



## COVER PICTURE

The front cover captures BVA President, Nick Blayney, being interviewed for VETS.TV.

VETS.TV, launched by the BVA in April 2008, is an online television site offering specialist programming for the veterinary profession. It provides CPD as well as coverage of practice issues, products and services, and general interest information for veterinary professionals.

It can be watched at the viewer's convenience, wherever there is access to the internet.

We would like to thank the Royal Veterinary College for allowing us to shoot this footage at Boltons Park, site of the college's farm-related activities.

See more at [www.vets.tv](http://www.vets.tv)



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## Officers and Board members

### OFFICERS



#### PRESIDENT

Nick Blayney qualified from Liverpool in 1980 and has been in mixed practice ever since. He is principal of a practice in Warwickshire. He was a member of the Midland Counties Veterinary Association, secretary of the Warwickshire Veterinary Association and served as its representative on BVA Council. He was honorary secretary of the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons and chairman of the BVA's Members' Services Group until October 2006.



#### PRESIDENT-ELECT

Nicky Paull qualified from Liverpool in 1979 and began work in a three-vet mixed practice in Lostwithiel. In 1982 she took two years out of practice while having two children. She returned to the practice in 1984 and in 1988 she purchased the practice outright. She has been president of the Cornwall Veterinary Association and the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons, and joined the BVA's Veterinary Policy Group in 2005.



#### PAST-PRESIDENT

David Catlow graduated from Liverpool in 1987 and immediately joined a mixed practice in Lancashire, becoming a partner in 1992. His work is predominantly with horses and farm animals. Before becoming President, he served on several BVA committees including the Veterinary Services Advisory Committee, and as chairman of the Veterinary Policy Group. His BVA interests include the Young Vet Network and VETS.TV

### BOARD MEMBERS



Brian Hoskin (Chairman)



Ted Chandler



Ewan McNeill



Keith Reid



Declan O'Rourke



Derek Williams

The BVA Officers are also members of the Board

## President's overview

A review of just some of the events and initiatives of the past year at the BVA reveal the diversity of challenges that present themselves. We have faced disease outbreaks, we have gauged the requirements of our members through our online surveys, we have responded to consultations and lobbied parliamentarians in the UK and the EU, and we have provided advice to Government stakeholder groups and Select Committees. All of this activity is made possible through the support and advice of Council and the Standing Committees, for which I am extremely grateful.

On March 3, the BVA gave evidence to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRACom) inquiry into the need for a new Veterinary Surgeons Act. This was the culmination of some five years' deliberation within the BVA and the RCVS. In a quite extraordinary turn of events it became apparent during the final submission that Defra would not be pursuing a new Act in this parliament. I believe that the Association gave a good account of itself and presented well-reasoned arguments to support our position. It will, however, fall to a President of the future to resolve the matter, and this is our opportunity to take stock of the situation and consider how the Association should move forward.

The arrival of bluetongue virus on these shores has presented a disease challenge unlike anything we have experienced before, being vector-borne and very damaging. Our involvement across various stakeholder groups, and the advice we have presented to the profession via our website, has, we believe, assisted veterinarians in rising to the challenge that bluetongue presents. We have also demonstrated, through our presence on the Defra Bluetongue Core Stakeholder Group, the absolute necessity of veterinary advice in combating the threat of disease.

It is vital that the profession is well represented in Europe given the amount of legislation emanating from Brussels; the Association has therefore recognised the need to step up its lobbying activity. We appointed a part-time consultant who works in Brussels to help us negotiate the complexities of European legislation and processes, and forge new relationships with key officials and parliamentarians. The next 12 months will see continued focus on European matters. Working within our UK Coordination Group, with colleagues from the RCVS and other specialist divisions, and through the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, we will endeavour to present a united veterinary voice on European matters.



Alongside our lobbying activity at a European level, the Officers have had briefing meetings with MPs, MSPs, MLAs and AMs and in return have received useful advice that has informed our policy development. Our Honorary Associates take a great interest in the affairs of the profession and prove to be invaluable in assisting us to pursue our aims.

Among the initiatives that have been instigated by our Members' Services Group (MSG) this year, the launch of the pilot of VETS.TV is the most exciting. The aim of this Association must be to provide valuable services to its members and VETS.TV will help us to fulfil this aim by providing a platform for CPD for our specialist divisions, as well as other interested parties. As well as launching VETS.TV, we are about to launch our new website. When we carried out our survey of BVA members, we discovered that the current site was no longer fit for purpose. A year-long programme of work followed and we have come up with a user-friendly site which is also visually very pleasing.

In recognition of the complex nature of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations, the BVA produced its 'Good Practice Guide on Veterinary Medicines'. This is an invaluable resource, providing information that allows members to apply the regulations to their day-to-day lives in practice. Practices that produce more than 200 kg of hazardous waste per annum are also bound by waste regulations. This is a complex subject area, but one which the BVA has grappled with over a number of years. We embarked on a lengthy programme of negotiations with Environment Agency officials and produced a poster that gives members the information they need to comply with the regulations as they stand. The poster is supplemented by detailed web-based guidance for those who are interested in delving into the subject in more detail.

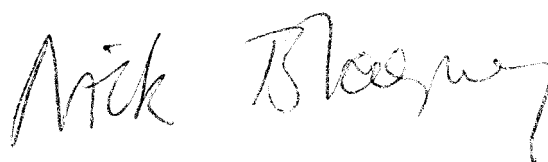
The increase in the size and diversity of the veterinary 'industry' is apparent to all who work in it. In order to reflect this diversity and increase the Association's influence, new membership categories have been activated to allow organisations in the veterinary field to become affiliate members of BVA. This is not a new idea; provision for affiliate and associate membership of BVA has always been provided for in our Articles of Association. Strict rules have been set to protect the core aims of the BVA, but we are pleased to have begun discussions with the Veterinary Practice Management Association and the British Veterinary Nursing Association

with a view to their becoming affiliates – we look forward to welcoming them on board.

The BVA is constantly striving to meet the needs of younger graduates. We recognise the professional and personal difficulties that younger members of the profession face, and the Young Vet Network (YVN) is one of our key initiatives. The YVN provides a web-based forum for discussion that has seen difficult issues raised and discussed in a supportive, empathetic environment. We have also established the Recent Graduate Support Scheme, also targeted at younger members of the profession who may be feeling isolated during their early years in practice. Through our divisions, informal meetings of recent graduates are organised and facilitated by more experienced members who have been trained by the BVA. The facilitator training has proved a success in preparing a pool of colleagues to lead these support groups with a view to the development of a valuable support infrastructure for our younger colleagues.

We have continued to strengthen our ties with the universities, via meetings with the Deans throughout the year, individually and as a group. We believe that there is a need to develop the collegiality of the profession at an undergraduate level through an involvement with and an awareness of the role of the BVA. With this in mind, I have addressed the students at all seven veterinary schools during the course of the year.

The relationship between our specialist divisions and the Association is vital to the future of the profession. It is the BVA that brings together the disparate views of all veterinary surgeons; our strength lies in this diversity, but also in our ability to present a unified veterinary view. We do this through our consultation processes with our specialist and territorial divisions, through our Standing Committees and through our Council. I have made it a particular task to develop those relationships, working with my fellow presidents and their officer teams to forge strong and mutually beneficial links. I believe that we have made significant progress in these changing and challenging times, and this diverse yet united Association will continue to work hard to represent the interests of its members.



# Policy

## BLUETONGUE

### THE ISSUE

In September 2007, Defra confirmed that bluetongue was circulating in parts of England.

In response, Defra announced plans for a voluntary industry-led mass vaccination of at least 80 per cent of domestic animals of those species susceptible to bluetongue. Under the plan, livestock owners were allowed to administer the vaccine to their animals. However, if the animals were vaccinated in order to be moved out of a Protection Zone for domestic or intra-community trade, then a level of veterinary certification was required.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

The BVA President is a member of the Defra core group of stakeholders, who are consulted during government decision-making. His input is informed by the BVA's own stakeholder group of experts.

The BVA is also part of the livestock industry joint campaign Against Bluetongue (JAB), which aims to help control the spread of disease by encouraging mass vaccination of bluetongue-susceptible animals. For its part, the BVA has provided the veterinary profession with updates via the BVA bluetongue web page, member emails, VETS.TV, *Off the Record* and *The Veterinary Record*, and through participation in regional seminars.

The bluetongue web page includes information on:

- Vaccination issues such as ordering, pricing, administration, off-label use and certification for movement;
- The current disease situation;
- Clinical signs of disease;
- The situation in Scotland and Wales, including information on movement requirements;
- A summary of key considerations for veterinary surgeons.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The BVA continues to work with the Government and through the industry campaign, JAB, to present the veterinary perspective on the UK's response to bluetongue and to feedback accurate and timely advice to its members through its website.



## FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE

### THE ISSUE

Foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) was confirmed on a farm in Surrey on August 3, 2007.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

Following confirmation of the disease, the BVA released a statement calling on animal owners to remain vigilant, emphasising that the veterinary profession was on hand to offer advice on clinical signs and biosecurity measures to animal owners and the Government. During the course of the outbreak, BVA Officers and representatives from specialist divisions provided the veterinary view to Defra's core and wider FMD stakeholder groups contributing to daily teleconferences. Issues arising from those teleconferences were communicated to members through the BVA website, but also via regular teleconferences with representatives from relevant divisions.

The BVA also provided members with a Policy Brief. This document provided background information on FMD with a level of detail that was invaluable for those invited to give television and radio interviews.

Dr Iain Anderson was asked to conduct a review into the Government's response to FMD, including looking at how well lessons from the 2001 outbreak had been implemented and whether there were any new lessons to be learned. The BVA submitted a written response in November 2007, which was prepared in consultation with divisional representatives.

The BVA's response, which is available on the website, acknowledged that lessons had been learned from 2001; however, a number of areas for improvement were identified:

- While progress had been made in the area of communication with stakeholders, the Association identified issues in relation to the quality and reach of the information supplied by Defra and Animal Health.
- Concern was expressed at the time taken to complete tracings, particularly during the early stages of the outbreak.
- The essential role of experienced Official Veterinarians (OVs) drawn from private practice during disease outbreaks must be recognised within contingency planning.
- While the use of the risk-based approach to lifting movement restrictions was deemed to have been largely

satisfactory, it took some time for some licences to be issued for movement on welfare grounds.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

Following the outbreak of FMD in England in summer 2007, the UK was officially declared free of FMD from December 31, and all movement restrictions relating to FMD-susceptible animals and trade within the EU were lifted.

## BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

### THE ISSUE

Bovine tuberculosis (bTB) continues to be one of the most challenging animal health and welfare issues faced by the veterinary profession, the Government and devolved administrations, and farmers.



### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

The BVA believes the continuing spread of bTB within cattle and wildlife has an unacceptable impact on animal health and welfare and has the potential for being a risk to public health.

The BVA welcomed the Welsh Assembly Government's commitment to eradicate bTB. The Welsh Bovine TB Eradication Programme announced in April 2008 includes:

- A one-off test of all cattle herds across Wales;
- Reform of the compensation regime to encourage best practice;
- The targeted cull of badgers in TB high incidence areas subject to strict regulatory, ecological, epidemiological, ethical and practical considerations;
- Improved disease surveillance, reactor removal, biosecurity, pre-movement testing and movement controls;
- Reintroduction of healthy badgers into culled areas at the appropriate time, subject to feasibility;
- Promoting improved on-farm husbandry techniques and biosecurity standards;
- Priority to developing and trialling bTB vaccines for cattle and badgers.

