

AVS/IVSA UK & Ireland Elections 2021

Name: Elizabeth Stephenson

Position: JAVS Editor

Vet School: Cambridge

Year: 3rd

About me:

Hello, 3rd year vet currently intercalating in Pathology and Conservation science (which they force all us unlucky souls at Cambridge to do, joking, joking...) I'm actually a Cambridge local but fortunately my family made the move up north to the Lake District where I'm now based for a while until uni starts up again.

My particular interests in vet med at the moment are disease management, TB, Johne's etc... and public health and I tend to err on the side of preferring large animal but could definitely see myself doing a bit of mixed as I'm a big fan of dogs too, like the rest of us. Outside of vet med I can normally be found dangling off something tall whilst rock or winter climbing, on a ridiculously long run in the mountains or looking for nice spots to go cold water swimming! I recently spent 3 weeks on a remote Scottish island in the summer doing an EMS placement with a rare breed of sheep which was a great way to escape covid! For the obligatory pet section my family has 3 collies and I have a little chinchilla who I got at age 14 and is still sticking around! (He didn't get the memo about large animal work)

Experience:

In terms of committee experience, I have been the year rep for Cambridge University Veterinary Society (CUVS) for 1st, 2nd and 3rd year, attending many meetings and collating lots of feedback, (surprisingly they keep voting me in/no one else applies) and I am also on the committee for Cambridge Uni Mountaineering Club where I organise all our trips to go climbing outdoors. In terms of writing/editing experience I put together and edited the year book in my final year of school and I also recently wrote a JAVS article about the aforementioned Scottish island entitled "Seaweed-eating sheep" which I really enjoyed! Attending AVS sports weekend at Nottingham in my first year of vet school was definitely a highlight (though my friends will tell you I spent most of it asleep) and I have enjoyed AVS talks such as the 'CV of Failures' meaning I have a good idea what AVS is about and I am keen to help publicise this more through the journal!

What I would try to achieve in my role:

Continue the excellent work of Katie in producing the journal each year and the online publications. Encourage more pre-clinical students to contribute EMS or other related pieces. Introduce a section called "Vet Student Tips" (or perhaps something more catchy) where vet students can contribute specific tips they wished they'd known about starting vet school and EMS, plus the most useful things to take with you to a farm. Putting together an article on handy text books for your first few years at vet school with contributions from each of the different vet schools to ensure it is relevant for each course! And finally, creating a piece on access to vet school, asking vet students who took different paths to vet school to contribute a small section which can then all be collated together and used to encourage students who might not have considered applying originally.

Why you should vote for me:

I've been keen to be involved in AVS for a number of years now and would really enjoy the opportunity to help publicise the fab work that AVS does in the journal and showcase the wonderful students and people we have in this profession. I'm very organised and used to being on committees and I'm not afraid to speak up on other people's behalf's and share opinions. I enjoy writing and editing pieces and it would be great to develop my skills in this area further. I'm friendly and approachable and always up for a chat so would be very happy to discuss article ideas with people and give pointers to anyone who wants to write something but isn't quite sure where to start!