



## COMPANION ANIMAL NEWSLETTER – MAY 2025

### NURSE AWARENESS MONTH – MEET OUR NURSES

We celebrate our fabulous team of nurses every day of the year, but as May is Nurse Awareness Month it gives us the opportunity to publicly share how vital the nurses are to the practice, and give you some insight into their role as well as themselves as individuals. Quite simply our team of vets could not do their day to day job without their expertise and support.

*“The nursing team are often the unseen people, assisting the vets with their daily tasks and procedures. We cannot function without them, they help us behind the scenes; caring for inpatients, running blood tests, monitoring anaesthetics, holding animals to enable us to do our examinations thoroughly, just to name a few. They also run the clinics that you see them in; weight clinics, post operative checks, well pet checks, dental checks, nail clips and everybody’s favourite – expressing anal glands! It may also surprise you to find out that vets can be notoriously messy whilst they go about their daily work, and the nurses spend a lot of time keeping the practice in the condition you see it in.*

*We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Kat, Tracy, Glen, Natalie, Anna and Lizzy for everything they do. Thank you.”* Hollie Mackenzie, veterinary surgeon.

We asked our team of nurses to write a small autobiography to introduce themselves to you. We hope you enjoy our nurse special this month.



**Katherine McNamee** – I am the Head Nurse here at Dalehead Veterinary Group and have worked here since leaving sixth form in 2000 – a whole 25 years ago! I originally came as a kennel maid for a summer job and was then offered a full-time job with training at Myerscough college, which I attended once a week for 2 years. My day-to-day job is always different and very varied, from consulting to operating, insurance paperwork to audits and everything in-between. You must have many different skills as a veterinary nurse but a love for animals and caring for them is the most important skill all our team have at the forefront of their jobs. Being Head Nurse of the team I work with is the reason I am still here 25 years later, and I am still passionate about being part of an independent, progressive practice and the Dalehead family.

Outside work I love walking my two labradors Bramble and Fig and riding my handsome horse Lucky. We compete regularly in eventing, dressage and showjumping and I have owned him for 8 wonderful years!

**Tracy Thurstan** - I have been at Dalehead for almost 24 years and still love to come to work every day. I have seen the practice change and adapt but we have kept the family feel of Dalehead which means we work with friends not colleagues. I love Settle and our clients but most of all I love the animals. I enjoy the surgical aspect of the veterinary nursing. I also have a keen interest in behavioural problems in companion animals.

I am married and have two grown up children one of whom is at Liverpool vet school. It is nice to think she has inherited the love of veterinary care. I love to travel with my family, seeing new places and cultures is a great adventure. Planning holidays and trips away is my favourite pastime. When at home I have my two dogs Oti and Indi along with my much-loved cat Hugo, chickens and a tortoise.





**Natalie Pattinson** - I am one of the Registered Veterinary Nurses here at Dalehead Veterinary Group and I have worked here for 8 years after moving down from Cumbria where I am from and where I trained. I also have a Certificate in Emergency and Critical Care Veterinary Nursing. No day is the same in the veterinary world! One day you might be running blood samples and cleaning surgical kits, the next morning you could be monitoring an anaesthetic for a complex orthopedic operation or giving second vaccinations to a litter of puppies!

I love every part of my job, but I have a particular interest in medical nursing, especially caring for and helping pets feel better while they are hospitalised, whether they are here for just the day or a whole week. I like to work out each one of their personalities as it is important to me to ensure they feel as comfortable as possible whilst treating and nursing them through their conditions. There is genuinely no better feeling than watching a very poorly pet get better and go home to their families. I also enjoy anaesthetic monitoring as sometimes it throws up some challenges and really gets my brain working!

**Lizzy Taylor**- I am one of the veterinary nursing team at Dalehead Veterinary Group, I have been part of the team for 12 years. Every day I get to do what I love, caring for animals. Working with animals has always been a passion of mine and at Dalehead my days are filled with everything from monitoring anaesthetics during surgeries, comforting nervous dogs and helping them feel safe, to meeting the wonderful new additions to our clients families. Its not always easy, but it's always worthwhile. I can't choose one thing I enjoy as I enjoy so many things about my job, it is very rewarding! Behind every wagging tail, purring patient and small furry, is a team that's hard working, checking vital signs, giving medication, offering cuddles and sometimes sitting quietly beside them to help them feel calm.

I am a proud parent of two boys, Bobby and Archie. Our home is a lively smallholding with a small flock of Herdwick sheep, Runner ducks, hens, Labradors and Border Terriers. There is always something going on and you will normally find us playing outside in the mud, going for walks, exploring or in the house.



**Anna Walker** - My role at Dalehead has evolved a lot since joining 12 years ago. With an ambition to grow in farm work, I've gone from nursing to Farm Vet Tech and Farm Team Leader. I continue to put my nursing skills to good use daily, doing a wide range of work from nutrition to lab work and anaesthetics. I really enjoy being out on farm for calf health visits, assessing overall health as well as completing procedures to help them stay fit and strong. You might meet me at a weekend, loving the variety my job offers, in companion animal nurse consults. Or, if you have border collie, my all-time favourite, I'm pretty sure I'll spot you arrive in the car park!

Out of work I'm kept busy by 3 boys; a husband, a toddler and a labrador! We're usually mucking about outside or with our flock of sheep.



**Glenys Sedgwick** – I am a qualified veterinary nurse and part of the nursing team. I have always worked with animals in some way, having grown up on a sheep and beef farm in Wensleydale. I love the variety of being a nurse; one minute I'm vaccinating new puppies or kittens and then a few minutes later I could be in the theatre monitoring anaesthetics. Alongside my nursing qualification I am also an SQP, this qualification allows me to prescribe and supply certain veterinary medicines for companion and farm animals.

Outside of work I'm looking after my two boys Sid and Ted, walking my lovely black Labrador Stan or helping on our family farm of sheep and beef animals.



Check out our website [www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk](http://www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk) for more information about caring for your pet, special offers, vet and staff profiles and much more!