In February 2008, the House of Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRACom) reported on bTB. It stated that the best chance of significantly reducing the incidence of bTB was to adopt a multi-faceted approach, targeting the disease in both wildlife and cattle, using all available methods backed by the findings of well-founded scientific research.

In developing a response to the EFRACom, the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Rt Hon Hilary Benn, MP, consulted with stakeholders, including meeting with the BVA and the British Cattle Veterinary Association. However, even given the consultation, his response focused on further investment in vaccine development.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

In July 2008, the Government announced that it would reject the multi-faceted approach to bTB control recommended by the EFRACom. The BVA will nonetheless continue to advocate a comprehensive approach to disease control and, ultimately, eradication, as a means of improving cattle and wildlife health and welfare.

## VETS AND VETERINARY SERVICES

### THE ISSUE

In 2003, an EFRACom report into the provision of veterinary services expressed concern about the decline of rural veterinary services. In order to find a solution, Defra formed the Vets and Veterinary Services (V&VS) team. During the summer of 2007, Defra replaced the V&VS team with the Vets and Veterinary Services Working Group (V&VSWG), and brought in an independent chairman, Professor Philip Lowe. The group held five meetings between November 2007 and July 2008, examining issues affecting veterinary services and seeking to identify possible solutions.

The issues discussed included:

- Vets as businesses (trends in veterinary income);
- Public good (functions of rural vets – for example, in disease surveillance, contingency planning and disease outbreaks – and the role of the vet in the community);
- Whether new governance models in farming and food production are working in rural areas;
- The future of the livestock industry.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

The BVA is represented on the V&VSWG by the Past-President, David Catlow, while representatives from a number of the specialist and territorial divisions have taken part in the workshops on an ad hoc basis.

Following a workshop in late January 2008, Professor Lowe asked the BVA to produce a paper outlining the value of existing small business provision of rural veterinary services versus possible alternative business structures (for example, large corporate models). In response, the BVA produced a document entitled 'Strengths and Weaknesses of Evolving versus Traditional Rural Veterinary Businesses'.

In June 2008, Professor Lowe asked the BVA to provide him with further information on the value of the veterinary surgeon in terms of disease surveillance. This question was considered by BVA Council at its July 2008 meeting, and the Council's deliberations will provide the basis for the BVA's submission.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

Professor Lowe is in the final stages of preparing his report, which is expected to be submitted to the Secretary of State at Defra in late 2008.

## OFFICIAL VETERINARIAN NEGOTIATIONS AND REFORM PROGRAMME

### THE ISSUE

The provision of an OV (previously known as the Local Veterinary Inspector) service has been the subject of protracted contract negotiations between the Government and the profession.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

The BVA is working with its divisions, Defra, Animal Health, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Government to progress the OV Reform Programme.

In July 2008, as part of the OV Reform Programme, Defra and Animal Health awarded ADAS a tender to undertake a review of the OV fee structure. The OV Fee Review will drive future negotiations, including considering:

- Developments in the profession;
- The nature of OV services;
- The basis of charging;
- Generating options for revised charging basis;
- Scope to generate efficiencies.

The OV Fee Review is due to be completed in October 2008.

The negotiations have made progress in developing a new contractual arrangement for the delivery of OV services. This will see a commercial contract between Animal Health and OV practices outlining services and fees. There will also be a separate appointment process between Animal Health and individual OVs. These new agreements should clarify roles and responsibilities in service delivery.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The BVA believes the review will provide a valuable input into the negotiations, and remains hopeful that this and the other outstanding contractual issues can be resolved soon.

The parties are also seeking to establish a permanent body to improve communication between the Government and the profession regarding the delivery of OV services.

### VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT

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#### THE ISSUE

During 2007/08, EFRACom held an inquiry into the need to replace the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. The BVA gave written and oral evidence to the committee on the changes to the 1966 Act that had been proposed by the RCVS.

The EFRACom report on the results of its inquiry into whether the Act should be replaced was published on May 14, 2008, with a Government response expected within 60 days. EFRACom found agreement within the veterinary profession for some modernisation of the Act, particularly in relation to disciplinary procedures.

The committee highlighted areas of difference between the BVA and the RCVS, and advised that these should be resolved. It also felt that a number of the proposals for change, particularly in relation to CPD and revalidation, did not contain enough detail.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

Council agreed the position adopted by the BVA in its written submission to EFRACom. In summary, the written response highlighted the Association's support for:

- More flexible and accountable disciplinary procedures, with greater lay representation;
- The introduction of a voluntary guide to practice standards, similar to the RCVS 'Guide to Professional Conduct', rather than the introduction of a mandatory scheme;
- The provision of detailed information on CPD and revalidation; these could not be supported in the absence of more information;
- Increased regulation of veterinary nurses and other paraprofessionals;
- The appointment of lay members to RCVS Council and committees involved in disciplinary procedures;
- The ability for veterinary surgeons to delegate specific procedures to people holding qualifications recognised by the RCVS, provided that the animals remained under their care and the process was conducted within a highly regulated system.

These key elements of the BVA's submission were restated and expanded upon by the President and President-Elect during the submission of oral evidence to EFRACom.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

During the course of the EFRACom inquiry, Lord Rooker announced that Defra did not have the resources to prepare any new legislation until 2010 at the earliest. Council's advice, therefore, was that this provided the BVA with the opportunity to take stock of the situation and consider how the Association might best progress the issue.

### WASTE

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#### THE ISSUE

There are various regulations that businesses, including veterinary practices, must comply with when producing or disposing of waste, particularly hazardous waste. These complex waste regulations need to be translated into straightforward advice for everyday use.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

The BVA's 'Good Practice Guide to Handling Veterinary Waste' poster and supporting website advice was released in June 2008. This practical guidance aims to assist the veterinary profession in complying with waste regulations in England and Wales. The BVA, in conjunction with the British Small Animal Association (BSAVA) and the Goat Veterinary Society, worked with Environment Agency officials to produce the guidance, and it has their support and endorsement.

The web advice complements the poster and allows for updates as further information becomes available.

The guide outlines 'duty of care' requirements for veterinary surgeons. It also provides an overview of key veterinary waste streams, including an explanation of each stream, which waste containers should be used, what can be placed in these containers, how waste should be classified and described, and advice on waste disposal.

This guide sets out the requirements for hazardous waste such as:

- Cytotoxic and cytostatic pharmaceuticals;
- Photographic chemicals;
- Contaminated sharps;
- Infectious waste.



It also sets out requirements for non-hazardous waste such as:

- Pharmaceuticals;
- Offensive waste;
- Non-infectious cadavers;
- Domestic waste.

The poster was sent to all members in England and Wales with *The Veterinary Record* in June.

#### THE CURRENT POSITION

The BVA is continuing to develop advice on outstanding issues, in particular advice for members in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

### 24-HOUR EMERGENCY COVER

#### THE ISSUE

BVA members are concerned that the provision of 24-hour emergency cover by veterinary practices may be incompatible with compliance with the EU working time regulations. This issue is causing particular concern in remote areas of the UK such as the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

The RCVS established a 24-hour Emergency Cover Working Party (24-7 WP) and the BVA has permanent representation on that group, with regular updates provided to BVA Council. At the April 2008 Council meeting, members were given the opportunity to comment on an RCVS advice note and additions to the 'Guide to Professional Conduct' in relation to the working time regulations. More recently, the BVA Members' Services Group (MSG) has been discussing a further revised advice note.

#### THE CURRENT POSITION

BVA Council has consistently supported the requirement to provide 24-hour emergency cover. However, members did express concern about the stress that providing cover can place on veterinary surgeons, particularly those at the beginning of their careers.

The RCVS is intending to evaluate the profession's perceptions of 24-hour emergency cover. The BVA will assist and contribute as appropriate.



### VETERINARY MEDICINES REGULATIONS

#### THE ISSUE

Veterinary surgeons are bound to comply with the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMRs) which are revoked and remade annually by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD). These are complex regulations and the BVA negotiates with the VMD annually, through its Medicines Group, to ensure that anomalies and areas of concern within the legislation are highlighted.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

To assist its members in negotiating the VMRs and applying them to their working life, the BVA has produced the 'Good Practice Guide on Veterinary Medicines'. The guide was written in consultation with and endorsed by the VMD, and it contains invaluable information on the classification, administration and prescribing of veterinary medicines. It also contains practical advice on the supply, disposal and record-keeping requirements relating to veterinary medicines. In short, it provides a one-stop shop for members in all types of veterinary practice for the VMRs.

As well as producing the guide, the BVA has continued to raise concerns with regard to the reclassification of medicines including anthelmintics and vaccines, seeking always to outline the arguments for keeping such products prescription-only medicines (POM-V).

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The BVA continues to maintain its relationship with the VMD, the RCVS and the National Office of Animal Health (NOAH) on medicines issues, and has begun to establish dialogue with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. During 2008, the BVA's 'Guide to the Prudent Use of Antimicrobials' will be reviewed and work will begin on a new guide.

The 'Good Practice Guide on Veterinary Medicines' is available to members in hard copy and to download from the BVA website. The guide was originally made available to members only, however, due to a high level of demand, it is now available for sale to non-members.

### PET MOVEMENTS

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#### THE ISSUE

The UK historically used quarantine as a barrier to companion animal diseases such as rabies. Since 2000, the UK's Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) has allowed pet dogs and cats to enter the UK without quarantine provided certain conditions are met.

European Regulation (EC) No 998/2003 was introduced to harmonise the animal health requirements applicable to the non-commercial movement of pet animals between Member States and from third countries. It also provided five-year transitional derogations for pet dogs, cats and ferrets entering the UK, Ireland, Sweden and Malta from other Member States. These derogations included requirements for an individual serological test for detection of neutralising rabies antibodies and a waiting period before entry. These derogations have recently been extended for a further two years until July 2010.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

Although the UK pet movement derogations have been extended for a further two years, negotiations regarding the post 2010 situation will be taking place well in advance of that time.

With this in mind, the BVA, the BSAVA and other UK representatives on the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), are developing a UK position.

The UK position will consider whether the UK pet movement derogations should be made permanent, and what other

initiatives may assist in reducing disease risk, such as owner education and pet registration.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The UK position will form the basis for discussions with Defra, the FVE, other similarly placed Member States (Ireland, Sweden and Malta) and UK MEPS.

### PET INSURANCE

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#### THE ISSUE

The pet insurance market in the UK is growing, with over 150 providers in the market place. As a result, practices can offer a wider range of diagnostic techniques and treatments, and there has been an increase in the number of specialist referral practices.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

In April 2008, the subject of pet insurance was discussed at a meeting of the Veterinary Policy Group's (VPG's) Companion Animal Subgroup (CAG). Following a presentation detailing the current state of the pet insurance market given by the chairman of the Association of British Insurers, the CAG agreed that there was a need for better liaison and communication between the veterinary profession and insurers. The group also agreed that there was a need to educate the profession about issues threatening the affordability of pet insurance.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The BVA will organise a forum to facilitate liaison between the profession and insurers, and the Association will explore the idea of producing guidance on insurance for the profession, working with the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), which has already produced a series of guides.

### RESPONSIBILITY AND COST SHARING

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#### THE ISSUE

Defra announced a consultation on sharing costs and responsibility for animal health and welfare in December 2007. This sought views on how industry could be further involved in the decision-making process for animal health and welfare, such as during disease outbreaks, and whether this should be done through existing structures and organisations or new organisational structures.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

The BVA presented a policy statement, 'The changing face of animal health and welfare', in response to the consultation, which highlighted the need for:

- A genuine partnership between government and industry stakeholders, with greater independence of decision making from day-to-day politics;
- Integration of policy and delivery;
- Enhanced border biosecurity;
- Great Britain to be considered as a single epidemiological unit, with decision making that encourages regional flexibility, with regard not just to devolution but also scientific evidence of regional variation;
- Cost sharing that acts as an incentive for action and encourages good practice. This would involve developing farm health planning as the tool to reduce risk, identifying and rewarding good practice, and licensing animal keepers;
- Evidence-based disease categorisation;
- Continued support for research and development.

