



Saturday 10th October 2026 | Beckbury 4 | 11:30 – 13:00

Speaker: Matt Garland, BSc RsciTech SAC DIP Cert Nat Sci VN MRSB

Title: Practical laboratory skills



Matthew is Head of Laboratory Services at Donnington Grove (IVC) and has over 20 years' experience in the veterinary field. He has a strong interest in laboratory practice, particularly quality assurance, quality control, and haematology, and has contributed to several published research projects.

He holds a degree in Chemistry and Molecular Biology, is a qualified veterinary nurse, a Registered Science Technician with the Royal Society of Biology (RSB), and has completed multiple postgraduate certificates. Previously Laboratory Director at Zoetis/VPG (The Veterinary Pathology Group), he also lectures in laboratory skills for student veterinary nurses undertaking the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons qualification.

Matthew delivers regular continuing professional development (CPD), has presented at major UK congresses including BSAVA, BVNA, and LVS, and has published articles in veterinary haematology and clinical biochemistry. He is actively involved in professional development, serving on the RSB Register Assessors Board and as a judge for the RSB Biology Apprentice of the Year.

Synopsis:

This practical haematology workshop provides hands-on experience in the preparation, examination, and interpretation of canine and feline blood samples in veterinary practice. Participants will develop core laboratory skills including blood smear preparation, packed cell volume, basic cell morphology assessment, and recognition of common haematological abnormalities across canine and feline blood smears.

The workshop is designed to strengthen understanding of the clinical relevance of haematology results and support accurate diagnosis ensuring optimal patient outcomes.

Learning Objectives:

1. Prepare high-quality blood smears for laboratory examination using safe working practices and appropriate laboratory quality control procedures.
2. Perform basic haematological procedures, including packed cell volume.
3. Identify normal red blood cells, white blood cells, and platelets on a blood film.
4. Recognise common haematological abnormalities such as anaemia, inflammatory changes, and platelet counts.