

Saturday 5th September | 14:30 -15:30

Speaker: Nicola Lakeman MSc BSc(Hons) RVN VTS(Nutrition) CertVNECC CertSAN

Session Title: Optimising Outcomes in Cushing's Syndrome Through Nurse-Led Endocrine Clinics



Nicola graduated an honours degree in Equine Science, and qualified as a VN in 2002, achieving her VTS in nutrition in 2014 and a Master's degree in Advanced Veterinary Nursing with Glasgow University in 2021. Nicola is one of the Consultant Editors for The Veterinary Nurse. Nicola has won the BVNA / Blue Cross VN of the year award in 2010, the College of Animal Welfare Barbara Cooper Professional Development Award for outstanding service to the veterinary nursing profession in 2012 and in 2024 the BSAVA Bruce Vivash Jones award for recognition of outstanding contributions to the advancement of small animal veterinary nursing.

Synopsis:

Understanding of endocrine diseases can really help with communication to the pet owners about their pet's problems. The role of the adrenal glands is vital for good health, but conveying their role can be difficult. Learning and fully understanding the underpinning knowledge can help with those discussions.

The chronic condition of Cushing's disease (hyperadrenocorticism) can have quite negative effects on the pet long-term, and does need treatment and close monitoring. This lecture will cover the diagnostic tests required and those for monitoring. Veterinary nurses can be really involved with the complexities of these diagnostic tests. Especially as we need the animal to be as stress-free as possible. Fear-free handling is required at all times.

Learning Objectives:

1. Understand the pathophysiology of Cushing's Disease (Hyperadrenocorticism).
2. Understand how these cases are diagnosed, including regimes for blood testing for monitoring of these animals.
3. Understanding the importance of good clinical history taking as part of the diagnosis and during chronic medical condition nurse clinics.