The BVA President presented these views at a national seminar on responsibility and cost sharing in February 2008.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

Defra has stated that a further final consultation will take place towards the end of 2008, which will outline the options available for future responsibility and cost sharing.

The BVA will continue to work with the Government and industry stakeholders to develop and implement improvements to our animal health and welfare system.

### RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

#### THE ISSUE

Veterinary research has a key role to play in the understanding of health, disease and behaviour in animals and, through comparative studies, in humans too. Cuts in government funding for research and development are likely to have a



negative impact on the research community. The BVA believes that the UK's research capacity must be maintained.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

While the majority of veterinary surgeons will have a general understanding of veterinary research and development, there will be some who are less clear on the impact it has had on clinical decision making and outcomes for patients. In recognition of this, the BVA has produced a Policy Brief on the issue, which is available on the BVA website.

The subject is under discussion by the VPG. At its meeting in May 2008, the VPG agreed that lobbying for the maintenance of the Government's research and development spend was essential, and that the impact of the decrease in funding on the research community in the UK must be highlighted.

#### THE CURRENT POSITION

At the July 2008 meeting of Council, the Chief Veterinary Officer stated that pressure on budgets meant that only core research and development responsibilities would be upheld.

The BVA will make a formal response to Professor Sir John Beringer's review of the future funding, governance and risk management at the Institute for Animal Health (IAH). The BVA recognises the IAH's position at the forefront of research in animal health, and the facilities it provides for dealing with disease outbreaks.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

#### THE ISSUE

Climate change will impact on all of society and it is anticipated that the veterinary profession will play an important role in responding to and mitigating its effects.

#### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

In recognition of the impact of climate change, the BVA, through the VPG, is producing a Policy Brief that will specifically address the role of the veterinary surgeon in relation to this issue. It will look at:

- Disease detection;
- Disease diagnosis;
- Protecting public health;
- Preventive measures for disease;
- Minimising the economic effect of animal disease;
- Protecting food safety.

The Policy Brief will be available to view on the BVA website in late 2008.

#### THE CURRENT POSITION

Recognising the impact of climate change, the BVA Congress 2008 will explore, through its political sessions, 'Vets in a Changing Environment'.



PHOTO: NALL CARSON/PA/PHOTOS

A herd of cows stranded by flooding. As a result of climate change, flooding events are likely to increase

# Ethical issues

In its second year, the Ethics and Welfare Group (EWG) has considered a number of interesting and sometimes controversial topics. These include the use of animals in research, treatment choice and euthanasia, and religious slaughter.

## USE OF ANIMALS IN RESEARCH

### THE ISSUE

Issues surrounding the use of animals in research have evolved over the 10 years since the BVA first produced its policy statement on animal experimentation. With advances in scientific techniques and the increase in public pressure to justify the use of animals in research, the EWG felt that it was appropriate to reflect on it.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

After consultation with BVA divisions, an updated 'Use of Animals in Research' policy statement was approved by Council in April 2008. The EWG also formulated a briefing document to accompany the statement. This document is on the BVA website, and will be updated as new statistics and information become available.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The responsible use of animals in research has improved human and animal welfare through the advancement of scientific knowledge and the development of safer and more effective medicines. The BVA respects the intrinsic value and sentience of animals and continues to support the traditional principles of the Three R's: replacement, refinement and reduction.

## TREATMENT CHOICE AND EUTHANASIA

### THE ISSUE

There has been a vast increase in the range of medical treatments for animals. This has been accompanied by a greater awareness of animal welfare needs, and a willingness among the general public to devote significant amounts of money to the treatment of companion animals. The decisions that veterinary surgeons are now called upon to make on behalf of their clients and patients have therefore become increasingly complex.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

Following last year's discussions with Lord Joffe on euthanasia, the EWG reviewed the finding that there was a lack of information available to veterinary surgeons for them to find the balance between quality and quantity of life of animals under their care.

In November 2007, the group discussed the veterinary surgeon's role in informing choice of treatment; this topic was also aired at the 'Quality of Life' symposium, a joint BVA/Universities Federation for Animal Welfare venture held in September 2006. Following these discussions, the view emerged that a resource to assist veterinary surgeons with the ethical decision-making process was needed.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

A working party was set up in early 2008 to produce a decision tree to aid veterinary surgeons when making choices with regard to courses of treatment. The group consists of four members of the EWG and a co-opted expert. The working party has met twice, and will report to the EWG later this year with a draft of its web-based document.

## RELIGIOUS SLAUGHTER

### THE ISSUE

Within UK law, long-standing provisions permit the slaughter of animals without prestunning to meet Jewish and Muslim religious requirements. Given the political sensitivity of this topic, the EWG decided to evaluate the practice of slaughter without stunning from an animal welfare standpoint.

### WHAT THE BVA HAS DONE

Previously, the BVA strongly supported the position outlined by the Farm Animal Welfare Council, in its 2003 report, that slaughter without prestunning results in unnecessary suffering and should be banned in the UK. After much debate within the EWG, this position was reaffirmed by the group.

The EWG was encouraged by comments made by Lord Rooker, minister for Sustainable Food, Farming and Animal Health, in April 2008, when he stated his view that meat from animals killed by slitting their throats should be labelled in order to facilitate consumer choice.

### THE CURRENT POSITION

The EWG acknowledges that the possibility of the law being changed in the area of religious slaughter is unlikely; however, it has agreed that the BVA should call for clear labelling of halal and kosher meat so that consumers can make an informed choice. The EWG will tackle emerging ethical and welfare-related concerns, and intends to consider welfare aspects of organic farming as well as obesity in companion animals as part of its future programme.

## Media, parliamentary and PR

'Many institutions employ press officers because they generate real news and need to react to real news. I'm sure the press team at the British Veterinary Association occasionally do "PR" to get coverage – but my only experience of them over the past few years is of an amazing team working weekends and evenings to help the news media get access to the UK's best experts on foot-and-mouth, bird flu, bluetongue, and so on.' Unsolicited praise from a reputable source – in this instance the director of the Science Media Centre, Fiona Fox, in her blog (<http://Fionafox.blogspot.com>) on science and media – is testament to the commitment of BVA Officers and divisional spokesmen.

### JOINT ACTION ON BLUETONGUE

Following confirmation of the bluetongue outbreak in the UK, the BVA issued advice to livestock owners, urging them to keep animal welfare at the forefront of their husbandry plans. Attendance at key stakeholder meetings became a priority and led to organisations across all elements of the livestock sector committing to a Joint campaign Against Bluetongue (JAB). The aim of JAB is to control the spread of the disease through the mass vaccination of bluetongue-susceptible animals. The veterinary profession's promotion of vaccination is core to the campaign's success and the BVA website is updated regularly.

### OTHER DISEASES

The BVA has been at the forefront of providing media comment and keeping the profession informed on a wide range of developments, including the first World Rabies Day (aimed at increasing global awareness of the disease and the means available to prevent it); the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in Surrey; publication of the Independent Scientific Group report on bovine TB; and the avian influenza outbreak in Oxfordshire.

### ANIMAL WELFARE

Despite the Government's much-vaunted Animal Welfare Act, the secondary legislation that was promised has yet to materialise. Through its membership of the Blue Chip Animal Welfare Group and the Dog Legislation Advisory Group, as well as directly to parliamentarians including Honorary Associates, the BVA has continued to lobby for action on a range of issues including the cat and dog codes; a revision of existing dangerous dog legislation, such as the need to focus on 'deed not breed'; and animal sanctuaries.



The first World Rabies Day was held in September last year and was just one of many topics on which the media sought comments from the BVA. The BVA Overseas Group (see page 25) lent its support to the rabies campaign by raising global awareness that this disease, which continues to kill over 55,000 people annually, is preventable and primarily a disease of poverty, ignorance and neglect. The photograph shows Sarah Cleaveland of the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine vaccinating a dog against rabies in the Serengeti

### PARLIAMENTARY LIAISON

All Parliamentary Honorary Associates, including those in the devolved administrations and in Europe, receive *The Veterinary Record's* weekly Comment, electronically, accompanied by a summary drawing their attention to its key message, as well as copies of all BVA press releases. Successful networking meetings in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, involving ministers and members of the devolved administrations, along with briefing meetings at Westminster, hosted by Lady Byford in the Lords, and Jim Paice, MP, in the Commons, have provided opportunities to discuss issues of concern, not least proposed changes to the Veterinary Surgeons Act, bovine TB and 'Vets and Veterinary Services'. Other face-to-face meetings have included meetings with the new Conservative EFRA opposition spokesman, Lord Taylor of Holbeach; the Labour Party vice-chair for animal welfare policy, Ian Cawsey, MP; and the shadow minister for agriculture and fisheries, Bill Wiggin, MP.

### BVA ONLINE NEWSROOM

A reorganised and improved online newsroom on the new website will provide a weekly BVA view, links to relevant topics and web pages, information on our spokespeople, downloadable images and much more.

## Members' services

### RESEARCH

The start of the new Association year coincided with the results from the member and non-member research projects. The results were presented to the Members' Services Group (MSG) and internal staff, from which a series of recommendations for future communications and business decisions were drafted.

From that, a summary report was produced in December 2007; this gave an overview of the key findings and the BVA's action plan. It is available to view or download from the BVA website, [www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk)

The research has been an invaluable process and one that will be repeated at regular intervals to ensure that membership continues to develop as per our members' needs.

Two main outcomes of the research are the redevelopment of the BVA website, and a review of our publications. However, there were several other findings and outcomes that have influenced the MSG's work over the past year. These are described in more detail below.

### WWW.BVA.CO.UK

In the research, we asked members whether they used the BVA website, what they used it for and whether they visited it regularly. We also asked for suggested improvements. The responses showed that although a high percentage rated the website as good or okay, only 10 per cent used it regularly, and 16 per cent had never visited it at all.

Many respondents said that they found the site hard to navigate and search for information. The feedback also showed that members wanted to set their own passwords, to join or renew their membership online, to update their personal details and to access publications and resources easily.

The new site has been developed in conjunction with the MSG to ensure that it is logical to the user and therefore easier to access information quickly. To assist this, we have added an improved search facility, an A-Z search, a site map and a breadcrumb trail.

In order to facilitate the flow of communication between members and the BVA, we have added a members' discussion



PHOTO: @ALYSTAD/DREAMSTIME.COM

Whatever your outside interests, getting the work/life balance right is something many aspire to. More than half of BVA's members identified this as a key issue

board, which is accessible via the members' area. We have also moved the Young Vet Network discussion forum away from Yahoo groups and onto the new site in the Young Vet Network section, which we hope will encourage a wider uptake among younger members. The YVN forum can only be accessed by BVA members in their final undergraduate year and up to eight years' qualified.

The website now includes facilities enabling members to manage their own contact information. Once logged in, members can change their addresses, interests, area of work and much more. In addition, renewal fees can be paid and new members can join online, making the whole process quicker and more straightforward.

It's not all new – we have kept some of the most popular functions of the old site, like our events diary, where veterinary professionals can post events relevant to members and the wider veterinary profession. These can be anything from national CPD events to smaller regional meetings or informal gatherings.

