.**

### Welcome from AZEVN Chairman

It's been a challenging time for Veterinary Nurses in all environments during the COVID-19 Pandemic, but it's been especially hard for our Zoo-Based AZEVN members and colleagues. UK Veterinary Nurses have stepped up to mark and kept going, maintaining the welfare of their patients, at all costs and this makes me emotional and very proud.

The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a negative impact on in-situ conservation projects too. (I very nearly got stuck in Ghana at the start), but longer term a lack of funding and volunteers working on projects is going to be very challenging.

Thank you to all who purchased an AZEVN hoody, the money raised has gone directly to supporting WVI projects.

The future is hard to predict currently, but thanks to the understanding and continued support of YOU, our members and our sponsors, the AZEVN is continuing to grow and diversify.

I hope you liked the lockdown questions and we always welcome suggestions of other things we can do.

We have our 2021 AZEVN Conference pencilled into the diary and with some luck and careful planning, I hope it can happen but we will keep you updated as things progress.

We have also welcomed Jo Hinde on to the AZEVN Committee, we are very lucky to have Jo and I know she is going to be great.

Hopefully see you in 2021, and please do get in touch and email us anytime.



### Thank You!!



Thank you to everyone for their understanding and support of the decision to cancel the 2020 AZEVN Conference. It was a very sad decision for us, but we hope to see you all at the 2021 AZEVN Conference.

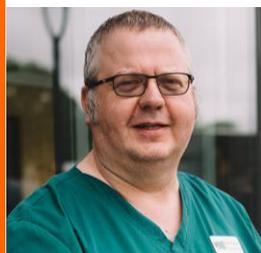
We are also grateful for your participation with our online CPD quizzes. We hope you had as much fun answering them as we did writing them; but remember to log your 0.5 hours of CPD!

In addition, this summer, we raised over £200 for Wildlife Vets International through the sale of our AZEVN Hoodies, which were posted all over the world as far as Australia and America! We are so glad you liked them and we were able to contribute to such a good cause.

### Well done to our Matt!

Matthew Rendle, leading Exotics Veterinary Nurse is voted in as Chairman of RCVS VN council.

As the first Male Veterinary Nurse to hold the position, this is a momentous occasion!



Matt has been an elected member of the VN Council since 2016 and was chosen as Chairman in June 2020. In this position, Matt hopes to further the progression of the profession, promote a wider public understanding of what VNs do and much more.

**CONGRATULATIONS MATT!!!**

## WVI: Tiger Health Programme

Since 2013, with your help, the AZEVN have raised £2,149 for Wildlife Vets International (WVI). This year your chosen WVI project was the Tiger Health Programme.

This project collaborates with partners in Russia, Indonesia, Bangladesh and India and will provide vital veterinary input to local tiger conservation efforts.

The funds raised will go towards training of local vets and field biologists working with tigers. WVI believes effective training is crucial to ensuring real and long lasting improvements in the veterinary aspects of any programme.

**All efforts will be made to help this iconic species.**



Amur tiger. Credit WCS Russias

## Veterinary industry big news

From January 2022 it will become mandatory to reflect on all of our logged CPD. But why should we start reflecting practice now and how will it help us? Reflection involves a systematic and critical analysis of the learning and development we have undertaken. This enables us to get the most out of any learning we have done, give us the tools to apply new skills to our work and discover areas requiring further development. Definitely a positive!

A huge positive was also announced in August for WSAVA Global Pain Council. Zoetis have partnered with the GPC to work to address global variations in the assessment and management of animal pain, by providing education and advisory resources. Together, with veterinary professionals, they aim to improve the lives of animals living with pain; definitely a worthwhile target.

## New website content coming soon!

Following on from our lockdown weekly species quizzes, we are working on a new website area for our members. Each section will be focused on the species from our quizzes, bringing together the further reading already released and new resources for you. All in one place, these resources may quench your thirst for further information and inspire you to look for more!

This further reading will also count towards your self-directed CPD.

## How will Covid-19 continue to affect us?

What a year we have had! It has been an unprecedented situation that we have pulled through together, albeit with some changes. The profession has adapted to the changes well, with us all coming together and supporting one another through this difficult time, so we just wanted to say well done and thank you to everyone. So how will this affect our future? Hollie sat down with Jo Hinde the BVNA president, to get her view on how well the profession has done and where we will go from here:

"Trying to provide veterinary services during a global pandemic has been challenging to say the least, however I feel our profession has made every effort to ensure the negative impact on patient welfare has been as low as possible. The way we work has been heavily impacted - for example, social distancing within a consult room or operating theatre can be exceptionally difficult. Running on skeleton teams, having staff furloughed and the general fear of us or our loved ones becoming unwell has been exceptionally stressful and we are still very far away from business as normal. However, this has given us a chance to re-evaluate WHY we do certain things and explore alternative options. Rotas can and have been, changed to become more flexible, individuals have had to pull together more and have a greater understanding of the other roles within the team, and we have even managed to dip our toe into the world of telemedicine! I sincerely hope some of the positive outcomes from this crisis are adopted longer term as I feel they can be instrumental in strengthening our profession."

## AZEVN updates

Thank you to those who attended the 2020 Virtual AGM and to those who have watched the recording on our Website, in the 'Our Events' section.

You will have seen that our Secretary Position was splitting into two roles and we would now like to welcome Jo Hinde into the new Secretary position. We are very excited to have Jo on board and work with her to continue to support the Exotic Nursing sector.



Thank you to Sophie Sparrow for her tireless hard work as our Secretary and we hope she enjoys her new role as AZEVN Membership & Website Coordinator.

## Final words



Thank you for everyone's hard work and support this year! It has been a difficult time to endure, and everyone has persevered throughout, whilst still providing the best care to our patients; a real testament to your character. Thank you for being a part of AZEVN and we hope to see you soon in better times. Please don't forget to stay safe and to support one another, always.

"It is a real privilege to volunteer For AZEVN"

Keep your eyes peeled for your opportunity to become a volunteer with us!

