

AVS/IVSA UK & Ireland Elections 2016

Name: Laura Turner

Position: IVSA Veterinary Public Health Officer

Vet School: University of Liverpool

Year: 2

About me:

I am an enthusiastic and proactive student in my second year at Liverpool vet school. I am loving every aspect of vet school, from being able to go to lectures about subjects that truly interest me to the very active social life. In my spare time I love being outdoors and at home you would most likely find me walking my lurcher or horse riding. In October I completed the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge in order to raise start-up funds for the new Liverpool branch of Trusty Paws - a charity providing veterinary care to the pets of homeless people. In June of this year I will be undertaking a 50km walk over twenty four hours in order to raise money for MIND - the mental health charity. Taking care of mental health is so important and particularly poignant in the veterinary field. I am taking every opportunity I can to enrich my student life, from participating in study groups to improve student experience to undertaking a research project this summer.

Experience:

For 8 months I worked at a co-operative food store. I was first employed as a team member but quickly promoted to a supervisor. This meant that I was in charge of running shifts and managing up to three members of staff at a time. This was a role where I was directly communicating with customers on a daily basis and dealing with all their queries and complaints. I feel this has given me excellent experience communicating with such a wide range of different personalities and I have developed my ability to adapt my communication style. Written communication is a big part of the Public Health Officer role. I've always felt at ease expressing myself in writing, achieving an A* in my English GCSE. Last year, for part of my continuous assessment module I wrote an essay on the subject of the role of vets in public health. Since writing this essay I have been incredibly interested in the world of veterinary public health, and have kept up to date with current issues through the IVSA Veterinary Public Health Journal, the One Health Initiative website and various social media accounts.



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What I would try to achieve in my role:

I would love to raise awareness of the different career opportunities that a degree in veterinary medicine presents. I think a lot could be done to engage more students in the field of public health, through events and promotion. These days, social media is by far the most effective way to communicate with a student audience. I would love to use social media to further reach out to people in the veterinary community and increase participation in the exciting world of veterinary public health. I have a strong interest in all fields of science, and truly believe that the best way for the veterinary field to move forward is to be fully integrated with the worlds of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy. For obvious reasons, there is a distinct lack of research in the veterinary field when compared to human medicine, but the concept that human and veterinary medicine can work to benefit each other has the potential to lead to great developments in both fields.

Why you should vote for me:

Vets play such an important role in the protection of public health, and I would love to be a part of this sector. I believe that I have the skills and motivation necessary to promote interest in veterinary public health and encourage participation in the brilliant opportunities available to vet students. I personally feel that as a student, this information has not been readily available to me, and I want to change that for future students. My friends describe me as very friendly and approachable - necessary traits for someone acting as a port of communication between the student body and the IVSA. I am so passionate about veterinary public health, you will struggle to find a more enthusiastic candidate than me!