

BVA e-news: March 2009

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



This month why not give us your views on electronic devices, dog breeding or mutilations and environmental enrichment for pigs? And did you know about the 'PETS or Pests?' session at BSAVA Congress? Along with riding establishments courses we also bring you what's coming up in our journals and a redesigned Overseas Newsletter.

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Pet travel and disease control session at BSAVA Congress

With the derogation under EU law, which allows the UK to apply stricter requirements than other EU member states, due to come to an end in 2010, BVA and BSAVA will hold a [joint session at BSAVA Congress](#).

The session entitled 'PETS or Pests – balancing pet travel and disease control' will take place on 3 April at the BSAVA Congress in Birmingham with speakers from the Health Protection Agency, the Universities of Manchester, Salford and Bristol as well as the Chief Veterinary Officer.

- 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

BVA positions

- We reiterated [our position](#) on **animal welfare at the time of slaughter** in the lead up to a European Parliament vote on 16 March. The European Parliament's Agriculture Committee decided that all forms of unnecessary suffering by animals must be avoided, but religious freedom must be respected. Read [more on the decision](#)
- [We commented](#) on the 'Pets undercover' programme broadcast on ITV on 16 March and highlighted our web advice on [veterinary fees](#) to members of the public visiting our website.



Your views

We invite members to contribute to the range of issues [BVA is consulting on](#) this and next month



- FAWC opinion on **mutilations and environmental enrichment for growing pigs**
- Amendments to **Hazardous Waste** (Welsh) Regulations 2005
- **Animal Welfare (Electronic Devices)**(Wales) Regulations 2009
- Bateson review on **dog breeding questionnaire** – members who have not received an email from BVA should contact rachelw@bva.co.uk
- various other consultations

Membership of the Veterinary Products Committee

Defra has been advertising for new members for the Veterinary Products Committee and its sub-committees including a veterinary surgeon (large animals), a veterinary surgeon (poultry) and a veterinary nurse.

The closing date for applications is next Monday 23 March 2009.

[More details](#)



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Sales of NFA-VPS in supermarkets

At its last meeting the Medicines Group discussed a report of NFA-VPS products being sold over the counter in a supermarket with no appropriate advice being given. The case reported has already been pursued by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate and the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain (through VMD).

This may be an isolated case but if you come across other instances of such sales in supermarkets do [let the BVA know](#).

Riding establishments inspection – refresher courses

The Riding Establishments Inspectorate is organising two refresher courses for inspectors

- Newbury, Berkshire on 10 June
- Cumbernauld, Scotland on 22 July

Inspectors' attendance at these refresher courses is expected every five years. To book a place on the course or to find out more about becoming an inspector please contact Diana Evans at dianaevans647@btinternet.com or on 01380 871289.



[Further information on inspections](#)

The Veterinary Record – small animal issues

Coinciding with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) congress, *The Veterinary Record* dedicates its scientific papers section to small animal issues on 4 April. Topics include

- **Canine osteoarthritis** – a literature review of different therapies
- **Stress fractures in cats** – cases of tibial fractures with concurrent patellar fractures are studied
- **Sarcoptic mange in rabbits** – evaluation of a selamectin spot-on formulation

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In Practice – April issue

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

- Managing **canine cruciate disease**
- Approach to the **anorexic tortoise**
- Risk-based control of **paratuberculosis in dairy herds**
- Ultrasonography of the **gastrointestinal tract** and associated organs in small animals
- Making the most of the **practice notice board**
- **Work experience** in practice
- Role of **loyalty programmes** in veterinary practice

InPractice[®]

There is an extensive listing of [CPD events](#) online



World veterinary news

- We have redesigned the [BVA Overseas Newsletter](#) and the first issue of 2009 contains a round up of international news and requests for volunteers
- [FVE February 2009 Newsletter](#) includes
 - Commission proposal on laboratory animals
 - Working Time Directive: MEPs say 'no' to exceptions to 48-hour week
 - salmonella in pigs and eggs
 - cow pox infections in humans due to pet rats
 - availability of medicines: extension of positive list expected
 - BTV vaccine field safety data and cephalosporin resistance

End of an era

After 35 years at the helm of BVA's media and parliamentary activities Chrissie Nicholls retires on 31 March.

An exquisite speech writer Chrissie has been the BVA's corporate memory and it is hard to imagine BVA without such an all-rounder and charismatic colleague. We wish her all the very best for her well deserved retirement!



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