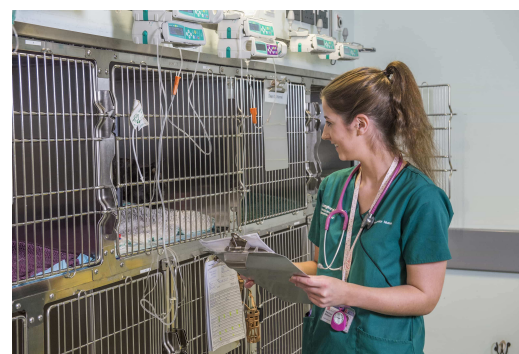


# Clinical Audit spotlight on: Langford Vets, Small Animal Referral Hospital (Bristol)



## Overview

Langford Vets Small Animal Referral Hospital was opened in 1994 and offers a comprehensive multidisciplinary service to veterinary surgeons across the UK. As a subsidiary of the University of Bristol, they are a teaching hospital for veterinary and veterinary nursing undergraduates and also offer post graduate internships and residency programmes. A Veterinary Nursing Graduate Programme was recently introduced by Rebecca Jones, Nursing Manager and Andrea Jeffery, Veterinary Nursing Programme Director.

Alongside supporting their newly graduated nurses in developing their clinical skills, this programme also has a 'clinical governance' element to it, developing the nurses skills in evidence-based medicine, and clinical audit.

## Contact details

[www.langfordvets.co.uk](http://www.langfordvets.co.uk)



## Clinical Audit in Practice

The undertaking of clinical audit as a quality improvement tool is gaining momentum within the veterinary profession. However, successful implementation is not without its challenges, primarily due to the lack of evidence-based standards akin to the NICE guidelines that are referenced within many NHS and human healthcare audits. In the veterinary world, identifying a 'standard' for audit is usually dependent on appraisal of the best available evidence or by establishing a standard at a more local level with a baseline audit.

As part of the veterinary nursing graduate programme, Langford Vets provide dedicated time to enable the nursing graduates to undertake a clinical audit, under the direction of the senior clinical team. Juliet Morrison (Registered Veterinary Nurse) chose to audit contamination of canine intravenous catheters at the hospital. The interest in this topic was born out of a curiosity surrounding intravenous catheters, primarily whether or not duration in situ was a reason for removal and replacement of these devices.

Whilst appraising veterinary evidence, contamination rates were disclosed which inspired this audit. The approach was made in a similar way to a dissertation i.e: reviewing human and veterinary literature, compiling a method with senior clinical staff, collecting data and then reviewing the results. Having a standard to compare the results was difficult as clinical audit is so new to veterinary practice; the only published data found was that contained in veterinary research projects. The values found in research were therefore used to compare the local results against, thus providing the opportunity to benchmark care.

As the veterinary nursing graduate programme is only one year long, it is difficult to complete the audit cycle and re-audit. However, it is hoped that the next generation of graduates will continue this course and undertake a further measurement, therefore completing the re-audit of this project. At a wider level, Langford Vets are working with Clinical Audit Support Centre to train staff (clinical and non-clinical) in clinical audit methodology. The aim is that clinical audit will become an integral part of a wider quality improvement process that ensures the animals we treat receive best and safe care.

#CAAW  
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