And we have updated the content to ensure that it is relevant and up to date. So, for everything from the latest information on a topical disease, to what support is available to young vets, [www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk) should be a member's one-stop shop.

### GRADUATE SUPPORT

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In the research, we asked members about some of the key issues they faced in their working lives. Sixty-five per cent said that the key issue they faced related to maintaining a positive work/life balance – the particular areas of concern or worry were time management and excessive working hours. Almost half also highlighted career management as a key issue – particularly career development, new techniques, identifying jobs and mentoring. These issues were a particular concern for new or recent graduates.

Graduate support had already been identified as one of the BVA's top priorities and the results have strengthened that belief. By providing support mechanisms from the early years, we can help manage some of these issues as new graduates progress through their careers.

### YOUNG VET NETWORK

The YVN is our support scheme for members in their final year of study up to eight years post qualification. It was launched in May

2007, and continues to grow in numbers using the YVN discussion forum and in the range of services offered.

This year, a number of possibilities have been explored by the MSG with regard to CPD provision for members of the YVN. This has led to some excellent agreements with two CPD providers. The Animal Health Trust, Newmarket, offered a programme of free equine CPD events exclusively for YVN members, and Onstream gave YVN members (three to eight years' qualified) discounts on internet access to the Vetstream programmes Felis, Canis, Equis and Lapis.

### GRADUATE SUPPORT SCHEME

The regional support scheme for recent graduates – for members and non-members – has gone from strength to strength, and the BVA has received an enormous amount of positive feedback from both facilitators and graduates alike. The scheme was launched in response to the high levels of suicide and drop-out among veterinary surgeons, and was intended to provide face-to-face support at a local level, with a view to encouraging graduates to discuss their experiences and work through problems together.

The success of the scheme led to a second round of facilitator training with a group of interested members, many of whom were recent graduates themselves. These trainees are going on to arrange their own meetings in close liaison with the existing facilitators, often within the territorial divisions. It is hoped that during the forthcoming year, support meetings will mushroom and the scheme will become self-perpetuating as more graduates become involved, drawing in their friends to this growing social support network.

The RCVS Trust and the Veterinary Benevolent Fund have continued to provide financial support for the initiative.

### VETS.TV

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Early April 2008 saw the launch of VETS.TV, an internet TV site aimed at veterinary professionals. Given the lack of time and CPD issues cited by members in the research, the MSG felt that allowing members to access CPD online at their own convenience would be a great addition to the membership package.

VETS.TV has been launched as a pilot in order to determine its long-term future. Feedback from and since the launch has

been constructive, and many members have already either left comments on the site or completed the online questionnaire to help us ensure that VETS.TV develops the way that our members want it to.

### NEW RESOURCES

A number of new resources have been added to the membership package this year including;

- The BVA 'Good Practice Guide on Veterinary Medicines', published in October 2007 (see page 9).
- Two guides on extramural studies (EMS) – 'Making the Most of EMS: a Student Guide' and 'Making the Most of EMS: a Guide for Providers', published in July 2008. The MSG EMS subgroup, with input from the Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research Work (AVTRW), the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS), the Association of Veterinary Students (AVS) and the RCVS

EMS Coordinators Group, drafted the guides, which were subsequently approved by the MSG. It has been widely agreed that the guides will prove to be an invaluable resource for students and practitioners, raising awareness of the numerous issues to consider, in order for everyone to get the most from the EMS experience.

- 'The Criminal Records Bureau: a Guide to Routine Checks', published in July 2008, and produced following a suggestion from BVA Council in order to allay the anxieties which can arise as a result of being asked to offer work experience to school-age children. The leaflet is written in a question and answer format, and covers all aspects of the Criminal Records Bureau's disclosure process.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Two new member benefits have also been approved by the MSG during the year. The first is a healthcare cash plan for

VETS.TV – a new web-based TV service from the BVA – offers opportunities for CPD as well as information on more general issues affecting practitioners

## Activities

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veterinary organisations and practices, in association with Westfield Health. The plan includes optical and dental care with health advice, counselling sessions and a number of therapies. It is anticipated that the benefits to employers, as well as the employees, will make the cash plan popular.

The MSG also endorsed the introduction of 'TB Master' as a member benefit, a technology consisting of two parts - a computer programme through which herd details can be printed in the form of a worksheet for use on farm, and a handheld device through which the worksheets can be electronically accessed. The software is offered to BVA members at a significant discount.

The research showed us that some of the services offered through our membership package weren't being used by members. As a result, in agreement with the MSG, we will be terminating our contracts with STA Travel and Priority Hotel Reservations at the end of the year.

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

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This year has seen the introduction of a new BVA membership category – that of Associate for people working in and around the profession who are not qualified veterinary surgeons. All applicants have to be approved by BVA Council and, so far, qualified veterinary nurses, biologists and equine inseminators may join the BVA as Associate members if they wish to.

The coming year will see further changes to the membership structure, with rates for veterinary surgeons on lower incomes as well as organisational schemes being made available, as we continue to make membership available in a changing veterinary environment to all those working in the industry.

### STUDENTS

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Although the research conducted was not aimed at our student members, they have not been excluded from BVA activities. Along with the previously mentioned EMS guidelines, we have continued to work closely with the AVS, being major sponsors and contributors to their annual congress, sitting on and hosting AVS committee meetings, and helping in the production of their student journal, JAVS. Students continue to join the BVA in high numbers because of the strength of the membership package available to them, including the highly valued *In Practice* journal

and the insurance cover provided whilst they are involved in curricular activities.

### VETERINARY NURSING

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At the beginning of the year, the independent Veterinary Nursing Review Group (VNRG) was reconstituted as an MSG subgroup and the inaugural meeting took place in March. A number of recommendations were made and approved by the MSG for the benefit of members, as employers of veterinary nurses and support staff, including investigations into the availability of funding for veterinary nurse training and the adequacy and affordability of CPD provision.



## Publishing

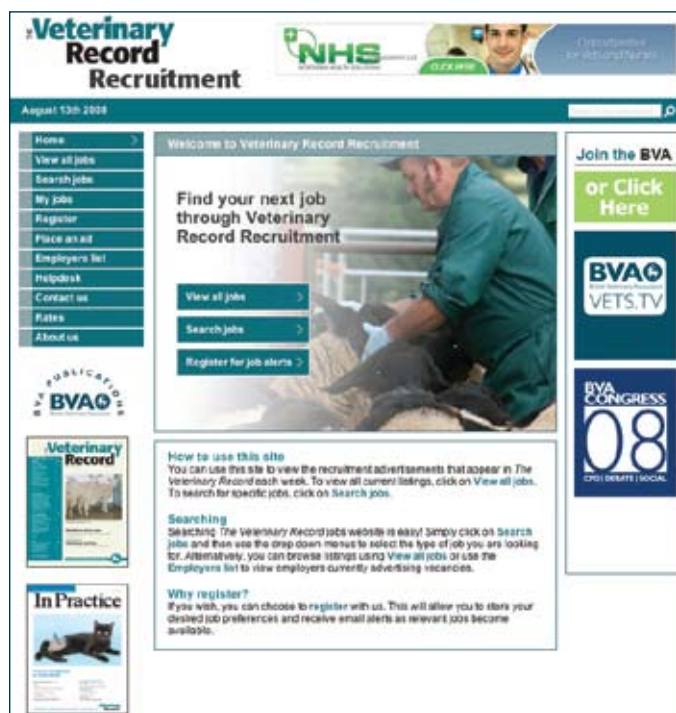
The recruitment pages of *The Veterinary Record* website were redesigned and relaunched in March, to improve the services available to those seeking jobs and those hoping to fill vacancies. The pages are free to view, which extends the reach of advertisements placed in *The Veterinary Record*. They can be accessed at [www.vetrecordjobs.com](http://www.vetrecordjobs.com), as well as through the BVA Publications website at [www.bvapublications.com](http://www.bvapublications.com) and the BVA website at [www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk)

Useful new features include improved search facilities, allowing jobs to be identified according to geographical area and type, and a facility allowing jobseekers to receive e-mail alerts about jobs that match their specified requirements. The site also allows employers to store and submit their advertisements online.

The number of people using the BVA Publications website continues to grow. Currently, about 16,000 different people are visiting *The Veterinary Record* section each week, and about 8000 are visiting the *In Practice* section. The website provides quick and easy access to the current content of the two journals and a readily searchable archive of previously published articles. For *The Veterinary Record*, this gives access to all items published since April 2005, and research papers going back to 1996. In the case of *In Practice*, the archive includes all the articles that have appeared in this popular and highly practical CPD journal since the first issue was published nearly 30 ago. As well as receiving the printed journals, BVA members get free access to all of the articles on the website.

The value that BVA members place on *The Veterinary Record* and *In Practice*, in print as well as online, has been demonstrated in various surveys over the past 12 months. In the member and non-member research project carried out at the beginning of the Association year, more than 80 per cent of members cited publications as their main reason for joining the BVA. *The Veterinary Record* and *In Practice* were both highly recognised and used, with 75 per cent of members indicating that the journal was of high value/relevance in the case of *The Veterinary Record*, and 90 per cent in the case of *In Practice*.

These findings were supported in a more detailed survey concerning publications undertaken in March, in which 42 per cent of members indicated that they always read



The new recruitment section of the BVA Publications website aims to improve the service available to those seeking jobs and those hoping to fill vacancies

*The Veterinary Record*, 31 per cent that they frequently read it and 24 per cent that they occasionally read it. In the case of *In Practice*, the figures were 45, 37 and 16 per cent respectively. One of the findings of this survey was that members valued *The Veterinary Record* for its scientific content as well as for news and letters, but comments suggested that they would like the research papers to be more relevant. To address this, an Editorial Advisory Board is being established to advise on the scope and depth of the research papers. Despite increased use of the BVA Publications website, almost 90 per cent of members indicated they wanted to continue to receive the journals in print form.

The BVA Board is currently carrying out a comprehensive review of the Association's publications, including consideration of the design and content of the journals and how they are produced. The review is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

## Canine Health Schemes

Almost 30,000 certificates were issued during the year across the three Canine Health Schemes – the BVA/KC/ISDS Eye Scheme, the BVA/KC Hip Dysplasia Scheme and the BVA/KC Elbow Dysplasia Scheme.

A management committee has been formed in the past year to oversee the schemes and to develop and explore recommendations arising from a recently completed review. The core of the management committee is made up of the Kennel Club's chief executive and its genetics consultant and health co-ordinator, along with the BVA's President-Elect, secretary general, head of finance and the recently appointed manager of the Canine Health Schemes. The committee meets regularly and invites input from panellists, scrutineers and legal representatives as necessary. Items currently under discussion include permanent identification, data mining and the possibility of establishing a fourth scheme.

A formal agreement between the BVA and the KC has been agreed and signed to the mutual benefit of both organisations.

### BVA/KC/ISDS EYE SCHEME

Two new members have joined the eye panel, bringing the total to 31 and this number will increase as other candidates

are invited to attend the next round of assessments. In January, a new 'Hereditary Eye Disease in Dogs' leaflet was produced by chief panellist, Professor Sheila Crispin, and featured as an article in *In Practice*; it has proved popular with breeders and veterinary practices.

### BVA/KC HIP AND ELBOW DYSPLASIA SCHEMES

Submissions to these two schemes continue to flow in to the BVA from the UK and abroad. In response to the increase in the number of practices using digital radiography, the department is currently trialling different systems that would enable the scrutineers to accept digital submissions on disc, rather than hard copy as at present.

A new client information leaflet covering elbow dysplasia is currently in the pipeline and awaits the completion of the rebranding of the schemes – an initiative instigated by the management committee.

