

Continuing education events

Autumn looks to provide plenty of opportunities for continuing education with a range of subjects and locations on offer, writes Georgina Self



The IVNA will be taking to the road again this autumn with a new series of College Roadshows. Sponsored once more by Royal Canin, this year's topic is Obesity. The IVNA are hoping to attend all five college locations which offer veterinary nursing courses: UCD; Athlone; Letterkenny; Dundalk and Cork.

Last year's seminars, which ran during the afternoon or early evening and mixed interactive lectures, quizzes and prize draws, proved popular with student nurses and were also attended by a number of nurses from local practices. The IVNA are looking forward to this roadshow as obesity is a common problem in pets and an area in which nurses can play a leading role in providing correct dietary advice for preventative care and in weight loss initiatives.

Keep an eye on your email and college notice boards for updates on dates, venues content and CVE points.

COMMITTEE NEWS

We are delighted that three student nurses recently put themselves forward to join our committee. All our members were asked to vote and Ciara O'Kelly was chosen to join the committee.

Ciara is a mature student at St Johns Central College, Cork. She says her interest in joining the IVNA committee began when she attended this year's conference as a steward and saw the work (and fun!) involved. Ciara is responsible for keeping our student members up to date with IVNA news and for bringing their views and requests to the attention of the committee. She can be contacted via email on student-liaison@ivna.ie

If any RVNs out there are willing to offer a few hours a

month to help out on the IVNA committee, we would be glad of the assistance. New ideas and skills are always welcome. Also, planning is already underway for next year's conference. We would welcome input from our nursing colleagues on venues, topics and speakers. It is your conference so help us give to you what you want.

IVNA DOWN UNDER

The committee received an invite for the chairperson or an officer to attend the annual conference of the Veterinary Nurse's Council of Australia in Melbourne. Unfortunately, we were unable to take up this offer. However, we felt that as an initial step in our plan to introduce education bursaries for members, we would sponsor an IVNA member currently residing in Australia to attend on our behalf. We contacted a number of members with Australian addresses and Rebecca Rafter was the lucky recipient of the conference registration. Her report was published in the IVNA newsletter and described conference content and her experiences of working as a VN in Australia. The IVNA is keen to hear from other nurses about their experiences of working overseas.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

The Wildlife Crime Conference takes place in the Pillo Hotel, Ashbourne, Meath on September 14-15. This event is organised by Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland and registration is via its website. As the title infers, this year's topics are all to do with criminal activity in relation to our natural fauna and covers subjects such as use of traps, poisons and wildlife CSI. The IVNA are pleased to be exhibiting once again. Suitable for nurses and vets the weekend offers a fantastic 19 CVE points

Also on September 14, International Cat Care (formerly FAB) and Community Cat Care are running a day's CVE on the topic of feline welfare and will be eligible for 5 CVE points. This event is partly sponsored by the ISPCA and is being held at the Cork Airport Hotel.

The FECAVA international conference is taking place in Dublin on October 2-5 this year and the IVNA is delighted to be attending the nursing session at FECAVA this year. We will have a stand just outside the lecture hall and will be chairing the sessions so please come along and chat to us. The nurse sessions cover a variety of topics including exotics, anaesthesia and physical therapy and provide 5.5 CVE points for attendees. There is also a commercial exhibition giving us a chance to check out the latest products and equipment.

Check out the FECAVA website for registration. And for those with an interest in equine topics, the IVNA is looking for feedback on a proposed equine CVE event after we were approached by Zoetis, which has received requests from nurses in various practices, for the IVNA to provide such an event. The IVNA has looked into options for this and emailed all our members looking for feedback on a proposed full day event on Saturday, October 26, in the Dublin/Kildare area on subjects around the topic of lameness. We are keen to find out if there is likely to be sufficient attendance at such an event. So far response has been extremely poor. If you are interested please register your interest with the IVNA via enquiries@ivna.ie

Moving onto charity events, a few of the committee, high on their success in the Dublin Mini Marathon in June, have signed up for the similar event in Cork on Sunday, September 15. There are still places available for registration via the website of the Cork Evening Echo. We are hoping to raise more funds for the IVNA charity of the year, Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland. We hope to see a few of our members on the day. If you can't participate, why not sponsor us via the button on our website?

Autism Assistance Dogs Ireland carry out a number of fundraising activities and we would be grateful for any help veterinary nurses can offer. Maybe your practice could host an event?



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