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Vets? Who needs them?

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The Veterinary Team

What works well?

- **Veterinary Nurses**
- Statutory list maintained by the RCVS
- Defines training and qualifications
- 2 year vocational training, assessed work and examinations
- Entitled by law to undertake a range of veterinary procedures and treatments under veterinary direction

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Veterinary Nurses**
- Qualified nurses are key members of the veterinary team providing skilled care for animals
- Also a Diploma in Advanced Veterinary nursing
- RCVS Nursing Council with responsibilities for all matters concerning veterinary nurses, training, qualifications and registration

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Veterinary Nurses**
- Veterinary Nurse Council comprises veterinary nurses, veterinary surgeons, lay members and industry group representatives.
- From 1st Sept 2007 Non-Statutory Register for veterinary nurses. First step to statutory regulation which would only be possible under a new VSA

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Veterinary Nurses**
- CPD required 45 hours over 3 years.
- Guide to professional conduct for veterinary nurses 2008
- Disciplinary process similar to that for veterinary surgeons to be in place by 2010

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Farriers**
- The Farriers (Registration) Act 1975
- Came into force in England and Wales 1980
- Scotland 1981
- Farriers Registration Council maintains a register, prohibits shoeing of horses by unqualified persons

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Farriers**
- Under the Act The Worshipful Company of Farriers is given responsibility for securing adequate standards of competence and conduct among farriers
- There is a Disciplinary Committee to deal with complaints

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Farriers**
- There is generally good cooperation and collaboration between veterinary surgeons and registered farriers with a clear understanding of what is an act of farriery and what is an act of veterinary surgery
- Barefoot trimming does not fall under the definition of the Act and has led to welfare issues
- Animal Welfare act

Vets? Who needs them?

- What doesn't work?
- Equine Dental Technicians

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Equine Dental Technicians**
- No requirement to be registered or qualified
- Widespread abuse of the Veterinary Surgeons Act with many EDTs carrying out acts of veterinary surgery
- No regulation by the RCVS as they are not registered

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Equine Dental Technicians**
- BAEDT founded in 2001 in association with BEVA and the British Veterinary Dental Association to introduce some order
- Established a recognised examination
- Code of conduct
- Promotes good practice
- List of qualified EDTs members of BAEDT and promoted by BEVA

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Equine Dental Technicians**
- 69 members (of which 9 are VS)
- BUT no compulsion to be qualified
- Long awaited exemption order from DEFRA to allow certain (category 2) procedures
- Many dental procedures require sedation which can only be carried out by a VS
- Requires cooperation and trust between VS and EDT which is often lacking

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Equine Dental Technicians**
 - NO compulsory Registration
 - NO Compulsory Code of Practice
 - NO Compulsory indemnity insurance
 - NO Compulsory disciplinary process

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Equine Physiotherapists**
 - National Association of Veterinary Physiotherapists est. 1985
 - President Professor Derek Knottenbelt
 - Under 1966 VSA it is a requirement that animal physiotherapists, chiropractors and osteopaths only work following veterinary referral
 - All members of NAVP abide by this but otherwise is widely disregarded

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Equine Physiotherapists**
- NAVP 25 UK members
- BUT
- NO compulsion to be qualified
- NO requirement for continuing professional development
- NO disciplinary process

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Solutions**
- Voluntary regulation
- Exemption Orders
- Revue of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Exemption Orders**
- 2004 DEFRA introduced Exemption Order to allow lay insemination of mares
- Established approved courses, run by BEVA to supply appropriate training
- However, insemination of mares is not as formulaic as in bovines

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Exemption Orders**
- Has lead to non-veterinary surgeons carrying out rectal examinations and ultrasound examination of ovaries to time insemination correctly
- These are acts of Veterinary Surgery, not without some risk and require appropriate training to allow proper interpretation

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Exemption Orders**
- The AI exemption order has created an appetite for further exemptions
- Has inadvertently encouraged lay people to carry out acts of veterinary surgery
- There is no control by the RCVS as they are not registered
- Requires prosecution by Trading Standards Authority

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Review of the VSA**
- Modify and adapt existing Act
- Create new Act to allow appropriate control of paraprofessionals to work as part of the Veterinary Team

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Review of the VSA**
- Minimum qualifications by experience and examination
- Register of qualified persons
- Continued training
- Code of conduct
- Complaints procedure
- Disciplinary process

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Review of the VSA**
- Currently DEFRA have indicated that they will not begin work on a white paper for a new VSA before 2011 due to lack of resources

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Review of the VSA** EFRACOM Report 2008
- "There is no clear view across the animal care professions on how other "paraprofessionals" ought to be regulated, but the balance of opinion, which we support, is in favour of some form of regulation to protect animals and their owners against the depredations of the wholly unqualified practitioners of potentially harmful treatments"

Vets? Who needs them?

- **Review of the VSA** EFRACOM Report 2008
- "Any new Act should not overload the profession with unnecessary legislation but it must safeguard the health and welfare of animals and also protect them and their owners from those who offer potentially dangerous treatments without sufficient knowledge or training"

- **Regulations of Veterinary Paraprofessionals**
- “Light touch” regulation vs adequate protection
- Doing nothing is not an option