Over the coming year, the aim is to ensure that the schemes continue to run effectively and efficiently, while looking to the future and bearing in mind the need to respond to the changing demands of breeders and the veterinary profession.



## BVA Congress

The 2008 BVA Congress, to be held at the Royal College of Physicians, London, from September 25 to 27, will build on the 'new-style' Congress of 2007 held in Belfast, which incorporated CPD sessions from divisions and partner organisations. This year's theme, 'Vets in a changing environment', includes sessions on dealing with disease outbreaks, through to training the next generation. The Wooldridge Memorial Lecture, to be given by Professor Robert Watson, chief scientific adviser at Defra, is entitled 'Climate change; the global challenge', and will be followed by insights into how the industry and vets might adapt to the new environment. Ten partner organisations are putting together specialist CPD sessions, in addition to the political sessions, so there will be something for everyone.

The social programme includes a party night at the Café Royal and a banquet at the Stationers' Hall, one of the few ancient livery halls remaining in the City of London, located next to St Paul's Cathedral.

Congress marks the end of one Association year and the start of the next, and Congress 2007 did that in style. The event contributed to the centenary celebrations of the North of Ireland Veterinary Association. Their hospitality was exceptional and the theme for the event, 'Pulling together', proved entirely suitable. With over 500 delegates and four parallel sessions delivered in conjunction with 12 partner organisations, many aspects and areas of interest relating to practice and political life were featured.

### 2007 AWARDS

The awards ceremony at BVA Congress gives an opportunity to recognise outstanding contributions to the profession.

#### CHIRON AWARD

The Chiron Award marks outstanding contributions to veterinary science or outstanding services to the profession, judged in either case as being of a calibre commanding international or inter-professional recognition. In 2007, the award was presented to former BVA President, Peter Jinman. He has contributed to the BVA's VPG on two occasions and, as a champion of the need for the profession to discuss the ethics of activities, successfully persuaded Council to set up the Ethics Committee. This has evolved into the EWG, a Standing Committee of the BVA, and he is its first chairman. In the wider

political field, Mr Jinman has been a member of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) since 2000, and in 2006 was appointed chair of the TB Advisory Group for England.

#### DALRYMPLE-CHAMPNEYS CUP AND MEDAL

The Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal, the BVA's most prestigious scientific award, marks and recognises work of outstanding merit, which it is considered will encourage the advancement of veterinary science. Professor A. R. (Bob) Michell was the recipient of the 2007 award for his 'truly outstanding' contribution to both veterinary and medical science. The author of some 500 publications, his research on the dangers of high levels of sodium in diets is recognised internationally. A past-president of the RCVS and the AVTRW, Professor Michell has served on BVA Council for many years.

#### TREVOR BLACKBURN AWARD

Instigated in 2006 by the BVA's Overseas Group in memory of Mr J. Trevor Blackburn, this award recognises contributions in the field of animal health and welfare in developing countries. The 2007 award was given to Professor John E. Cooper, a specialist pathologist, for his work with wildlife and exotic species, tropical diseases and comparative medicine; for his commitment and passion for promoting educational standards in veterinary and biological sciences, wildlife conservation and forensic medicine; and, overall, for his ability to inspire others.

#### HARRY STEELE-BODGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Harry Steele-Bodger Memorial Scholarship, a travel scholarship for penultimate and final-year students and recent graduates, was established to honour the memory of Mr Henry W. Steele-Bodger in recognition of his great services to the veterinary profession and agriculture. In 2007 it was awarded to Mr Joseph Neary of the University of Cambridge Veterinary School, to enable him to visit northern Cameroon to undertake an investigation into the filarial nematode *Onchocerca amillata*, a parasite of West African cattle.

#### WILLIAM HUNTING AWARD

The William Hunting Award is named after the founder of *The Veterinary Record* and recognises the best contributions to the journal during the year originating from practice. The 2007 award went to Mr Michael Stanford of Chester for his paper 'Effects of UVB radiation on calcium metabolism in psittacine birds' (*VR*, August 19, 2006, vol 159, pp 236-241).

# BVA Animal Welfare Foundation

The BVA Animal Welfare Foundation (BVA AWF) is committed to improving the welfare of all animals through veterinary science, education and debate.

## VETERINARY SCIENCE

One of the Foundation's key objectives is to fund academic research and practical projects that will have a positive impact on animal welfare. In 2007, trustees were pleased to see the successful completion of a study on laminitis. This is an extremely common and painful condition that affects all types of horses. Laminitis can progress from an acute lameness of all four limbs to chronic and irreversible damage to the structure of the hooves and has catastrophic effects on the performance and welfare of affected horses.

Trustees were, therefore, delighted by the successful conclusion of a three-year BVA AWF-funded study at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh. The team developed, and validated, a hoof tester for routinely assessing the pain sensitivity of the feet of horses with laminitis. This tool allows the effectiveness of old and new treatments for pain from laminitis to be tested. Trustees are also supporting an ongoing BEVA practice-based study into the disease.

## NORMAN HAYWARD FUND

At the Foundation's annual House of Commons reception in May 2007, the BVA AWF Chairman, Carl Padgett, was pleased to announce the availability of substantial monies under the Norman Hayward Fund. As stipulated by the late Mr Hayward's generous bequest the fund is intended for research into the diseases and welfare of sheep, cattle and horses.

The BVA AWF invited proposals – academic and practice-based – that would have a practical impact on the welfare of these animals, and has been pleased by the high level of interest they have received. The trustees then embarked on a process of assessment of each of the research proposals, finally narrowing them down to handful that are in tune with the requirements of the bequest and the aims of the Foundation.

To ensure the best possible use of the fund, trustees are convening a panel of experts for their views on the likely positive and practical impact of the proposals on the welfare of cattle, sheep and horses.

Funding for research into the diseases and welfare of cattle, sheep and horses is available through the BVA AWF Norman Hayward Fund



## EDUCATION

### UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIPS

During 2007, trustees were delighted to receive confirmation that the universities of Bristol, Liverpool and Glasgow would continue the animal welfare lectureships beyond the seed funding provided by the BVA AWF. The trustees remain satisfied that this initiative, in strengthening welfare teaching in veterinary schools, will continue to have positive repercussions and demonstrate the commitment of the Foundation to improving animal welfare through education.

### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

In spring 2008, the BVA AWF launched an online tutorial on practical animal handling, which was prepared in conjunction with Newcastle University. The tutorial is primarily aimed at veterinary students and nurses. It features videos demonstrating the correct procedures for handling small animals for clinical examination and medication, and its aim is to show that the primary consideration should be for the welfare of the animal.

'Caring for your ferret' is the latest BVA AWF leaflet produced in conjunction with the Ferret Education and Research Trust. It is a practical guide designed to help owners give the very best care for their pet ferrets.

The end of 2007 also saw the production of the second edition of the free-range poultry diseases poster, and an update of the popular 'Pets and Poisons' leaflet, which was first produced in 2004.

BVA AWF educational resources are available for download from [www.bva-awf.org.uk](http://www.bva-awf.org.uk)

## DEBATE

### BVA AWF DISCUSSION FORUM 2008

As part of its aim to improve animal welfare through debate, the BVA AWF holds an annual discussion forum, which brings vets and animal welfare and government organisations together in order to identify and discuss important welfare-related issues. The BVA's EWG and VPG are then invited to take forward some of the issues raised as part of the BVA's policy-making process. Following the success of last year's event, trustees chose a new and larger venue for this year's forum. Topics on

the agenda included 'Designer animals or breeding for welfare?' and 'Put your money where your mouth is: can people afford good welfare in food production', generating debate as well as press coverage. The profile of this event continues to grow and it is regarded as an important day in the welfare calendar.



The BVA AWF discussion forum helps identify and highlight important welfare issues

## The BVA in Europe

The European Commission and Parliament are increasingly important to the veterinary profession. Legislation that covers issues such as professional conduct, animal health, veterinary medicinal products, animal welfare and public health originates in Brussels. It is, therefore, critical that the UK veterinary profession has an active and effective voice in Europe.

### FVE

The BVA is a member of the FVE, which represents the views of approximately 200,000 veterinarians from 37 European countries under the banner 'one profession, one vision, one voice'. The UK is represented at the FVE by the UK Coordination Group. This group includes members from the BVA, the RCVS, the BSAVA, SPVS, the Association of Government Veterinarians, the Veterinary Public Health Association and the BEVA, currently under the chairmanship of the BVA President.

The FVE holds two general assemblies each year, which are responsible for defining policy, approving finances, approving members and electing the FVE board.

Among other things, the Spring 2008 general assembly approved a common definition of veterinary acts and a European Code of Conduct. The general assembly was given presentations by:

- Dr Bernard Vallat (director general, World Organisation for Animal Health) on 'Why the veterinary profession is a global public good?';
- Eric Marin (EU Commission, DG SANCO), who outlined progress with the community animal health strategy; and
- Prof Dr Karl Jurka (founder of a European consulting and lobby firm) on lobbying in the EU.

The general assembly also discussed European Veterinary Week, which will be held in mid-November 2008. A joint communications project between the FVE and DG SANCO, the theme of

which will be 'Prevention is better than cure', will focus on improving biosecurity both on-farm and at borders.

### EUROPEAN CONSULTANT

The BVA has secured the services of a Brussels-based adviser, Helene Judge, to assist with the communication of UK policy and views to decision makers in Brussels. Key issues include the implementation of the community animal health strategy, transport of animals, animal welfare labelling, protection of welfare around slaughter, public health and hygiene, veterinary medicinal products and the Pet Travel Scheme.

The BVA will continue to work through the FVE with other members of the UK Coordination Group to effectively represent the UK veterinary profession in Europe.



European Veterinary Week is a communication project with the theme 'Prevention is better than cure'. It will focus on improving biosecurity on-farm and at borders

# International

## BVA OVERSEAS GROUP

Under the chairmanship of Laura Bowen, the BVA Overseas Group provides a vital link between the BVA and veterinary associations, organisations and individuals worldwide and, through its pool of expertise and worldwide working network, continues to provide guidance and advice on overseas matters. British-trained vets have much to offer and to learn from their counterparts in the developing world. As well as promoting its role with undergraduates at the Lancaster student seminar, the group plans to run its first student information evenings at UK vet schools, where students will hear about some of the opportunities available to them away from British shores.

## ANIMAL WELFARE

Recognising the ever-increasing importance of animal welfare, as a measure of the social progress of nations, and of the intimate links that exist between human and animal health and wellbeing, including poverty reduction, the BVA Overseas Group supports the principles of the Universal Declaration for Animal Welfare (UDAW). On World Veterinary Day 2008, the BVA President, Nick Blayney, signed the declaration, which represents the world's first international agreement on animal welfare. It is hoped that the United Nations will ultimately adopt the declaration, which recognises that sentient animals are capable of pain and suffering, deserving consideration and respect, and calls for effective animal welfare legislation to be developed and enforced around the world. The Overseas Group has numerous links with those for whom animal welfare legislation, or its enforcement, are little more than aspirations.

## STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

This year sees the 25th anniversary of the overseas travel grant scheme and, appreciating how student experience can help shape the views of a profession, the BVA Overseas Group has proudly supported 90 veterinary students undertaking projects in 38 different developing countries over this period. In 2008, student travel grants have been awarded to:

- Olivia Avdis (Edinburgh), to study the welfare and health of dogs in Tanzania and investigate and how this relates to their immunological response to rabies vaccination;
- Ellie Milnes (Cambridge), to assess the ethical and welfare implications of game capture techniques in conjunction with the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism;

- Emily Newman (Cambridge), to gauge the efficacy of three anthelmintics used in common chimpanzees and western lowland gorillas in the Limbe Wildlife Centre, Cameroon.

