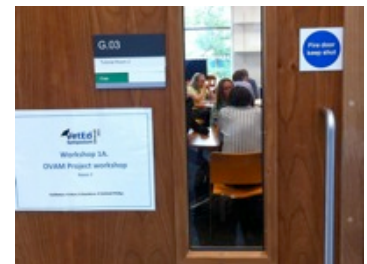# OVAM Update
July 2012

July has been a busy month for OVAM. Several curators have been busy working on their projects, and we attended the Annual Veterinary Education Symposium in Edinburgh to hold a workshop.

The annual Veterinary Education Symposium was hosted in Edinburgh in July. As part of the program we held an OVAM workshop which was well attended and very productive. After a brief introduction and background we moved on to consider the subject of student projects. Most of the curators are working during a decided timeframe on a project to collate some of their schools' materials into a more complete resource. However, the key to these being successful learning resources involves the consideration of a number of factors. We divided people into groups and asked them to identify a specific learning resource related to the veterinary curriculum. The idea then was to brainstorm what was important in their opinions when creating these, including the key issues which needed to be considered by staff and students.

Some of the points people felt were important were:

- The level of detail within the resource, and how to make this appropriate for different curricula, especially where an international audience is concerned.
- The organisation of the resource, starting with simple and moving to complex, in order not to put students off at an early stage by overwhelming them with detail.
- The learning objectives for the resource and the areas covered other than just pure structural anatomy such as function and physiology, histology and pathology.
- The contextualisation of the resource and the topic covered, integrating the clinical relevance.

Ultimately it was concluded that the organisation of these individual resources within the museum structure will be key to the success and usability of this project. We would like to thank everybody who joined us and provided us with a useful insight into what they feel are the key factors which we should be bearing in mind when structuring the museum and giving feedback on student projects.

Whilst in Edinburgh, Gemma also attended the annual Animal Health Information Specialists meeting and gave a short presentation to its members on WikiVet and more specifically OVAM. We hope that opportunities like this will encourage individuals such as librarians to recommend the museum to students as a source of information. Catrin Rutland from Nottingham also very kindly presented a poster on OVAM at the EAVA conference in Bulgaria, we hope this will also help to raise awareness amongst other international schools.

As curators make progress cataloguing all available resources, we are working to produce content maps which will be shared between partners so they can easily see content available and any areas where content is lacking and therefore any gaps they could help fill by contributing additional content.
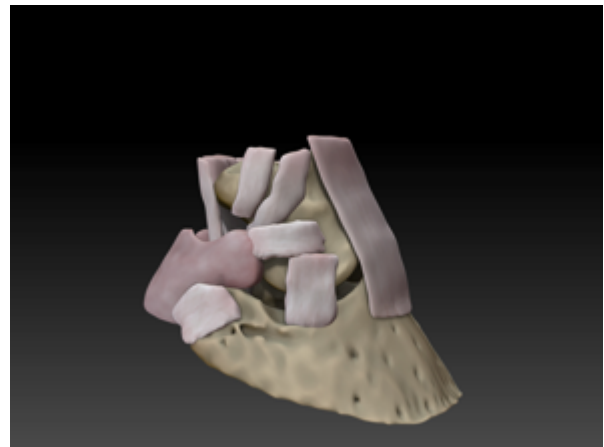
As a partner in the project, the University of Murdoch in Australia will be contributing to the museum. We have been busy selecting some material out of their wide range of content to include and are very excited to have partners so far afield, making the project truly international.

Such international partnerships bring some interesting and unusual content to the project, for example the image of the lions' retractile claw shown here. We hope that this variation will appeal to a wide audience and be interesting for users.

Per Karlsson, a recent graduate from the RVC, is working on an interface which will be able to provide 3D visualisations of anatomical structures. The prototype is currently based around the equine distal limb and will incorporate various different functions such as voice-overs, the ability to play video clips and show images as well as explanatory texts, which will also link to WikiVet. To have a look at the prototype in more detail please visit: ovam.scopty.com

Preliminary high quality render of structures in the equine distal limb

The aim is to develop an interface which can be used and adapted easily to visualise different structures by inputting the relevant datasets. If you are interested in collaborating and have any datasets which you would like to share then please get in touch with us.

This is the fifth in our series of monthly newsletters to provide updates on the project, which we send out on a monthly basis to all involved. This includes anatomists, students, publishers, funders and many more. Please let us know if you would like any of your colleagues to be added to this mailing list.

For more information on the project see its page on WikiVet at: http://en.wikivet.net/OVAM

And follow us on our blog at: http://ovamproject.blogspot.co.uk/