

Case Study: Molly Papworth, an AMTRA Farm and Equine SQP, on the value of SQPs – Westover Vets, Norwich.

To support National SQP Week, Molly Papworth, an AMTRA Equine and Farm SQP shares her experience of the profession and the important role SQPs play in supporting animal health, welfare and responsible parasite control. Her insights highlight how SQPs help owners make informed decisions, improve outcomes for animals and support veterinary practices in delivering timely care.

Three years of supporting equine and farm animal health

Molly has been an SQP for three years and is qualified in Equine and Farm Animal. Working in a veterinary practice has given her a close view of the very real impact parasites can have on animal health. She has seen the devastation that worm burdens can cause in horses, and that experience has driven her commitment to promoting sustainable worm control and helping to prevent avoidable disease.

She says: “Working in a veterinary surgery, I’ve seen firsthand the devastation of losing horses to worm burdens - a tragedy that is entirely preventable. I’m passionate about promoting sustainable worm control to protect our clients' horses from future disease. As a practice committed to reducing our environmental footprint, we know that cutting back on unnecessary treatments is vital for protecting our local ecosystems. Parasite burdens can be fatal, and SQPs play a pivotal role in educating owners on how to prevent and treat infestations, thus improving the health and welfare of their animals. We also work with lots of farmers; parasites can have a huge impact on the productivity of their livestock and therefore be extremely costly to their business.”

For Molly, the role of the SQP is not only about prescribing responsibly, but also about supporting long-term animal welfare. In a practice that is committed to reducing its environmental footprint, she sees reducing unnecessary treatments as an important part of protecting both animals and local ecosystems.

Why the SQP role matters

Molly believes SQPs play a pivotal role in helping animal owners protect the health and welfare of their animals. By educating owners about the prevention and treatment of parasite infestations, SQPs can help reduce serious health risks and improve outcomes. This is especially important not only for horse owners, but also for farmers, where parasite burdens can significantly affect livestock productivity and create major financial pressures for a business.

She also highlights the wider value SQPs bring to a veterinary practice. By discussing patient health and managing prescriptions directly, SQPs can provide clients with answers more quickly and offer support that might otherwise require a vet appointment. This helps bridge the gap between clients and vets, while allowing veterinary surgeons to focus on animals requiring more urgent care.

Success stories and raising awareness

One of the most rewarding aspects of Molly's role is seeing clients embrace sustainable parasite control and achieve meaningful results. She points to success stories within the practice, including a livery yard where nearly all horses now consistently show low worm egg counts. For her, these outcomes demonstrate the real difference SQPs can make through education, persistence and practical support.

At the same time, Molly feels that the role of the SQP is still not always fully understood across the wider animal and veterinary professions. She believes there is an opportunity to raise awareness of SQP qualifications and the expertise SQPs bring, so that more clients and colleagues recognise the importance of the role.

Encouraging the next generation and marking National SQP Week

Molly would encourage anyone considering becoming an SQP to explore the profession. She describes it as a highly rewarding role, even though changing long-established client habits around parasite control can sometimes be challenging. For her, the success stories and the opportunity to make a lasting difference to animal health make those challenges worthwhile.

During National SQP Week, Molly's practice plans to help raise awareness of the profession through social media activity, conversations with clients both in the surgery and out on the road, and posters displayed in the practice. Together, these activities will help celebrate the role of SQPs and shine a light on the valuable contribution they make every day.