Continued collaboration and support from TAWS (the World Association for Transport Animal Welfare and Studies) came in the form of an additional travel grant awarded to Nichola Robertson (Bristol) to work on a SPANA project in Morocco to study the aetiology and risk factors of eye lesions in working equids, and to assess their welfare impact. The Donkey Sanctuary linked up with the Overseas Group by providing opportunities for undergraduates to visit their overseas sites, this year enabling two students to work on projects in Mexico and Egypt.

## VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS

In one of the few veterinary placements with VSO in recent years Dr Pip Beard was invited by the Mongolian government to work at the State Central Veterinary Laboratory. The Overseas Group supported Pip by donating membership of the BVA for the duration of her posting: *The Veterinary Record* and *In Practice* have been well received by her Mongolian colleagues in Ulaanbaatar.

## COMMONWEALTH VETERINARY ASSOCIATION (CVA)

The Overseas Group has worked closely with the CVA and strengthened links with the Commonwealth Foundation through Professor John E. Cooper and Karen Reed, former and current UK councillors to the CVA, respectively, and Dr Bob McCracken (CVA programme director).

The highlight of the CVA's year was the staging of the fourth Pan Commonwealth Veterinary Conference in Barbados. The



*The Veterinary Record* proves a hit in Mongolia, where one of Pip Beard's colleagues at the State Central Veterinary Laboratory in Ulaanbaatar, catches up with the latest developments

meeting focused on the special challenges and constraints facing small island states, which account for almost half of all CVA members. Issues discussed included adaptation to climate change and response to natural disasters, sustainable development, emerging zoonotic diseases, the role of women in livestock development and animal welfare. Dr Richard Suu-Ire (Ghana) was elected the new CVA President. At the invitation of the CVA, the BVA President visited Fiji en route to the New Zealand Veterinary Association conference, getting a first-hand appreciation and understanding of the challenges in livestock disease control and development facing small island states of the Pacific, at a time when veterinarian numbers have fallen drastically and when volunteer vets can make increasingly important contributions to animal health and welfare.

### WORLD VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Under the leadership of Professor Leon Russell (USA), the WVA has made progress in promoting animal welfare and increased the stature of World Veterinary Day, as well as helping to raise standards of veterinary education throughout the world. With food safety and zoonoses being global concerns, the WVA's one-health initiative is particularly appropriate. This subject was highlighted at the 29th World Veterinary Congress held in Vancouver at the end of July. At the meeting, Dr Tjeerd Jorna (Netherlands), a former President of the FVE, was elected president to lead the WVA through to the 2011 congress in Cape Town. The Overseas Group has maintained close links with the WVA, with BVA Past-President, Bob Stevenson, continuing in his role as councillor for the Western Europe region.

### VETS IN THE WIDER WORLD

The Overseas Group's session at BVA Congress in Belfast focused on the importance of healthy animals to livelihoods in developing countries. It also explored the role of vets working within local communities overseas, from their involvement with transport animals, through their role in disease control, to the assistance they can provide in times of natural and man-made disasters. At this year's Congress, the group will consider the veterinary role within international development, discussing empowerment through livestock and the human/animal bond, health and interdependence.

### DISASTER MANAGEMENT RESOURCE

Two years since its instigation, the Disaster Management Resource is evolving to clearly reflect trends in disaster management and

General information on the BVA's overseas activities, including project reports and guidance notes on working overseas, can be found on the overseas section of the BVA website

sustainable development. The resource maintains a register of veterinary professionals with experience and interest in aspects of disaster management, thus providing an independent source of information available to government bodies, non-government organisations and welfare charities. At a time when issues such as climate change, zoonoses and sustainable development are so much in the news, the resource continually finds itself drawn to the recognition of the symbiotic relationship between sustainable development and disaster management.

### INTERNATIONAL VETERINARY STUDENTS ASSOCIATION UK & IRELAND

The Overseas Group continues to work closely with IVSA UK&I, this year organising shipments of books and equipment to Ghana, Mongolia and Nepal. Incoming and outgoing work experience placements for students have been arranged, and the association is looking forward to strengthening student links worldwide at the forthcoming IVSA Symposium.

### BOOKS AND EQUIPMENT

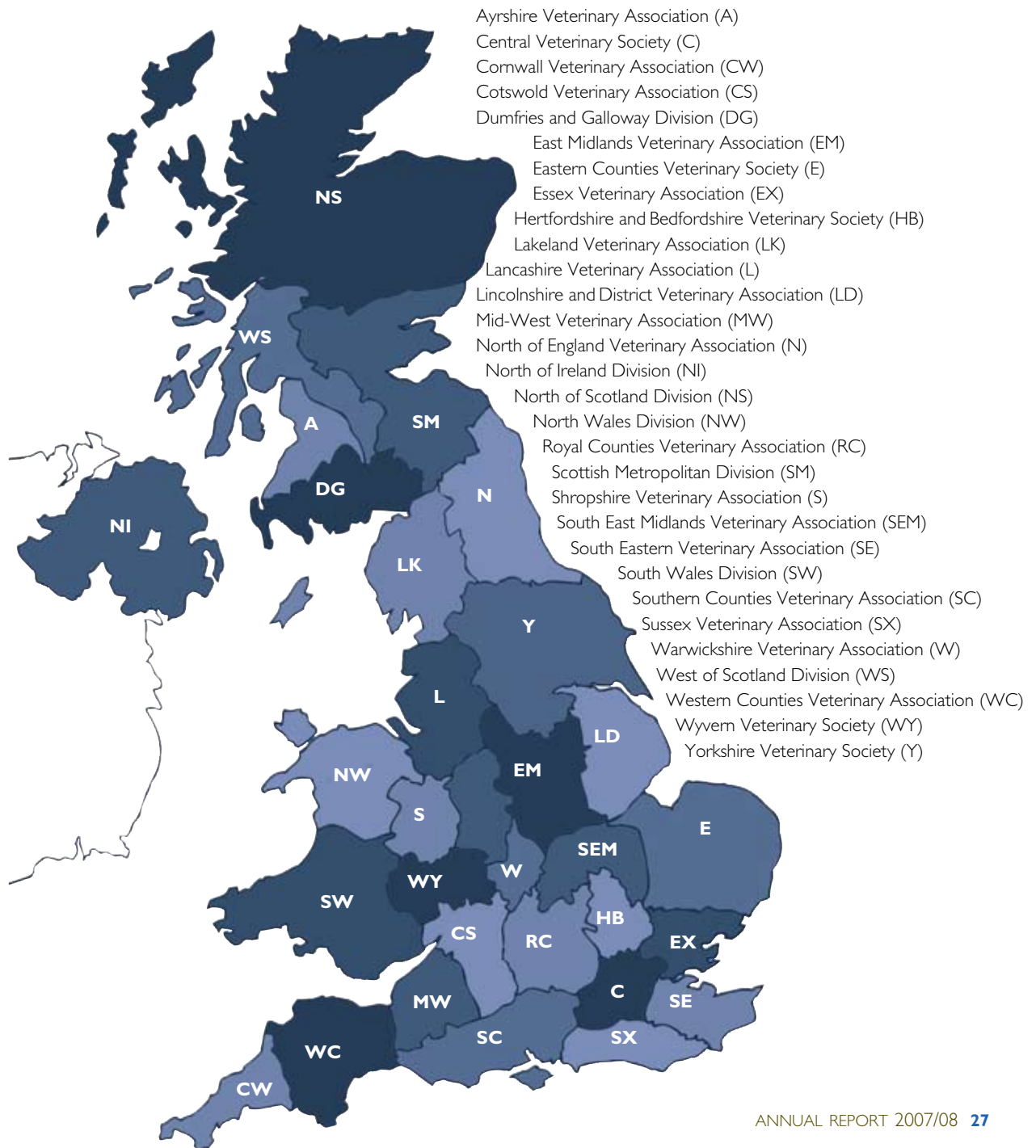
The BVA books and equipment scheme has had an active year, with donations of textbooks, surgical instruments and microscopes, which are always gratefully received. Sri Lanka, India, Uganda, The Gambia, Sierra Leone and Nicaragua have been among recipient countries this year. The Overseas Group is in discussion with the CVA and BookPower to establish a better online information resource.



David Mills (2007 BVA overseas travel grant recipient) assesses on-farm welfare of Kenyan beef cattle on a smallholding in Machakos district as part of an evaluation of the potential of developing countries to access niche high-welfare beef export markets in the EU

# Territorial divisions

The BVA has 30 territorial divisions and 21 specialist divisions representing the whole spectrum of species and specialties within veterinary science. Subject to the rules contained within the BVA Articles of Association, each division is free to govern itself.



# Specialist divisions



**Association of Government Veterinarians**  
[www.agv.org.uk](http://www.agv.org.uk)  
 Membership of the AGV is open to all veterinary surgeons permanently in any part of the United Kingdom Civil Service



**Association of Veterinarians in Industry**  
 01449 723800  
 AVI represents the interests of members working in commercial appointments, primarily pharmaceutical and allied industries. It provides a forum for discussion, in addition to producing an annual salary survey



**Association of Veterinary Students**  
[www.avs-uk.org.uk](http://www.avs-uk.org.uk)  
 Represents all UK and Dublin veterinary students and aims to improve undergraduate education through student liaison. AVS continues to bring together veterinary students to further this aim



**Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research Work**  
[www.avtrw.org.uk](http://www.avtrw.org.uk)  
 This division represents those teaching veterinary science in the UK and Irish veterinary schools, as well as those engaged in veterinary research in its broadest sense in universities, research institutes and industry



**British Cattle Veterinary Association**  
[www.bcva.org.uk](http://www.bcva.org.uk)  
 The association is involved with all aspects of cattle veterinary matters and is consulted by many organisations for informed opinion



**British Equine Veterinary Association**  
[www.beva.org.uk](http://www.beva.org.uk)  
 The Association's objectives are to promote veterinary and allied sciences relating to the welfare of the horse, to encourage the interested veterinary surgeon, and to promote a forum for discussion and exchange of ideas



**British Small Animal Veterinary Association**  
[www.bsava.com](http://www.bsava.com)  
 The BSAVA was established to foster and promote the interests of all veterinarians concerned with small animal practice, teaching and research. It has developed into a major association and now has charity status



**British Veterinary Hospitals Association**  
[www.bvha.org.uk](http://www.bvha.org.uk)  
 The BVHA actively promotes high standards of patient care through improvements in the design, management and equipment of veterinary hospitals. Full membership is open to any RCVS-approved veterinary hospital. Associate membership is open to any other UK practice or individual involved in the veterinary profession



**British Veterinary Poultry Association**  
[www.bvpa.org.uk](http://www.bvpa.org.uk)  
 The BVPA encompasses all matters poultry – breeding and hatching, welfare, research and development. The poultry industry is a leading agricultural industry and veterinary input is vital in this specialised and technical field



**British Veterinary Zoological Society**  
[www.bvzs.org](http://www.bvzs.org)  
 BVZS is involved in almost every aspect of the care and welfare of wild animals. It is recognised as having responsibility for exotic pets, companion avian species, zoo animals and wildlife



**Fish Veterinary Society**  
[www.fishvetsociety.org.uk](http://www.fishvetsociety.org.uk)  
 The FVS provides a forum for members of the veterinary profession who have an interest in promoting the health and wellbeing of fish by discussion of fish health care and problems, and the exchange of professional and scientific information between members



**Goat Veterinary Society**  
[www.goatvetsoc.co.uk](http://www.goatvetsoc.co.uk)  
 Founded in 1979 to promote interest in and improve knowledge of goats among in the veterinary profession



