



New Vets at Integra

We thought you ought to know that our vet team at Integra has been expanded by the addition of 2 part-time vets.

We have Peter Bogusiewicz working one day a week most weeks. Peter is Polish and has been working in the UK for several years in large animal practice. He says he has always wanted to be a pig vet so working with us is great for him. He is helping with routine assurance visits mostly on finishing farms initially and is enrolled onto a pig course called 'Swine University' to expand his knowledge and development.

Serena Shanahan has had a varied career starting life as a banker in Dublin then going to Hungary to study Veterinary Medicine. She has several years' experience with equine, large animal and pig practice and a spell with APHA as Veterinary Officer. She is working 3 days a week for us on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays and will be covering all types of pig farms.



As you may know Jake Waddilove is reducing his work and David Chennells taking some time out having been stalwarts of the pig veterinary world in East Anglia for many years. We thank them for their service to the pig industry over so many years and wish them all the best in their futures. But this does mean those of us at Integra are taking on extra work and so it is great to have keen younger vets so the work can be shared out.

As a result, some farms that have been serviced for a long time by John Hayden will find at least for some visits that Serena or Peter may visit instead. This will be discussed with you when the visit is arranged. John will discuss your situations with them before the visit and they will have all the latest veterinary plans to hand so will be able to talk you through any issues you may be having on farm. John will remain the on-call vet available for contact at all times as before and will maintain a close

interest in the farms, but it is also a great opportunity to get a fresh pair of eyes and ideas out there.

Any questions please contact the Integra office at office@integravet.co.uk or 01842 879379.

Some positive Covid news for a change...

A major US study (conducted by the Agricultural Research Service) has concluded after 18 months of research that farm animals (eggs, live poultry, cattle, swine and insects e.g., mosquitos, ticks, fleas) are not susceptible to SARS-CoV-2 virus.

Currently there's no evidence to suggest that pigs (and other farm species except for deer!) can replicate the virus and be a source of infection for either humans or other animals.

'Flu. It can affect you too!

As we enter the 'flu season' and people start to mix and mingle again, there's an increased risk of flu infecting farm staff/visitors and spreading to pigs (even pigs that have been vaccinated!). With this in mind there are some key things to encourage on your unit:

- Uptake/provision of the annual seasonal flu vaccine to farm staff (all who have contact with pigs).
- Anyone with 'flu-like symptoms' should not visit the farm or have contact with pigs until at least 24 hours after their fever subsides.
- Farm staff and visitors should be encouraged to wash their hands before and after contact with pigs or equipment.
- Commonly used disinfectants e.g. quat ammonium compounds or 10% bleach solutions will kill flu viruses.
- All other standard biosecurity measures apply.

New Red Tractor Guidelines:

As we know new Red Tractor Guidelines came into effect on the 1st November 2021. Below is a succinct list of some of the main changes so that you can be ready for your next Red Tractor Audit.

Environmental: A documented extreme weather contingency plan for both extreme cold and hot weather must be implemented. Pigs on straw must have an area of clean straw for both enrichment and a lying area.

Handling and Welfare: You must have read and understood the RT's appendix defining unacceptable behaviour with regards to livestock handling. ALL staff involved in the care of animals must also watch the online welfare and handling module – this is not yet available but when it is released you will have 3 months to do so.

Euthanasia: New starters must now be trained by either a vet or through the HSA with reassessment occurring every 2 years. The euthanasia policy must now include a contingency plan which should be signed by a vet.

Tail Docking and Teeth Reduction: All biting incidents and overall mortality figures must be noted. A written review detailing required information from the vet is needed if quarterly approval is given. A detailed risk assessment and action plan to minimise risk of tail biting is also required, even if pigs are undocked. For teeth even if not reducing record facial necrosis and udder injury.

Enrichment: All pigs are required to have the correct combination of enrichment. Either a single optimal (bedded on CLEAN straw) or a combination of one suboptimal (something edible such as rope or soft wood) and one marginal method of enrichment (e.g. plastic). This includes sows and piglets in crates and is separate to nesting material.

Disease Charter: Farms must sign up to the new Significant Disease Charter. Many farms will already be signed up to this from when it was through AHDB.

Biosecurity: Farm must have specific biosecure areas that are identified by visible markers at vehicle entry points.

Feeders: If feeders are accessible to birds there must be a cover on them.

Medicine Use: Must have one person on site who is trained and who oversees medicine use. Medicines should be stored separately to food and drink with fridge temperatures recorded weekly.

PHU and the eMB: if a farm is identified as a Persistently High User, an action plan for reducing antibiotic usage must be created using the given template with input by the vet with recommendations for alternative disease control methods.

This list is not exhaustive. It is therefore very important that you read and understand the new guidelines for yourself. Obviously if you do have any questions concerning these new changes, please do not hesitate to contact your vet so they can discuss them with you.

Meet the Team

It is time to meet one of our newer members of the team, **Becky Stephenson**.

Hi, my name is Becky, I have been part of the Garth Team since January 2021, I work as a full-time dispensary assistant. Before I started at Garth I worked in a small animal practice as a Veterinary Nurse Assistant, previous to that I worked in the dairy and beef industry. I have recently taken on an allotment plot which is keeping me very busy. I enjoy the countryside and wildlife, arts and crafts, crocheting, listening to music.



YOU ARE NOT ON YOUR OWN.

These are the hardest times the pig industry has experienced for over 20 years, and everyone is under incredible pressure. Please remember that there is help if you need it, and do not be afraid to reach out.

RABI is a leading farming charity and has announced immediate availability of additional support to anyone who needs it. They have a dedicated, professionally trained team who understand the pressures and challenges you face.

If you, or anyone you know could benefit from talking to RABI, or request a call back from a councillor, the charity can be contacted 24 hours a day on a confidential free helpline.

RABI 24-hour helpline: 0800 188 4444

help@rabi.org.uk