

BVA e-news: April 2009

Welcome to monthly news updates from the British Veterinary Association (BVA)



'Get yourself a contract of employment' is our key message this month.

We also have brief advice on the influenza virus and a warning about veterinary practice websites being cloned. We offer tips for rural development funding applications, bring you media training and BVA Congress discounts, website updates and upcoming articles and videos.

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Contracts of employment - ensure that you/ your staff have them

BVA has joined forces with [RCVS](#), [SPVS](#) and [VPMA](#) to highlight the importance of written contracts of employment in the workplace for both employees and employers.

The campaign coincides with the re-write of the [BVA's guide to contracts of employment](#), a highly useful resource, which includes a template employment contract.

[Read more about the contracts campaign](#)

- You can subscribe to the BVA e-news at www.bva.co.uk/newsroom/BVA_e-news.aspx
- For the most up-to-date news please see www.bva.co.uk

Influenza virus originating in Mexico

Brief information on [veterinary facts](#) about the current H1N1 virus is available online, including advice from the Pig Veterinary Society for vets treating pigs.

More detail is available from a dedicated section on the [Defra website](#)



BVA Congress: Together forever?

Large discounts on BVA Congress registration

- Members get up to 33% off
- Additional loyalty discount (if attended in last 3 years) - 5%
- Further early bird discount (if registering before 30 June) - 10%
- There are also extra discounts for students, recent graduates and veterinary nurses

This year's Congress takes place in Cardiff on 24 – 26 September 2009. For more information please visit www.bva.co.uk/congress

Practice websites at risk

Gwent Police is warning UK veterinary practices that their websites might be being cloned to enable the illegal purchase of veterinary medicines.

For more information see the [RCVS website](#)



Development funding available



We would like to draw members' attention to the availability of Defra's [rural development programme for England](#) (RDPE) which is jointly funded by the EU. Development funds are available and a number of BVA members have already successfully applied for funding.

Based on their experience BVA has put together a [list of tips](#) to help you if you are considering making an application.

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New pet goat leaflet

Goats are curious animals that often enjoy human company and can make friendly and rewarding pets.

The BVA AWF's latest leaflet [An introduction to goat keeping](#) aims to provide basic guidance on keeping pet goats healthy and happy. It includes advice on the type of facilities needed, where to find a pet goat and which breed to choose as well as information on common health problems and details of current legislation relating to goat keeping.

Veterinary practices can obtain copies for the waiting room by ordering online at <http://www.bva-awf.org.uk/resources>.



BVA website updates

We have put together a [new education page](#) about our work on student debt, extra mural studies and related issues.

We have also updated our [electronic training aids](#) page and our [pet travel](#) page where you can now listen to the 'PETS or pests?' session at BSAVA Congress.

Handling media enquiries

If you have ever spoken to the media and wondered how you could have better presented yourself or what you have to say, the BVA media training might be for you.

The next training course takes place on 5 June. Members receive a 16% discount.

[Find out more](#)



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In Practice

In Practice – May issue

Clinical and management articles in the next issue of [In Practice](#) include

- **Skin disease in rabbits**
- **Bluetongue** update
- **External coaptation** in small animal practice
- **Ultrasonography** of the urogenital tract
- **Twinning in mares**
- Using clinical audit to measure and **improve clinical effectiveness**

An extensive listing of [CPD events](#) is available online

Veterinary Record articles

First cases of squirrelpox in southern Scotland – April 25

Fatal cases of squirrelpox in red squirrels reported following the appearance of squirrelpox virus-positive grey squirrels

Verocytotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* – May 2

The prevalence of VTEC O157 on 31 public amenity premises in England and Wales between 1997 and 2007

Catheter contamination – May 16

Factors contributing to the bacterial contamination of peripheral intravenous catheters in dogs and cats

the **VETERINARY**
RECORD

New on VETS.TV



- Three films from World Horse Welfare are now available
 - **'Homer's Story'** - a shire horse, who was found with a headcollar embedded in his head
 - **'The Woods Case'** - one of the many equine welfare concerns dealt with by the charity each year and the treatment provided
 - **'Toby's Foot'** – with the diagnosis of a keratoma in the front hoof of a bay gelding the video talks viewers through the operation
- **Life: make the most of it** - staff of Vetsnow talk about what it is like to work in emergency and critical care (ECC) and speak about the ECC training and CPD opportunities

To see these videos and more visit <http://www.VETS.TV>

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