**Laboratory Animals Veterinary Association**  
 LAVA deals with the veterinary care and all aspects of the welfare of laboratory animals. It helps to ensure that vets are properly equipped to look after experimental animals



**Pig Veterinary Society**  
[www.pigvetsoc.org.uk](http://www.pigvetsoc.org.uk)  
 The aims of the society are to enhance knowledge and understanding of pig disease and herd health and in the areas of management, husbandry, economics and welfare



**Royal Army Veterinary Corps**  
 01276 412749  
 Membership is open to serving or retired members of the RAVC who are BVA members



**Sheep Veterinary Society**  
[www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk](http://www.sheepvetsoc.org.uk)  
 Aims to promote sheep health and welfare and provides a forum for discussion and advice on sheep matters



**Society of Greyhound Veterinarians**  
[www.greyhoundvets.co.uk](http://www.greyhoundvets.co.uk)  
 This society is concerned with the health and welfare of the racing greyhound



**Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons**  
[www.spvs.org.uk](http://www.spvs.org.uk)  
 Provides advice, information and practical guidance for vets working in general practice



**Society for the Study of Animal Breeding**  
[secretary@ssab.org.uk](mailto:secretary@ssab.org.uk)  
 This society aims for the advancement of knowledge of all aspects of animal breeding and the fostering of fellowship and discussion on the subject of animal breeding



**Veterinary Deer Society**  
 01482 867093  
 Members are involved with the management and diseases of wild and captive deer



**Veterinary Public Health Association**  
[www.vpha.org.uk](http://www.vpha.org.uk)  
 Concerned with all aspects of the production of food of animal origin and the improvement of animal welfare

## Working for the profession

### ETHICS AND WELFARE GROUP

The BVA Ethics and Welfare Group (EWG) is a Standing Committee of Council which considers topics relating to the health and welfare of animals, and issues arising from the interaction of animals with human society. It provides advice to BVA Council and feeds directly into guidance provided to members, and to BVA policy. The committee meets three times a year and members serve for a three-year term of office, with a possibility of re-election for one further three-year term.

#### **Currently serving on the EWG:**

Chairman – Peter Jinman (independent). Other independent members – David Grant, Professor David Morton, Bob Young, Richard Jones and Gerard Brouwer-Ince. RCVS member – Charles Gruchy. BVA AWF member – Kate Kerr. Designated members – Jonathan Hall, Dr Dorothy McKeegan, Rev Tony Birbeck, the BVA President and the BVA President-Elect.

### MEMBERS' SERVICES GROUP

The Members' Services Group (MSG) advises BVA Council on proposed new members' services and provides an audit of current services in order to attract and retain BVA members. The MSG is composed of a regional chairman, one representative appointed by the seven designated employment based divisions and nine regional members. In addition, there are two independent members elected from the BVA membership who serve for a three-year period, and two recent graduates who serve for a two-year period.

#### **Currently serving on the MSG are:**

Chairman – Andrew Parker (Western region). Other regional members – Daphne Chapleo (Eastern region), Kate Hovers (Wales region), Margaret Hardy (North of Ireland region), Mike Robson (North of Scotland region) and Christine Shield (Northern England region). Employment divisions – Emma Sinclair (AVS), Lindsay Henderson (VPHA), Emma Leyland (SPVS), Bob Michell (AVTRW), Bob Partridge (BVHA) and Adrienne Conroy (AGV). Independent members – Di Bendall and Andrew Prall. Recent graduate members – Huw Griffiths and Ian Beamish.

### VETERINARY POLICY GROUP

The Veterinary Policy Group (VPG) advises BVA Council on any veterinary subject of national interest relevant to animal health, animal welfare or public health. It is required to consider relevant policy issues and recommend action which enables

the Association to develop and adopt its policy on each subject. The VPG is composed of one member nominated by each of the seven designated specialist divisions of the BVA; nine independent members (one of whom is elected chairman) and a designated Officer of the Association. In line with the terms of office for each of the Association's Standing Committees, all members of the group normally serve a term of office of three years, and at the end of their first term they will be eligible for re-election.

#### **Currently serving on the VPG are:**

Chairman – Dr Richard Harvey (independent). Other independent members – Kenneth Clarke, Professor Julie Fitzpatrick, Peter Jones, Fred Landeg, Chris Laurence, Andrew Warde, Professor Alun Williams and Susan Shaw. Specialist divisions – Deidre Carson (BEVA), Michael Fielding (BVZS), Claire Knott (BVPA), Carl Padgett (BCVA), Grant Petrie and Professor Ed Hall (BSAVA), Paul Roger (SVS) and Nigel Woolfenden (PVS). Observer members – Liz Kelly (Defra) and Lord Soulsby (House of Lords).

### BVA ANIMAL WELFARE FOUNDATION

Committed to improving the welfare of all animals through veterinary science, education and debate, the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation (BVA AWF) was established in 1984. It aims to apply the knowledge, skills and compassion of veterinary surgeons in an effective way by identifying and funding a variety of research projects and educational activities targeted at improving animal welfare. The involvement of veterinary surgeons as trustees of the Foundation makes it uniquely effective in finding practical solutions to the welfare problems of all animals. The 13 trustees of the BVA AWF meet three times a year and normally serve a term of office of three years, at the end of which they are eligible to stand for re-election for one further term.

#### **Currently serving as trustees are:**

Chairman – Carl Padgett (cattle), Simon Adams (wildlife/ greyhounds), David Chennells (pigs), Wendy Harrison (academia/industry), Kate Kerr (government), Pete Southgate (fish), Sean Wensley (companion animals), Tiffany Cottrell (military), Andrew Trawford (equine), Andrea Nolan (academia), Pete Goddard (academia), the BVA President and the BVA Past-President.

## Council

Council represents BVA members and is the key debating chamber within the Association. Council comprises 70 members, made up as follows:

- Three executive officers;
- Four immediate past-presidents;
- 30 representatives from the territorial divisions;
- 27 representatives from 21 non-territorial divisions;
- Chairmen of Standing Committees; and
- Two recent graduate representatives (by election).

Council's primary role is:

- To be the representative body of the members and to represent members' views on matters of veterinary policy.
- To advise the Board on matters of veterinary policy.
- To appoint four members as Directors of the Board.
- To approve new members of the Association (and removal) and to recommend Honorary Members, Honorary Associates and Life Members for election.
- To recommend Council's preferred candidates for President and President-Elect for election.

### SPECIALIST DIVISIONS

Adrienne Conroy Association of Government Veterinarians  
Phil Dobson Association of Veterinarians in Industry  
Kamen Watson/Julie Dauncey Association of Veterinary Students  
Professor Bob Michell Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research Work  
Carl Padgett/Andrew Praill British Cattle Veterinary Association  
Dr Madeleine Campbell British Equine Veterinary Association  
Professor Ed Hall/Frances Barr British Small Animal Veterinary Association  
Tim Davies British Veterinary Hospitals Association  
Claire Knott British Veterinary Poultry Association  
Michael Fielding British Veterinary Zoological Society  
Keith Treves-Brown Fish Veterinary Society  
Nick Clayton Goat Veterinary Society  
Greg Whelan Laboratory Animals Veterinary Association  
Peter Bown Pig Veterinary Society  
Brigadier Tom Ogilvie-Graham/Major Mary Roohan Royal Army Veterinary Corps  
Colin MacAldowie/Kathryn Dun Sheep Veterinary Society  
Richard Lockyer Society of Greyhound Veterinarians  
Richard Hillman/Iain Richards Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons  
Andrew White Society for the Study of Animal Breeding

Dr John Fletcher Veterinary Deer Society  
Lindsay Henderson Veterinary Public Health Association

### TERRITORIAL DIVISIONS

Professor John Bleby Central Veterinary Society  
Andrew Parker Cornwall Veterinary Association  
Dr Elizabeth Berry Cotswold Veterinary Association  
Dr Peter Jackson Eastern Counties Veterinary Association  
Erica Coleman East Midlands Veterinary Association  
Jerry Moloney Essex Veterinary Society  
Dr Tony Andrews Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Veterinary Society  
Jane King Lakeland Veterinary Association  
Shaun McKane Lancashire Veterinary Association  
Daphne Chapleo/Julian Earl Lincolnshire and District Veterinary Association  
Mervyn Harris Mid-West Veterinary Association  
Christine Shield North of England Veterinary Association  
Joe Sprinz Royal Counties Veterinary Association  
John Pinder Shropshire Veterinary Association  
John Butt South East Midlands Veterinary Association  
Clifford George South Eastern Veterinary Association  
*Position vacant* Southern Counties Veterinary Association  
Susan Clark Sussex Veterinary Association  
Peter Robinson Warwickshire Veterinary Association  
Christopher Warren Western Counties Veterinary Association  
*Position vacant* Wyvern Veterinary Society  
Paul Roger Yorkshire Veterinary Society  
Gillian Hubbard North Wales Division  
Simon Rolfe South Wales Division  
Dr Alison Gibbs Ayrshire Veterinary Association  
*Position vacant* Dumfries and Galloway Division  
Dr Sandy Clark North of Scotland Division  
Sam Duff Scottish Metropolitan Division  
Dr Karen MacEachern West of Scotland Division  
Simon Doherty North of Ireland Division  
Louisa Rance Recent graduate representative  
Kelly Bowlt Recent graduate representative



# Honorary members, life members and honorary associates

The BVA Articles of Association allow for three special categories of membership: honorary membership, awarded to eminent professional and scientific persons and others who have rendered distinguished service either to the BVA, to the veterinary profession or to the advancement of veterinary science; life membership, awarded to members deemed to have given long and valuable support to the Association; and honorary associate membership, awarded to eminent professional and scientific persons and others who it is hoped will confer honour on or advance the interests of the Association. While the first two membership categories are awarded for life, honorary associates are appointed annually.

The BVA's main purpose in establishing the category of honorary associate membership was to endeavour to ensure that there were members in both Houses of Parliament (as well as the European Parliament and, more recently, the devolved administrations), regardless of their political allegiances, who were informed about, and understood, the BVA's views across a wide range of animal health and welfare issues and related matters of human health. The BVA continues to appoint honorary associates on an annual basis – and welcomes suggestions as to MPs, assembly members, members of the legislative assembly, MSPs and MEPs who take an interest in the profession's affairs. These friends of the profession are provided with regular briefings, copies of press releases and an electronic copy of the weekly comment from *The Veterinary Record*. Honorary associates in turn ask parliamentary questions, participate in debates, facilitate meetings with ministers and front-bench spokesmen, and generally assist the BVA in 'giving vets a voice'.

