

NARCH 2026 Education Seminar

Sunday October 4th 2026 at Holiday Inn, Guildford, GU2 7XZ

8.45 - 9.15 NARCH Registration and refreshments

9.15 - 10.15 **IVDD – and how we should treat it plus Lumbosacral pain in dogs**

Lecturer: Colin Driver BSc BVetMed (Hons) EBVS RCVS MVetMed PhD DipECVN FRCVS

Colin graduated as a vet in 2008, shortly after he settled on a career in specialist referral practice, becoming a diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Neurology in 2012. He has worked in private practice in southern England since, helping to establish and lead three different neurology services and serving as clinical director of two large referral hospitals. He is based at Lumbry Park Veterinary Specialists in Alton (Hampshire) and is a visiting senior lecturer at the University of Surrey. He became a fellow of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons by meritorious contribution to clinical practice, in 2022. Colin has published over 40 peer-reviewed scientific papers; his main clinical and research interests are the management of spinal pain in dogs, orthopaedic spinal surgery and minimally invasive spinal surgery. Colin is the first and only small animal veterinary surgeon in the UK performing minimally invasive endoscopic spinal surgery in dogs for a range of problems including IVDD and lumbosacral disease.

10.15 - 11.15 **Myotherapy, myofascial release and reiki: their place within multimodal management of spinal conditions.**

Lecturer: Luisa Greig MSc BSc Dip. RM IAAT

Luisa is a qualified McTimoney Animal Therapist, Canine Myotherapist, Myofascial Release Therapist, Reiki Master and Advanced Applied Energy Work Therapist. She has been working with dogs in a professional capacity for over 15 years. By using the array of techniques at her disposal, Luisa is able to provide a truly individualised, multilayered, effective and holistic treatment approach. She is a big advocate of working alongside experts in their respective fields to achieve both a multimodal and multidisciplinary team approach and therefore optimal patient outcomes and gold standard client support, and continued professional development and learning.

Based in Horsham, West Sussex, Luisa runs a busy practice covering Sussex, Surrey, and parts of Berkshire, Kent and Hampshire, although she has been known to venture further afield, having worked in Serbia, Norway, Italy, Germany and Iceland!

Luisa's career to date has been multifaceted, from treating, to writing for club publications, running workshops, teaching, mentorship, sponsorship of high profile canine sporting partnerships, to developing specific areas of interest and expertise (see sleddog obsession and energy work). She even worked as a junior hydrotherapist at Greyfriars whilst studying for her MSc many moons ago.

Luisa enjoys a varied caseload ranging from chronic pain cases, spinal and neurological rehabilitation, sports and working dogs from agility to flyball to sled dog sports, ongoing management of orthopaedic conditions, and pain related behavioural referral cases. She is passionate about providing an empathetic, knowledgeable, effective and supportive service to her patients and clients, using a truly holistic, integrative, and choice led approach.

11.15 - 11.30 Refreshment Break

11.30 - 12.30 UWTM hydrotherapy for post spinal surgical cases

Lecturers: Rebecca Golton BSc, RCH and Kate Parsons RCH

Rebecca graduated from Hartpury University in 2020, where she studied Bioveterinary Science. The university's canine hydrotherapy centre led to her interest in this area of canine care and rehabilitation, and she completed her dissertation in this specialist area. Rebecca then completed the Level 3 Certificate in Canine Hydrotherapy at Greyfriars in 2020 and the Level 4 Award in Canine Hydrotherapy in 2021. She then joined Greyfriars hydrotherapy team in 2022 and is currently studying towards the Level 4 Diploma in Canine Hydrotherapy. Passionate about the wellbeing of all animals, Rebecca is enthusiastic to educate and continue to learn, to ensure patients receive the best possible care.

Kate Parsons MCSP, ACPAT CAT A, Dip HAS

Kate is an experienced human physiotherapist. After qualifying in 2009, she decided to travel and spent time in Africa working in various hospitals there. On her return to the UK, she worked in private physiotherapy clinics and became interested in transferring her skills to the animal world. She completed her Veterinary Physiotherapy training in 2013 and the idea of a private physiotherapy clinic for small animals started to take shape. In April 2014, Kate Launched FootFalls. After 10 years, Kate now continues to treat the occasional two-legged client, but her focus and full-time attention is on the small animal practice, splitting her time between her new company P.A.W.S and Greyfriars Rehabilitation Centre.

