

Interview from Royal College Day 2023

David Charles

I'm David Charles, I'm a veterinary surgeon, and I won one of the RCVS Knowledge Quality Improvement Awards.

So it's really exciting to have been honored with the award, and I think it particularly means a lot because I won it for quality improvement in clinical audit in farm animal practice, which is an area where perhaps recently there's been a bit less quality improvement and evidence-based drives through clinical audit. And it just shows how much we can do in farm animal practice to improve our standards in animal welfare.

Yeah, so I ran a clinical audit looking at ovine cesareans and assisted vaginal delivery, so lambings and sheep cesars effectively. And I ran that across 25 practices within the corporate group that I worked for at the time, so that we could get as much data as possible and understand regional variations as well. And then we used that to look at best practice and improve what we could be doing. Set some smart goals, and ultimately improve animal welfare and reduce our antibiotic usage as well. And then, yeah, I got this email saying I'd been nominated, which was really exciting. Didn't know that they were coming up. So it's really nice to be nominated and recognized by the Royal College and RCVS Knowledge.

I think if anyone's thinking about nominating someone for an award or applying for an award themselves, I think it's something that it's really important to do. It's a really good opportunity not just to show what you are doing, but also for us as a profession to show what we are doing around quality improvement in evidence-based veterinary medicine.

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