

# So happy to see spring!



**Being a  
student  
vet nurse**

**Dental talk**

**Meet our  
new vet**

**Pets of the  
month - did  
you miss  
any?**

**Working  
in our new  
Stratton  
surgery**



## The new Stratton branch is open!

**Yes!** In just under a year the Penbode Pet Vets brand new Stratton surgery is open! Already our vets, nurses and support teams have settled in and are thoroughly enjoying the new environment. With purpose built cat and dog kennels, x-ray room, operating theatres, dental room, client quiet room, staff meeting room, office, laboratory and even a staff flat for the 24 hour staff - it's no surprise! Admittedly there are still a few things which need finishing - our cats only waiting room and the adjoining Penbode Farm Vets building - but we're nearly there! And, if your pet hasn't needed to visit the vets in their new home yet, don't worry, we're going to be streaming a special behind the scenes visit which you can watch on Facebook at a later date. And don't worry if you're not into social media - we'll be holding an opening party in the summer!



### Contact us

**Bradworthy** 01409 241241

**Camelford** 01840 213277

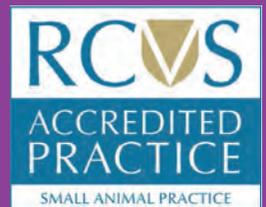
**Holsworthy** 01409 253822

**Stratton** 01288 359500

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

find us on Facebook @PenbodePetVets Follow us on Instagram



# Meet your new vet



**Name:** Pascual (Pas) Medina. Originally from Madrid, Pas moved with his family to the seaside town of Premià de Mar just north of Barcelona where he attended school and university. He knew he wanted to be a vet from the tender age of three!

## How do you usually start your day?

I normally start with exercising our seven dogs! Hopefully I'll start cycling to work soon too.

## What are your favourite aspects of the job?

I enjoy operating on animals and helping to save or improve the quality of another living being's life. I used to work at Woburn Safari

Park and so have been fortunate enough to carry out operations on some amazing animals such as mending cruciates in lemurs, repairing the leg of a 7gm baby bearded dragon, fixing the wing of a pipistrel bat and treating an elephant with herpes virus! I have already treated a parakeet and some African Pygmy Hedgehogs since I've been here in the South West.

## Anything you're not so fond of?

Euthanasia. It really makes you reflect on life and what's happening around you.

## What do you do in your spare time?

We have two children under three and seven dogs! So I try to spend as much time with them. We also compete at flyball, agility and cani-cross. Plus I love to surf and can't wait to get in the water!

## What is your greatest achievement?

Certainly I'm immensely proud to have passed my certificate on wildlife and exotics in the UK! But I would think my proudest achievement would be becoming a father and having a family!

## Describe yourself in three words.

Enthusiastic. Kind. Active.



*Spaying a budgie*



*Looking forward to getting back in the water*



*Tubing an anorexic tortoise*



*Happiest spending time with the family*

# Becoming an RVN

The Penbode Pet Vets nursing team plays a vital role in the day to day life of our veterinary practice. Our Veterinary Nurses (RVN) (who all have their own special interests) and, as we are a training practice, five ways to become a veterinary nurse and what you have to do...read on!

## The Foundation Degree Route



Originally from London, **Charlotte Collins** spent many holidays in the South West dreaming of a life down here. She had always wanted to work with animals and, when she was offered a place on the Duchy College Veterinary Nursing Course, she jumped at the chance and she and her mother made the move.

After she finished school (at 16) she followed an Animal Management course at Nescot College. Here she was lucky enough to gain some work experience in the oncology unit of Fitzpatrick Referrals, which she found fascinating. During her week she shadowed the auxiliaries (kennel assistants) and watched extensive physiotherapy being carried out on a pug following a liver shunt, which actually lead to full recovery.

*"I love training as a vet nurse - every day is different!"*

Charlotte is following the Foundation Degree route to become an RVN. The **FdSc in Veterinary Nursing** is a three year course with two days per week spent at the Camborne campus of Duchy College and at least three days in practice.

## What they study

In the first year they study anatomy and applications of care - these are based on dogs and birds! A student nurse is required to get at least a pass to be able to progress onto the next year. Charlotte says it's hard work and there's a lot of independent learning. She enjoys the course at Duchy because she gets to combine her work and study from week one. By contrast other colleges (such as the Royal Veterinary College) block the work together - eg 10 weeks in college followed by 15 weeks in practices. Charlotte says she prefers the Duchy route as it means she can feel more involved all the time with the practice. And stability and happiness at work is vital!

## Learning on the job

When Charlotte is at Penbode she tends to split her time between the Stratton and Camelford branches - it really depends what she's studying that week and where the relevant cases are. She works closely with her clinical coach Kaylie Haines, a Stratton based RVN. Kaylie identifies what subjects and skill sets on her Nursing Progress Log (NPL) Charlotte is ready for and then guides her through the learning process by demonstrating the skills first. Nurses aren't restricted to following a particular route of learning on their NPL - although they would normally start with subjects such as anatomy, nursing ethics and laws before moving on to skills such as running bloods and inserting catheters.

Our nursing team of 22 consists of a Head Nurse, 16 Registered and 6 student nurses. If you've ever wondered about what it takes



### The Diploma Route



Melissa Vickery is a Bude girl through and through. She was born and raised just yards away from the Stratton branch and has always wanted to work for Penbode.

