# Think Tank

### Plan for success, plan for succession



## **Guest speakers**



#### Catherine Bennett MCHA RVN, **Scott Veterinary Clinic**

Catherine began her career as a student nurse in 2003 and qualified as a Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) in 2007. She joined the Scott's team in 2016, where she completed a Certificate in Small Animal Hydrotherapy and ran regular sessions in their hydrotherapy suite, alongside her duties as a veterinary nurse in the hospital.

Over the years, Catherine has progressed in her career - becoming the Deputy Head Nurse in 2019, Head Nurse in 2021, and most recently stepping into the role of Clinical Director in 2025. She loves the variety her role at Scott Vets offers, from leading the incredible nursing team to caring for their wonderful patients. Catherine has a particular interest in diagnostic procedures and enjoys working in our diagnostics theatre. She also enjoys meeting the Scott Vets' clients and their pets during nursing consultations.



#### Dr Hannah Scott MRCVS, **Abbotswood Vets**

Hannah qualified from Liverpool University with honours in 2011 and worked in both first opinion and emergency and critical care before starting locum work in the South West. Hannah previously enjoyed a long standing locum relationship with the practice. In late 2019 the opportunity to purchase the practice arose with Dr Murphy looking to take a step back from the day-to-day of the business. As practice owner, Hannah is focused on continuing to provide the personal touch our clients are accustomed to whilst modernising the practice to provide the best standard of care possible.

Hannah's other interests include going to the gym and an African Grey parrot called Lola who can sometimes be seen around the practice entertaining clients!



Aidan can't remember ever not wanting to be a vet and these days can't imagine doing anything else. He loves every element of the job, in particular the variety where one minute he can be doing a health check on a puppy and the next performing life-saving surgery on a cat.

A Yorkshire man through and through Aidan enjoys the James Herriott approach to

veterinary practice of getting to know what his patients and owners get up to day to day. A particularly favourite topic is pet-friendly holiday destinations. By forming lasting relationships Aidan is able to provide honest, down-to-earth advice on the best treatment plan going forward, as every pet and every family are different and require a unique approach.

Very much a family man if you don't see him in the veterinary practice you can be sure to find him walking the dogs with Natalie or enjoying a short break with all their pets in their towing caravan.



#### Jo Harris BVSc DVC MRCVS **RCVS Specialist in Veterinary** Cardiology, Heart Vets

Jo is a Director at HeartVets, and is an RCVS Recognised Specialist in Cardiology. She joined HeartVets in 2009 and is based in Exeter, where she offers regular clinics, as well as a number of visiting referral clinics throughout the South West. Jo has been working in purely cardiology referral practice for several years and is regularly involved in CPD provision to vets and cardiologists at both local and national level. Jo has a particular interest in arrhythmias and her research includes novel uses of Holter monitoring in canine preclinical dilated cardiomyopathy. Jo has developed the Holter monitoring department at HeartVets, which is now the largest veterinary Holter service of its kind, offering Holter monitor rental and analysis to cardiologists and general practitioners all over the country. Jo is one of our interventional cardiac surgeons, and is also on the Veterinary Cardiovascular Society panels for auscultation and Doppler echocardiography.



#### Vicki Farbon MA VetMB GPCert (SAM) PgC SADI MRCVS Advanced **Practitioner in Small Animal** Diagnostic Imaging, Scott Veterinary Clinic

Vicki graduated from Cambridge University in 2003 and has been at Scott ever since. She enjoys all aspects of Veterinary Medicine but has a keen interest in small animals.

Vicki holds a certificate in Small Animal Medicine. She particularly enjoys diagnostics including radiography and ultrasound.

Vicki achieved her postgraduate Certificate in Diagnostic Imaging in February 2017. She is recognised by the RCVS as an Advanced Practitioner in Small Animal Diagnostic Imaging.



#### **Keith Dickinson**

A UCL Geography graduate and Fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute, Keith has operated in the veterinary sector since 1981. He has supported the veterinary profession avidly during that time with financial and professional initiatives. He prides himself on still having his finger on the pulse of the profession. Having written and self published a number of books, in true entrepreneurial style he started Astoria Publishing Ltd and has successfully published a number of autobiographies for vets. In his spare time he is an avid reader, a keen cyclist and supporter of Aston Villa Football Club, with a significant collection of Aston Villa football programmes. He is married to Sarah and has two grown-up daughters.



#### **Graham Scott**

Graham joined Shire in 2016. Highly experienced with 40

years in High Street Banking and the last 10 years exclusively in Healthcare with a national responsibility for the veterinary sector for Lloyds Bank. He knew of Shire and Keith as they were always his number one source of new veterinary introductions. He has therefore turned from gamekeeper to poacher or vice versa, depending on how you look at things! Fully qualified and an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers (ACIB), he passed his exams in the early 1980's when it was vital to be fully qualified to advance within the banking sector. The qualification has always held him in good stead and he can still recite the definition of a Bill of Exchange! Graham's job satisfaction stems from finding finance through his many funding contacts and discussing options with clients that are looking to buy, re-finance, start up or join a practice. Meeting with people, even if this is only via the telephone or "teams" helps him to find funding solutions to enable clients to achieve their aims. The day when people complete on a purchase is always special and he takes pride in how he has helped, no matter how great or small his involvement. Outside of work he enjoys tending a large garden, which gives him great pleasure and spending time fishing, both of which allow him to relax and recharge his batteries. Married with two grown up children he enjoys walks with his dog Tilly and has had the pleasure with Mrs Scott of keeping guinea pigs, chickens and rare breed pigs, a particular favourite of his in the past.







