My week: Marc Armour

Marc Armour, is a fourth-year vet student at the Royal Veterinary College. Now on rotations, he chose to spend a week doing EMS with the BVA’s journals, which are published by BMJ. Here’s how he got on.

**Monday**
It’s Monday morning, so of course things are going wrong: a delayed train, spilt coffee and Google Maps throwing a tantrum seems only to be expected as I wander around London’s Zone 1 trying to find BMA House. Once found, I’m welcomed into the loving arms of the *Vet Record* and *In Practice* office and start work, critically assessing the journals and their competitors.

**Tuesday**
Battersea Dogs and Cats Home’s launch of a major campaign calling for harsher punishments for people who seriously abuse animals is a really interesting news piece and I start to research the tangled legislation safeguarding animal welfare and what’s being done to reform it.

I get my first insight into a professional meeting – I’m disappointed to find these aren’t quite as dramatic as Alan Sugar likes to make them on TV; I did not get fired.

**Wednesday**
I create and launch a student opinion poll for a potential news piece.

**Thursday**
This morning I’m invited to observe a meeting at BVA HQ concerning future content of BVA News, which is followed by a commercial meeting at BMJ HQ. I get to fully appreciate the scale and depth of the journals and the work that goes into them and find that my opinion is valued. The afternoon ends with tears of laughter as the team attempts a serious office photo shoot – Leibovitz, eat your heart out. Storm Doris causes havoc . . .

**Friday**
Here it is, my big moment. I pitch my ideas and feedback to the editorial team of *Vet Record* and *In Practice* and it all goes swimmingly well. It’s sad to say goodbye, but I thank everyone for showing me the ropes and know I’ll bump into them in the near future. I seriously recommend this placement to my vet student colleagues.

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