12.30 - 13.45 Buffet lunch - time to network and visit stands

13.45 - 14.45 We've got your back - Rehabilitation for IVDD & LSD patients

Lecturers: Dr Pete van Dongen DVM, CertVR, MRCVS, CCRT and Dr. Rimante Butkute, DVM, MRCVS - Partners at PeRiHab, Mobile Canine Rehabilitation.

Pete van Dongen is a vet with over 30 years' experience in small animal practice, as well as over 15 years of experience in complementary treatments, such as canine hydrotherapy and rehabilitation. He is one of only a small number of vets in the UK with the CCRT (Certified Canine Rehabilitation Therapist) qualification from the US based CRI (Canine Rehabilitation Institute). He is also a former dog agility competitor, judge and instructor and a former British Team Vet for the dog agility World Championships. He has been Senior Director at a multi-branch veterinary practice in Kent, Lead Vet in Rehabilitation at the world-renowned Fitzpatrick Referrals, Lead Vet in a veterinary hospital practice in West Sussex and Clinical Director at a primary care vet practice in Surrey. In November 2021 Pete started, together with his fiancée **Dr. Rimante Butkute, DVM, MRCVS, PeRiHab**, an independent, family-owned, vet-led, mobile canine rehabilitation service for Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire, offering a bespoke, personalised, home-based service in rehabilitation, pain management, osteoarthritis management, Western acupuncture and Western herbal medicine.

14.45-15.15 Optimising Laser Therapy for Spinal Cases: Choosing the Right Parameters for Maximum Effect

Lecturer: Emily Ashdown RVN, A DIP PHYS, L3 Hydro Cert, ISFM Cert, L3AET, CSMC, RAMP, VMLSO

Emily Ashdown graduated from Halesowen in 2013 with a Diploma in Veterinary Nursing and is a registered Veterinary Nurse with the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. She went on to earn her qualification as a Veterinary Physiotherapist from the College of Animal Physiotherapy in 2017, specializing in Canine Sports Massage in 2018, and becoming a certified Small Animal Hydrotherapist in 2021. Emily is listed on the Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP) and is a member of the Institute of Registered Veterinary and Animal Physiotherapists (IRVAP).

Her diverse experience spans various types of practices, from small independent clinics to large charity hospitals, where she played a key role in managing a team of 14 nurses. Since 2017, she has focused on

rehabilitation, establishing her own independent business and working at a rehabilitation facility treating a wide range of patients, including military working dogs and agility dogs representing Team GB.

Emily joined Companion Animal Health in 2017, contributing globally in product support, product management, and clinical support roles specialising in Laser therapy, Stance analysis and Regenerative therapies. After a brief tenure as Clinical Manager for Pioneer Veterinary Products, where she specialized in laser therapy and thermal imaging, she returned to Companion Animal Health as the International Training and Education Manager.

In addition to her clinical work, Emily has lectured at numerous universities and CPD programs, Wrote the first every Ofqual accredited Laser therapy qualifications, and is the founder of Precision Animal Laser Academy. You may also spot her at events alongside her Cocker Spaniels, Vinnie & Diesel, who enthusiastically assists in demonstrations!

15.15-15.30 A charity launch – Greyfriars Canine Trust. Delivered by Kirsten Foulkes

15.30 – 15.45 Refreshment Break

15.45 -16.30 “Lifting Techniques” – looking after your own back!

Lecturer: Dr Marion Aylott

Marion is a Canine Hydrotherapist having trained at Greyfriars in 2016. She ran her own hydrotherapy Centre and worked as the lead RCH at a Veterinary Centre in Chepstow. In November 2024, she took on the role of NARCH Audit Administrator. Holding a PhD in Health Service Management and Applied Research gives her pertinent knowledge and experience to fulfil this role.

16.45 SEMINAR CLOSE