

## Interview from Royal College Day 2023

### Paul Stanley

My name's Paul Stanley. I work at White Lodge Vets in Exmouth, and I'm a vet there and the Head of our Quality Improvement.

Thank you very much. It feels really good, actually, particularly for recognized as a whole practice rather as an individual, because it's been quite a lot of hard work. And when we started it, we didn't really have this in mind. We just wanted to try and reduce our antibiotic usage, but it's really great to see that it's caught on, and being recognized as a practice, it's a good opportunity also to share it with other practices and hopefully reduce antibiotic usage elsewhere as well.

So, we've won an award for our cat bite audit, where essentially what we wanted to do was stop using antibiotics in our cat bite abscesses, which is quite a scary thing for us initially. We all got together, and essentially we had a look at our antibiotic usage and we identified it as an area that we could use. But we all agreed we were quite scared about doing it, so we thought if we have a framework using the auditing tools and essentially support each other to stop using it and check that actually the welfare of the cats isn't been compromised and they're still getting better. And then quite thankfully, we showed that most cats don't need antibiotics to treat cat bite abscesses, which is a great result, and has resulted in a massive reduction in antibiotic usage not only at our practice, but at the other practices that have taken up the audit as well, including one of our sister practices in Exmouth, Raddenstiles, and various other practices.

We found out that we won this RCVS Knowledge Award a few months ago. I was actually on paternity leave, and my head vet got the email and she sent me a message, which I didn't open up until 3:00 in the morning. And to us, it was a really great lift, and I know it's also lifted everyone in the practice, but particularly at that time, to find out when you're tired. It was really good to find that out. But yeah, everyone in the practice was really chuffed. It was quite a nice celebration. Hopefully today will top that off.

I would really encourage people to apply for the awards scheme, because it really not only boosted us as a practice, but helped us and also opened doors to start other audits or research. It's so wonderful to be recognized, particularly as a team, and it's really opened doors for a lot

of people and also given us great encouragement and also a platform to share all the information with various other people in the industry.

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