

Report on Attending BACCN Conference 2023

10 – 11th September 2023

Helen Rooney (Registered Veterinary Nurse)

I had two reasons for attending the BACCN Conference. My first is that I am a member of the VCCN committee, and I felt it was very important to support this developing region by attending the conference to meet and chat to the human nurses and highlight the important One Health connection and to discuss the similarities between our roles and the challenges we face.

My second reason was to support both my role as a Referral Veterinary Nurse working in a critical care environment and, as someone who is responsible for the training and development of our referral nurses, I felt this platform would provide transferable knowledge in terms of the clinical aspects but also with nurse education and training. I was not wrong.

Whilst many of the exhibition stands were showcasing equipment and nursing resources that were not relevant to our veterinary patients, some of the companies had products that could be utilised in our critical care units such as an active suction thoracic drain, aerosolised drug delivery systems and intravenous access catheters and dressings. I was able to bring away the contact details of the company representatives to present to our clinical board.

A particular aspect of note was Stacy Johnson's Keynote presentation. It was very thought provoking as a member of our senior management team but also as a representative of our profession. Stacy's humorous but poignant content really hit home with me whilst making me realise how far we have to go as a profession to reach the level of our human counterparts, but the learning we can take away and apply now to make a difference that has cost the human nursing profession over many years.

Other presentations of note for me were 'Introducing Registered Nursing Associates to Critical Care: A pilot' as this is particularly relevant to my profession and organisation as we try to attract veterinary nurses into a more clinically advanced referral setting, in particular the perceived challenge of nurses considering a move to critical care. The collaborative presentation by our chair Laura and a human nurse on the care of Tracheostomy patients was outstanding, and reinforced the importance and mutual benefit of knowledge sharing to improve our patient care.

Some of the clinical presentations of note were the vascular access and early mobilisation in the ICU. Whilst the how was not always applicable to our veterinary patients, the concepts were absolutely relevant, and these presentations have armed me with some techniques and ideas for their veterinary application.

I spent some time reading the posters, in-particular those that related to the delivery and outcomes of training as this is of particular relevance in my role. I hope to be able to submit something similar at the next BACCN conference.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to attend and I look forward to actively supporting the VCCN at future conferences.