



Hannah Capon, MA Vet MB MRCVS

Q: Why did you join IVAPM?

A: I first contacted the IVAPM in 2016 when I launched the Canine Arthritis Management website. The response from the IVAPM team (especially Nancy Shaffran) was the confidence boost I needed to keep going! Since then, I have watched and admired what they do and hoped that I could be part of such a well-respected, dynamic and motivated group. Through working within this team, I hope that I can contribute to improving animal welfare!

Q: What is the importance of pain management in veterinary medicine?

A: It is universally agreed that living in pain, be it transient or long term, is detrimental for both mental and physical health. Preventing it and minimising it is a cornerstone in veterinary medicine. Working towards successful pain management brings the clinical team together, sharing knowledge and skills from an exciting, challenging and rapidly developing discipline

Q: What vet medicine pain management related initiatives are you involved with and/or most proud of accomplishing?

A: I am a little obsessed about arthritis, a leading cause of chronic pain. I feel we have an amazing tool box at our fingertips to best manage the disease, we just need to all sing from the same song sheet and share knowledge and best practice. I set up Canine Arthritis Management (CAM) with the intention of making essential information readily available to all those involved as well as raising the profile of the disease. In simple terms, CAM is attempting to make the disease trendy to gain more publicity and professional interest. I get a lot of pleasure, as well as lose a lot of hair, in creating educational content that resonates with the public, and I hope I can continue to provide current, reliable evidence-based advice long into my retirement!

Q: What passion veterinary projects are you currently involved?

A: A current project which has consumed a huge amount of my time is the Canine Arthritis Management's Big Walk 2021. Determined to make essential learning fun and engaging as well as create a supportive community that will empower its members to change lifestyles, entertain new interventions and understand what their canine friend is "telling" them, the CAM team has created a virtual event that lasts the whole month of September - IVAPM's Pain Awareness Month. This project has required more than passion. Eyes that can see laptop screens late into the night, tolerance of an owner of an expletive parrot and determination of a mosquito in winter have all been prerequisites to complete the event. Even though it has been tough and uptake has been less than hoped, I do believe we have created a framework for something that we can proudly produce annually for owners of arthritic dogs.