



Presentation at BVA Congress

24 – 26 September 2009

Cardiff, UK

PLEASE NOTE:

While this presentation may be quoted from it cannot be reprinted in full without the permission of the author and the BVA

EMS is Failing

BVA Congress Cardiff September 2009

Is EMS Failing?

- Is it as effective as it should be?
- Is EMS working for all students?
- Is it sustainable in its current format?
- Should EMS be funded?
- Should students specialise during their EMS ?
- Could students be better coached?
- Are there effective measures in place to appraise and audit EMS?

Strengths

- Essential to veterinary training in both practical and communication skills
- Allows a 'real world' view of veterinary life
- Assists career choice
- Practice benefits from contemporary knowledge

Weaknesses

- Inconsistencies in teaching and inadequate feedback mechanisms
- Some important areas of veterinary life are not taught
- Increasing reliance on EMS
- Inappropriate lengths of placement
- Some areas are not being utilized and could be taught better elsewhere in the curriculum
- Uncertainty of expectations from both sides
- Financial burden to both practice and student

Possible Solutions - Quality

- Education of those offering EMS
- Education and guidance to students undertaking EMS
- Quality assessment
- Improved feedback and auditing
- 'Kite marking' or student approval of practices
- Minimum and maximum placement periods

Possible Solutions – Finance

- Practices
 - Compensate practices
 - University-practice alliances
- Students
 - Easily accessible bursaries
 - Increase student loan privileges

Summary

- A review is necessary and welcomed
- EMS is essential to undergraduate training
- EMS is not failing at present...
- ...but there are multiple points for improvement
- EMS must move to ensure that it remains contemporaneous, that its standard is objectively monitored and that it does not represent an unrealistic financial burden to students.