Dr Bridget Lidgren (Senior)
PGR MSc • 2005 - 2007

What did you do at the Lighthouse ?

My research looked at anthropogenic impacts on Marine Mammals in the Moray Firth, with specific focus on underwater noise. I took noise recordings at various locations and depths throughout the area, taking the sound levels and frequency profiles and comparing them to behavioral audiograms of bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoises and harbour seals. I concluded that while mid and low frequency noise may be audible, it was unlikely to cause injury or hearing loss, while boat echosounders could considerably reduce the estimated radius of dolphin active space. I was also involved in the early days of T-PODs, which were used to monitor dolphin area use by detecting echolocation clicks.

What are you doing now ?

I am now a Veterinary Surgeon, living and working in Sweden. My time in research at the Lighthouse helped me to realise that rather than just studying animals, I wanted to help them more directly. After leaving the Lighthouse, I returned to Cambridge University to qualify as a vet. Having started my veterinary career with a heavy bias towards horses, I have now settled in rural small animal first opinion practice (cats and dogs). I have practiced veterinary medicine in 3 different countries (UK, Switzerland and Sweden) and learned two new languages (French and Swedish).

What was the most valuable thing you learnt at the Lighthouse?

Make a plan, but write it in pencil. You may not always end up where you thought you were headed, in research or in life, but it's the journey as much as the destination that matters. Really, I learned the value of the scientific method, of how research and the peer-review process works. I may no longer work directly in the field but I use the skills I learned about empirical evidence, critical appraisal and the scientific process every day to practice evidence-based medicine to provide the best care for my patients. I also learned that since getting hypothermia once aboard Rona one icy day in February, that I really can't stand the cold!