Lublin Exchange!

4TH - 8TH FEBRUARY 2020
One of the Lublin IVSA students kindly picked us up at Warsaw Modlin Airport and drove us back to Lublin to meet up with the rest of the group. A short stop off at the Copernicus Museum immediately got our brains working and thinking about all the different experiments!

We stopped for lunch on the way to Lublin and got our first taste of traditional cuisine – consisting of dumplings and soup!
DAY 2

The second day started with a haematology practical within the Lublin University labs. One of the lecturers had set aside some time to go through running PCV’s, looking at blood smears and identifying different cell types. We were even given a really handy anaemia fact sheet which would be of great use on clinical rotation/on EMS.

In the afternoon we visited a Neon Museum, Lublin old town and the underground city tour. It was really interesting learning about how Lublin as a town came to be built, the disasters that occurred including the Great Fire of Lublin in 1719. All these factors that contributed to the development of the town as it is today.
Road trip!

DAY 3

This cold morning started with a trip to another of the university buildings where they have their own anatomy museum! Lots of exotic species have been taxidermied or bones articulated for students to see and learn from.

From monitor lizards to giraffes they had it all!

In the afternoon we had a break from the veterinary world and did a little bit of exploring. The students took us out to the town of Kazimierz Dolny where we climbed up the Hill of Three Crosses for what would have been a stunning view on a sunny day! The three crosses where erected to commemorate victims of the plagues that swept through the town in the 18th century. We also saw the castle ruins on the way up.

After spending much of the day out in the cold we spent the evening playing board games at one of the students flats to dry off and warm up.
Another vet-y morning had us up early and at the university campus where the lecturers had set up a guided ultrasound examination practical on some of the student’s dogs - this was extremely valuable and taught us how to approach a general abdominal ultrasound. Following on from that - we were able to visit the small mammals hospital - where rabbits, hedgehogs & rodents are all treated on site and we had a demonstration on how to place an IV line in a rabbit.

After lunch we headed off to the museum of Majdanek - a concentration camp built just outside of Lublin in the second world war. A chilling experience to say the least, but fascinating and enlightening to discover what happened.

Later that evening we were able to practice hoof trimming on the resident university horses guided by one of the older students - fantastic to be able to do this as they dont use farriers very often in Poland!

The day ended on a great note with a classic IVSA night out to explore the nightlife!

Majdanek Concentration Camp

DAY 4
DAY 5

On our final day in Poland we visited Warsaw Zoo in the morning. Getting to explore and see the animals that interested each of us most and seeing how the enclosures compare to what we see in the UK. A big feature of the zoo is the house in the centre - it was here that Jewish children were hidden in underground tunnels during the second world war. At this time supplies were difficult to get and many of the animals were shot to prevent them from starving to death.

Continuing on the historical theme, our last activity was a look at the Warsaw Uprising Museum. This was an amazing place filled with information and artefacts about what happened during WW2 in the city. Many of the things we saw there were not taught in our UK curriculum and it was great to see another side of the events.

When flying home we were able to reflect on all the brilliant opportunities to learn about both veterinary and cultural aspects of this country - a trip not to be forgotten!
Thank You!

A huge thank you to all of our 2019-2020 sponsors for making this & our other events possible!