

## VPHA Masterclass Report

Veterinary public health is an industry rarely explored in the average vet student's EMS portfolio; however, this week 19 students from across 9 vet schools had the opportunity to spend a week with key professionals working in the VPH sector, to widen their perspectives on future careers.



Events ranged from tours of Heathrow Animal Reception Centre, learning of the legalities behind animal and animal product importation, to an interactive discussion with Dr Mary Van Andel, Chief Veterinary Officer of New Zealand, on the importance of incorporating varied perspectives from within the animal industry during policy-making. Knepp Rewilding Project was especially inspiring, showing that vets hold key roles in many diversified fields. Our day undertaking a notifiable disease outbreak simulation was particularly engaging, circulating through different stations to investigate and produce a plan for the containment of a mock Foot and Mouth Outbreak. The nature of the day meant that we could pull on the expertise of key figures within their respective fields to develop our understanding of outbreak response. Though lectures try to encapsulate these ideas, being able to work through challenges in teams and having the opportunity to ask questions to people so obviously passionate about their topic, was invaluable.



Another crucial aspect of the week, that had an equally strong impact, was the introduction to other young vets with a keen interest in VPH. During the creative group presentations and VPH-funded dinner, we had the opportunity to talk about our experiences so far. It has been refreshing to spend time with people who are also looking into pursuing careers beyond pure clinical practice, and to hear about their different reasons for exploring alternate pathways. With plans to meet up again in September for the APHA conference, this week has marked the start of a very supportive group of young vets looking to see where VPH will take them.





Every person who gave up their time to speak to us was incredible, and it was striking that each person has such a unique experience in entering this line of work; which reflects how diverse this industry allows you to be. These career examples have been so influential in displaying the room for our careers to evolve, as we grow as veterinary professionals. Thank you very much to the VPHA for kindly sponsoring this week, to Dr Kurt Arden for all your hard work, and to all the speakers and staff who shared their time with us. We had an amazing week and couldn't recommend it highly enough to the next year of students.



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