

The combination of the skills and expertise of academic organisations and industry can lead to positive and practical outcomes. We work with academia to support the development of new drugs and techniques as well as educational programmes. An example of this type of collaboration was when PhD student Alice Denyer from the Royal Veterinary College recently spent three months at Sansaw. After initial familiarisation with the existing Dechra Academy modules and understanding the history of development of the Specific Endocrine Support Diets, she carried out small-scale research into what veterinarians find most challenging about



dealing with diabetes mellitus (DM) in practice. Alice subsequently developed the content for the canine and feline DM Academy modules, as well as additional downloadable resources for owners and veterinarians. The modules were completed on-time and both went live in the UK in June.

The placement formed an important part of Alice's career development, offering insight into the veterinary pharmaceutical industry and providing an opportunity to learn about marketing, project management and cross-functional teamwork. The EU team were welcoming, ensuring Alice was fully involved and providing a highly enjoyable three months. Not to be underestimated was the positive impact Alice had on the wider team during her time at Sansaw due to her personality, professionalism and dedication to animal welfare. To date, Alice has won the 2018 Postgraduate Student Inspiration Award, an International Canine Health Award and was recently awarded first place at the RVC Postgraduate day for her impact statement.

Alice is a member of the Canine Diabetes Genetics Partnership (CDGP), a multi-disciplinary group of expert clinicians and scientists from a range of UK institutions, sharing a special interest in the genetics of diabetes mellitus in dogs. The Partnership was formed in 2017 with the aim of using Whole Genome Sequencing to explore the genetic risk of canine diabetes in breeds considered to be at low risk (e.g. Boxer) and high risk (e.g. Samoyed) of developing the disease. Alice's placement at Dechra has provided an excellent opportunity to understand the potential impact of this research, as an ideal complement to the PhD training she has received in laboratory techniques and bioinformatics. The CDGP is supported by the PetPlan Charitable Trust and sponsored by Dechra Veterinary Products.