

Newsletter

Jun
2016



Barry Mills

Barry Mills who was a partner at Garston Veterinary Group died recently after suffering a heart attack

Barry Mills grew up in Bath, where he attended King Edwards School and after later graduating as a vet from Bristol University in 1956, moved to Beckington and then Frome. He joined Garston Veterinary Group, which was then known as Stephens and Stephens and became a partner in the practice in 1962. Barry initially worked as a mixed vet in the great 'James Herriot' tradition where the days were long and holidays hadn't been invented. He later concentrated on farm animal work which is how he will be best remembered. Barry was well respected throughout the local farming community and many of our current day farmers will remember growing up and learning from 'Mr Mills'. Barry was instrumental in the expansion of the practice to include the surgery at Warminster and retired from practice in 2000.



The family home was in Welshmill Road, which was then on the outskirts of Frome back in the 60's. With his wife Janet he raised 4 children on a small holding, with many different animals. His passion was the sea and sailing in particular, having grown up taking boating holidays, he then invested in his own yacht in the 70's and didn't stop right up to the end. Barry was a founder member of the Wessex Cruising Association and enjoyed being an active member for years.

There are many stories about Barry from his days in the practice but there are not many suitable for printing! One client remembers Barry using 'Technovit' foot blocks for the first time many years ago. He asked Barry how long the glue takes to set and Barry responded 'Well ... On a cold day it takes two fags and on a warm day it takes one'

He leaves behind his partner Mary, 4 children and 8 grandchildren who will sorely miss his loving, intelligent, calm and considerate manner.



Ben Hurst

Ben Hurst joins our farm team from June to replace Dru Shearn who recently left to work and live closer to his family. Ben graduated from the Royal Veterinary College (University of London) in July 2015, having previously completed a Zoology degree at the University of Manchester. His main interests lie in the ruminant species (cattle, sheep and goats), although he does have a soft spot for crias. When not at work Ben can usually be found playing, watching or listening to football in the winter and cricket in the summer.

LARGE ANIMAL VETS: Greg Mallard BVSc MRCVS, Duncan Williams BVMS MRCVS, Chris Mangham BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS, Georgina Doel BVetMed MRCVS, James Ryder BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS, Richard Talbot BVSc MRCVS, Alex Roberts BVSc MRCVS, Ben Hurst Bsc (Hons) BVetMed (Hons) MRCVS

Veterinary surgeries at: Frome, Warminster, Westbury and Trowbridge

01373 451115

Exam success

Many of you may have seen or spoken to our LA and equine receptionist Louise. Since November 2014 she has been studying to become an SQP (a suitably qualified person). The course included four modules; Farm, Equine, Companion and a base module which included many aspects of animal health and legislation. Louise also had to complete an on farm visit and an assignment discussing the benefits of correct vaccination protocol.

We are delighted to announce that as of February this year, Louise is now a fully qualified R-SQP, having passed her exams in January with flying colours.

This qualification allows Louise to supply and advise on a range of drugs in all of our departments, including farm animal vaccinations, equine and companion animal worming and various parasiticides. Louise will be available on the LA and Equine reception to answer questions from clients regarding these subjects and others.



Velactis

Ceva have launched a new product called Velactis which is an aid to drying off cows, especially those giving a lot of milk. There has been much debate over the years about the best way to dry a cow off when she is still giving a lot of milk late in lactation. There are advantages and disadvantages to either a sudden cessation to milking or a more gradual reduction and slower 'dry off'. Velactis might be the answer in these cows where a sudden dry off is made easier by the action of the product. The dry period is a crucial time for the cow's udder in terms of repair and regeneration and anything that helps the transition from milking to dry can only be a benefit.

The product acts by suppressing the production of prolactin which is the hormone that controls milk production. By 'switching' this off the stimulus to produce milk stops meaning the udder does not become overstocked, improving comfort and pressure on the teat is reduced. Milk leakage after drying off is a major risk for mastitis as it slows down the effective formation of teat plug and risks pushing out any teat sealants.

This product is likely to appeal to owners of higher yielding cows and become part of their drying off process.

Greg's Useless Facts

This month a challenge !

1. What is the longest word in the English dictionary without a vowel?
2. What word sounds the same even if you remove the last four letters
3. What is the longest word that can be made up from a single row of a keyboard.

