



# CAVD

Canadian Academy  
of Veterinary Dermatology

Académie Canadienne  
de Dermatologie Vétérinaire

# DERMATOLOGY FORUM 2026

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHY

**Robert Ward**, BVM&S, MSc., MRCVS, Diplomate ACVD, graduated from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Scotland in 2016 and worked in general practice in the south of England for 2 years. In 2018 he moved to Canada and started working as an emergency veterinarian in Ottawa. In 2021, Dr. Ward began a Residency in Veterinary Dermatology at the Veterinary Allergy Dermatology and Ear Referral (VADER) clinic in Morriston, Ontario, and completed board certification in 2024. He became President of the Canadian Academy of Veterinary dermatology in 2025 and has lectured across Canada, as well as giving several webinars. Outside of work, Dr Ward is an avid rugby supporter and enjoys playing squash.

**Laura O'Shaughnessy-Hunter**, DVM, MSc., Diplomate ACVD, graduated from the Ontario Veterinary College in 2014. She practiced mixed animal medicine on Salt Spring Island in BC for a year before returning to Ontario to work in small animal medicine. In 2017, she decided to pursue her passion for veterinary dermatology by first completing a rotating small internship at the Atlantic Veterinary College in PEI, followed by a dermatology residency with the Veterinary Allergy Dermatology and Ear Referral Clinic (VADER Clinic) in Puslinch, Ontario. She became boarded in 2021 and has continued to practice at VADER. Dr. O'Shaughnessy-Hunter is passionate about educating veterinarians and pet parents on all aspects of veterinary dermatology to help improve the quality of life of pets with skin disease. In her free time, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two young children, as well as hiking with her Brittany Spaniel and Aussiedoodle.

**Sarah Ann Wilson**, BScH, DVM, DACVIM (Nutrition), a Canadian born UC Davis-trained and Board Certified Veterinary Nutritionist, works with both industry and individual clinical patients. She serves as the Vet Nutritionist for The Pets Table, which provides complete, balanced food options directly to consumers and in stores in the US (& soon Canada too!). Additionally, she collaborates with pet food companies and vet schools worldwide to develop nutritionally appropriate foods (including treats and supplements) as well as educational materials. Dr. Wilson also offers remote nutrition consultations through Pet Diets.com, helping pet owners and veterinarians manage complex clinical nutrition cases. Passionate about canine and feline health, she specializes in delivering evidence-based nutritional guidance, whether creating products for the public or tailoring nutrition plans for pets with complex medical needs.

**Jennie Tait**, AHT, RVT, VTS (Dermatology) Charter Member, is a veterinary technician with 40 years of experience and is a Charter Member of the Academy of Dermatology Veterinary Technicians. Jennie holds RVT certificate #4 and VTS (Dermatology) #7, and has been the only VTS (Derm) in Canada for over a decade now. She has spent much of her career working with patients affected by chronic dermatologic disease and the clients who support them. Jennie is known for her thoughtful, empathetic approach to dermatology education, with a focus on chronic pruritus, quality-of-life impacts, and effective client communication. As a respected international speaker and author, she combines clinical insight with practical, real-world strategies to help veterinary teams deliver more compassionate and consistent dermatologic care.

Work experience: 3 years private small animal practice, 26 years at the Ontario Veterinary College, Veterinary Teaching Hospital (11 years Large Animal Surgery and Surgical Exercises; 15 years Dermatology Service), 11 years private Dermatology Referral practice.

Giving Back: Organizing Committee (O.C.) Member for what is now the Veterinary Technician National Exam; O.C. Member, Charter Member and Regent for the Academy of Dermatology Veterinary Technicians; Executive Committee Member of the Canadian Academy of Veterinary Dermatology since 2017; O.C. Member and Ambassador for the Empathy For Itch Campaign; Editorial Advisory Committee Member for Today's Veterinary Nurse Journal.

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