

Equine development programme

A TRAINING programme has been described as one of the most positive developments for UK equine vets in the past 25 years.

Derek Knottenbelt OBE described the XLEquine Graduate Development Programme – launched at the Student Equine Veterinary Association Congress – as the first step on a long path of professional and career development.

The programme has been developed by XLEquine member practices to help graduates transition from university to life in practice. Along with clinical best practice, it shares non-clinical skills – such as communication, driving and avoiding injuries.

Prof Knottenbelt, professor of equine medicine at the University of Liverpool, said: “Social, professional and ethical issues relating to pro-

fessional development have to be developed in our young people today. The modern veterinary graduate has immense potential and this needs to be maximised.

“It is easy to destroy the confidence of a young person by over-facing them and providing them with no support, but the XLEquine Graduate Development Programme sets out to ensure young people are given every opportunity to develop in a variety of specialities.”

Mark Tabachnik, of XLEquine member practice Wright and Morten, said: “Effective client communication, being safe in practice, sharing ideas and experiences, and making friends and contacts in like-minded practices are all part of the aims of the programme.”

For more information, visit www.xlequine.co.uk