Whilst at school Melissa worked weekends at the Canine Country Club in Youlstone. When she left she hoped to get a position as a student nurse with Penbode. Unfortunately, as training places at Penbode are very popular, Melissa had to wait for a space to become available. During this time she didn't sit still and sent her CV to **every vets** in Devon and Cornwall so she could get some vital experience. She worked for a short period of time with a small (only one vet, three support staff and a nurse - Melissa!) veterinary practice all the way down in Sidmouth and also at Rosevean Vets in Penzance for three months before joining the Stratton Penbode Pet Vets team.

During her time in Sidmouth, Melissa studied for an Animal Nursing Assistant certificate at Bicton College. It's here that she will be starting her **Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing** in September this year.

### What's different about the Diploma course?



Although our student nurses all wear their uniform 'stripes', matching spectacle frames are not mandatory!

The Diploma course is slightly shorter than the Degree course and can be completed in under three years. It follows the same Nursing Progress Log and Melissa is looking forward to finding out who her clinical coach will be so she can start her course as soon as possible. Apart from having to complete a few more assignments and take an exam, it provides you with exactly the same qualification as the Degree course

In the meantime Melissa is being kept busy by the Penbode nursing team. She travels around to each branch (Bradworthy, Camelford, Holsworthy and Stratton) and has learned to do such things as admitting and discharging pets, handling pets, prepping and cleaning the consulting and clinical areas and monitoring sedations. She is also permitted to help an animal be prepared for operations and to shadow these surgeries.

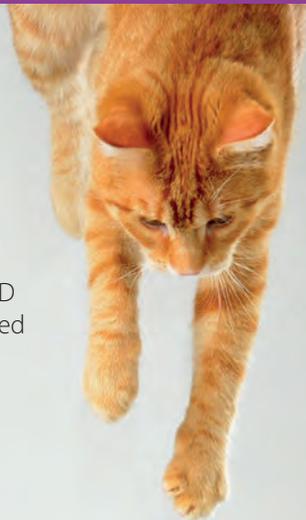
# Penbode Pet Vets Specials

## Healthy kittens. Happy cats!

The nation's animal shelters are overrun with cats and kittens! But here at Penbode Pet Vets, we believe in responsible cat ownership.

**When you get your kitten vaccinated at Penbode Vets you will receive 10% off both microchipping and neutering.\***

This means if your cat is lost and found we will know it's yours AND you won't be adding to the thousands of cats that need to be rehomed each year.



\*Ts&Cs apply. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offers.  
Valid for 4 months after vaccination

## Recommend a friend

Hey! Did you know if you **RECOMMEND A FRIEND** to Penbode Pet Vets you'll get...

...£10 credit for you £10 credit for them. Yep I knew that! That's why I'm chilling out with you!

- 1 Recommender must be a Penbode client to be able to receive £10 credit
- 2 No cash alternative available
- 3 Valid for new clients only and their pets.

# 2018-2019 Pets of the Month

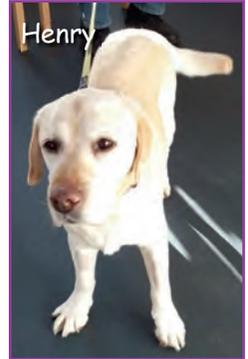
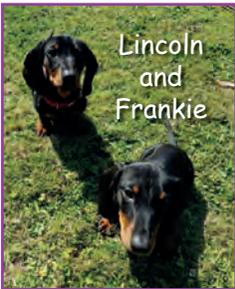
the remarkable stories continue



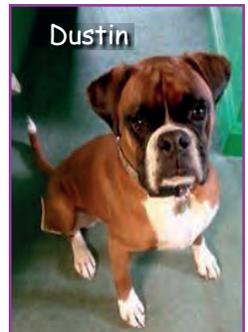
We have been delighted to look after hundreds if not thousands of animals over the past year. All of them great characters and some very brave, so it's always difficult to find those whose experiences really stand out and are worthy of Pet of the Month. Here are the winners since July 2018.

## Here are a few snippets of what these animals went through.

**Marge** had a leg amputated after a nasty fight with another dog and not long after the op she was out and about and doing well. Little dachshunds **Frankie** and **Lincoln** caught parvovirus and had to receive 24hr round the clock nursing care! After their eight day stay with us they were back to being puppies again! Trained assistance dog **Dustin** had some complications with a wound on his flank. He was incredibly well behaved and very brave throughout. Pusscat **Lucky** lost nearly 1.5kg after being diagnosed as overweight and near arthritic. Regular attendance at weight clinics means she is no longer in pain. Naughty **Henry** had a problem telling what is and isn't food and ate some of his bedding! After two ops in three days(!) and being given only a 50% chance of pulling through, he was a happy model patient!



## Visit our Facebook page to find out their amazing stories





# Penbode Pet Vets

**FREE Supper Talk**  
**Dentistry and caring for your pet's teeth**

**Thursday 11 April, from 7pm**  
**Holsworthy Golf Club, Killatree EX22 6LP**



Join the Penbode Pet Vets team to learn  
about commonly seen dental issues,  
their prevention and treatment.

Plus routine dental care for our much loved friends.

**Call your local Penbode Pet Vets branch to book your FREE place**

Bradworthy 01409 241241

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Holsworthy 01409 253822

Stratton 01288 359500