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Sir David Barnes, CBE  
Mr Peter Bell, MBE  
Professor Peter M. Biggs, CBE  
Dr J-M. Blancou  
Mr Edward Boden, MBE  
Baroness Byford, DBE  
Sir Don Curry, CBE  
Sir Sydney Chapman  
Baroness Fookes, DBE  
Mr Dai George  
Dr Lars Holsaae  
Sir Dawda Jawara  
Dr Bruce Little

Dr Sandor Mile  
Dame Bridget Ogilvie  
Brigadier Andrew Parker  
Bowles, OBE  
Lord Plumb of Coleshill, DL  
Dr Alastair R. W. Porter, CBE  
Miss Mary-Elizabeth Raw, MBE  
The Earl of Selborne, KBE, FRS  
Sir Gordon Shattock  
Lord Soulsby of Swaffham  
Prior  
Professor Alasdair Steele-  
Bodger, CBE  
Dr P. D. Storie-Pugh, CBE,

MC, TD, DL  
Dr Stephen Sundlof  
Dr Alex Thiermann  
The Rt Hon The Baroness  
Trumpington  
Mr Allan Wright

## LIFE MEMBERS

Miss W. Mary Brancker, CBE  
Mr Thomas A. M. Chambers  
Mr Charles Frank  
Lord Soulsby of Swaffham  
Prior  
Mr Olaf Swarbrick  
Mr Jack B. Walsby

## HONORARY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Lt-Col The Viscount Allenby  
of Megiddo  
Lord Ballyedmond  
Mr Roderick l'Anson Banks  
Mr Timothy Boswell, MP  
Mr Colin Breed, MP  
The Rt Hon Nick Brown, MP  
Mrs Angela Browning, MP  
Mr Alistair Carmichael, MP  
Mr Ian Cawsey, MP  
The Rt Hon The Lord Clark  
of Windermere  
Mr Roland Denning  
Mrs Avril Doyle, MEP  
Mr David Drew, MP  
Mr Roger Gale, MP  
Mr Andrew George, MP  
Lieutenant General Andrew  
Graham, OBE  
Mr James Gray, MP  
Major General J. M. F. C. Hall,  
CB, OBE  
Earl Howe  
The Rt Hon Michael Jack, MP  
Dr Caroline Jackson, MEP  
Mr Martyn Jones, MP  
The Rt Hon Charles  
Kennedy, MP

Mr Robert Key, MP  
Mr David Lidington, MP  
Lord Livsey of Talgarth, CBE  
Dr Caroline Lucas, MEP  
Sir Alexander Macara  
Lord Mackie of Benshie,  
CBE, DSO, DFC, LLD  
The Rt Hon David Maclean,  
MP  
Baroness Mallalieu, QC  
The Countess of Mar  
Sir Robin Maxwell-Hyslop  
The Duke of Montrose  
Lord Morris of Manchester,  
AO, QSO  
Mr James Paice, MP  
Mr Neil Parish, MEP  
Mr Owen Paterson, MP  
Mr Tony Pexton  
Lord Rea  
Lord Sewel, CBE  
Mr Andrew Stewart  
The Rt Hon Dr Gavin  
Strang, MP  
Mr Richard Sturdy, MEP  
Mr Matthew Taylor, MP  
Mr John Thurso, MP  
Mr John Whittingdale, OBE,  
MP  
Mr Bill Wiggin, MP  
Mr Roger Williams, MP  
Lady Winterton, MP  
Mr Richard Wright

## SCOTTISH BRANCH

Mr Alex Fergusson, MSP  
Mr Phil Gaillie  
Mr Alex Johnstone, MSP  
Mr George Lyon  
Mr Alasdair Morgan, MSP

## NORTHERN IRELAND VETERINARY ASSOCIATION

Lord Maginnis of Drumglass  
Mr Ian Paisley Jnr, MLA



## Improving efficiency and output

In last year's contribution to the BVA Annual Report, I described the refurbishment of the Association's Headquarters at Number 7 Mansfield Street, and the disruption and difficulty that this had caused for all users of the facilities, but particularly for the members of staff. The refurbishment of Number 7 was completed on schedule and on budget, a tremendous achievement that has allowed all BVA staff to be accommodated within Number 7 in better working conditions. The successful completion of this programme also allowed the BVA to terminate the lease on the offices in Number 9 Mansfield Street, which will mean savings for BVA of circa £200,000 per annum.

All the above activity is reflected in the accounts for 2007 beginning on page 34. Before taking into account the cost of the refurbishment programme, the Association achieved a pre-tax operating profit of £375,439, which was significantly ahead of budget. The total cost of the building works was £502,782 against an increase in the valuation of the building of £4 million. Back in 2005, the Board had set a target of free-standing financial reserves of £0.5m by the end of 2007 – this was comfortably achieved by a measure of 44 per cent, which allowed the BVA to finance the refurbishment without having to resort to a loan.

When the Articles of Association and management structure were accepted at the AGM of the Association in Edinburgh in September 2003, an undertaking was given by the Board that the new structure would be reviewed after a period of three years. This was duly undertaken in early 2007. Following consultation with the Divisions and discussion in Council, there was an agreed general satisfaction with the performance of the new organisation.

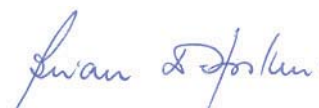
Looking forward to the future direction of an increasingly busy organisation, the Board took the view that the efficiency and output of the BVA would be significantly enhanced if the management team became the responsibility of one person. Hence in September 2007, Henrietta Alderman was appointed Secretary General of the BVA.

In 2008, two significant reviews have been initiated. In April 2008 the Board proposed to Council that the fitness for purpose of Council's representative role should be re-examined, the last such review having been conducted in 1984! A Council Review Group has been established and the

outcome will be important for the future direction of the BVA's activities and ensuring that the needs of the membership are recognised and developed. Secondly, the Board has formed a sub-committee, the Publications Steering Group, to undertake an in-depth review of the BVA publications and communications functions and to make recommendations to the Board. This review is being actively pursued with a timescale for completion at the end of the year.

At the 2007 AGM, the associate and affiliate categories of BVA membership were activated. I am delighted to report that both the British Veterinary Nursing Association and the Veterinary Practice Management Association have applied to take up affiliate status.

The BVA is indeed fortunate to have such a wonderful and dedicated team of staff and the Board wishes once again to record its appreciation for their continued efforts to provide an enhanced service to the members of BVA. Similarly, I would like to thank my fellow Directors for their commitment and hard work – it is indeed an honour and a pleasure to be the Chairman of the Board.



## Financial results

For the year ending December 31, 2007, the BVA made a surplus of £361,093. This is after allowing for the dilapidations and exit costs from the lease of Number 9 Mansfield Street (a one-off charge of £151,755) which is offset by future savings of up to £200,000 per year. The underlying surplus, before this one-off charge, was up 23 per cent on the 2006 results.

There were unrealised losses of £12,526 on the investment portfolio, while there was a net unrealised surplus on the value of Number 7 Mansfield Street of £3,590,357. The cost of the refurbishment works of Number 7 Mansfield Street, totalling just over £500,000, were offset against a £4 million increase in the value of the building. The total recognised gains for the year were £3,938,924 and the results are summarised on pages 35 and 36.

Total income last year increased by 6.8 per cent, to £4,724,728. Income from membership subscriptions increased by 6.8 per cent – there was a net increase in the membership during the year of over 3 per cent to 11,300 members. Income from publications increased by 1.3 per cent, while Canine Health Schemes saw a 2 per cent fall in income.

Total expenditure increased during the year by 8.9 per cent, to £4,363,635, although if one excludes the one-off charge of exiting Number 9 Mansfield Street, the underlying increase was 5.1 per cent. Membership expenditure increased by 13.9 per

cent, reflecting increased efforts for young graduates including the costs of the new graduate mentoring scheme and the cost of the Young Vet Network. There was also an increase in marketing activities including a membership survey. The direct costs of publications increased by 1.3 per cent in line with the increase in income. Administrative costs, excluding the one-off Number 9 costs, increased by just 1.2 per cent.

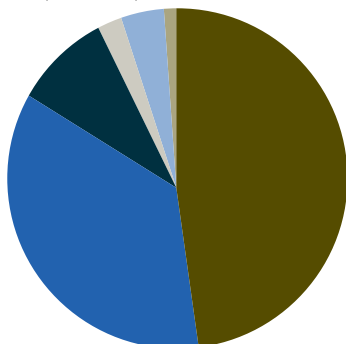
In addition to the refurbishment costs, capital expenditure of £87,795 was invested in new technology. Items included further costs towards the new membership database, including a linked congress module, new computers for the publications directorate, the integration of two servers into one combined network and the introduction of a new voicemail phone system. The BVA made donations to veterinary related charities of £2,000 during the year and there was a corporation tax liability of just over £14,000.

### BALANCE SHEET AND RESERVES

The reserves increased during the year by £3,938,924 to a year end total of £8,286,014 as shown in the balance sheet. If one excludes the tangible assets, then the resulting free-standing reserves are £721,180 as at the year end, which is well ahead of the £500,000 target, and has enabled the refurbishment of BVA's HQ to be financed out of the BVA's working capital. The value of Number 7 Mansfield Street increased by £4 million and now stands at £7.4 million.

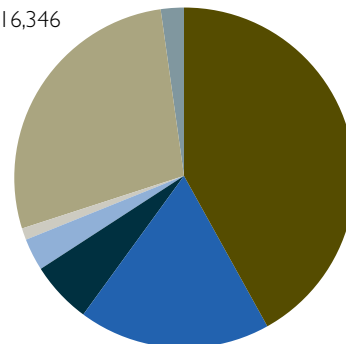
### INCOME

■ Publications	£2,280,831
■ Membership subscriptions	£1,682,969
■ Canine Health Schemes	£420,462
■ Investments and miscellaneous	£93,598
■ Congress and sundry courses	£191,198
■ Membership services and sponsorship	£55,670
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,724,728</b>



### EXPENDITURE

■ Publications	£1,845,976
■ Membership subscriptions, services and policy	£803,179
■ Canine Health Schemes	£292,242
■ Congress and sundry courses	£147,567
■ Investments and miscellaneous	£9,182
■ Overheads and support costs	£1,249,143
■ Tax and donations	£16,346
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4,363,635</b>



# Results

## INCOME AND EXPENDITURE, YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2007	2006
	£	£
GROSS REVENUE	4,641,402	4,362,420
Cost of sales	<u>3,098,146</u>	<u>2,900,887</u>
GROSS SURPLUS	1,543,256	1,461,533
Administrative expenses	<u>1,251,143</u>	<u>1,094,367</u>
	292,113	367,166
Other operating income	<u>13,500</u>	<u>12,350</u>
Operating surplus	305,613	379,516
Interest receivable and similar income	<u>69,826</u>	<u>48,536</u>
	375,439	428,052
Interest payable and similar charges	<u>–</u>	<u>(191)</u>
Surplus	375,439	427,861
Tax charge	<u>(14,346)</u>	<u>(13,247)</u>
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<u>361,093</u>	<u>414,614</u>

## STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

	2007	2006
	£	£
Surplus for the year	361,093	414,614
Unrealised surplus on revaluation of leasehold property	3,590,357	–
Unrealised (loss)/surplus on investments	(12,526)	35,183
Total recognised gains and losses relating to the year	<u>3,938,924</u>	<u>449,797</u>

# Results

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2007

	2007		2006	
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible assets		7,564,834		3,503,515
Investments		<u>543,507</u>		<u>561,522</u>
		8,108,341		4,065,037
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Stocks	3,091		4,512	
Debtors	467,712		390,491	
Cash at bank and in hand	578,127		579,399	
	<u>1,048,930</u>		<u>974,402</u>	
<b>CREDITORS</b> (amounts falling due within one year)		<u>526,138</u>		<u>405,860</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>522,792</u>		<u>568,542</u>
		8,631,133		4,633,579
<b>DEFERRED INCOME</b>		<u>345,119</u>		<u>286,489</u>
		<u>8,286,014</u>		<u>4,347,090</u>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>				
Revaluation reserve		6,831,069		3,325,043
Income and expenditure		<u>1,454,945</u>		<u>1,022,047</u>
		<u>8,286,014</u>		<u>4,347,090</u>

A copy of the full set of statutory accounts is available to all members, on request, from BVA headquarters. They also appear in the members' only section of the BVA website at [www.bva.co.uk](http://www.bva.co.uk)

*The British Veterinary Association  
– representing the veterinary  
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fulfil their professional roles*

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