



from the BVA

Giving
graduates
a voice



The Young Vet Network

The BVA recognises that new graduates represent the future of our profession, but that the transition from vet school to working life can often be a hard one. As a result the BVA has set up the Young Vet Network (YVN) in order to provide additional support and services to BVA members in their first eight years after graduation.

The YVN, which will be officially launched in early 2007, will incorporate many different elements in order to support graduates in their first eight years in practice, including;

- Graduate representation on the BVA Council.
- A virtual group of graduates, on hand to offer each other advice and support, answer questions, or even as a means to setting up informal groups with other graduates in their area.
- A dedicated section of the BVA website containing useful tips and advice on how to deal with the first years in practice.
- A handbook available to all newly graduated BVA members.

In addition the BVA will be introducing a mentoring initiative, through the meetings of its territorial divisions across the UK, which will be open to both member and non-member graduates, one-to-five-years qualified.

Graduate representation on Council

The BVA and the recent graduate group of advisors would like the voice of the YVN to be heard and feels that a good platform for this to happen would be Council. The BVA believes that for Council to be fully representative of its' members, two recent graduate representatives need to sit on it; one, qualified for one-to-four years, the other, a senior graduate, qualified for five-to-eight years.

The primary role of Council is to be the representative body of the members and to represent the members' views on matters of veterinary policy. Council meets four times a year; March, July, October and December and the role of the graduate representatives on Council would be to:

- Scrutinise papers, encouraging comment from other recent graduates.
- Attend all Council meetings or nominate an alternative.
- Support the other graduate representative in post as and when necessary.
- Contribute actively to the YVN, encouraging others to do the same.
- Keep in touch with YVN progress, visiting BVA headquarters when time permits.

The BVA will cover representatives travel expenses, and overnight stay if the representatives are travelling from far away. Each representative will also receive free entry into the BVA Congress for the period they are in the role.

The nomination process

- The representatives' roles will be advertised from the end of September 2006; at the Veterinary Defence Society (VDS) reunions, in the BVA's newsletter *Off the Record* and on the BVA website.
- Any recent graduate, qualified one to eight years, who is a BVA member, can nominate themselves for position as a graduate representative on Council.
- To obtain a nomination form, please email yvn@bva.co.uk quoting 'YVN flyer' or call 020 7636 6541.
- Completed nomination forms must be submitted by email to yvn@bva.co.uk no later than **Monday 13 November 2006**.
- Nominations will be voted for by the BVA's Nominations and Awards Group. Successful nominees will be advised by phone when a decision is made and the results will be advertised in *Off the Record* and on the Young Vet Network section of the BVA website, www.bva.co.uk/youngvetnetwork
- Nominations cannot be made on behalf of another member.
- December 2006 will be the first Council the graduate representatives will sit on.

Further information

The Young Vet Network

For further information on the Young Vet Network, please visit www.bva.co.uk/youngvetnetwork or contact the BVA on yvn@bva.co.uk or 020 7636 6541.

Recent graduate mentoring

For further information on the BVA recent graduate mentoring initiative, please contact the BVA on karinj@bva.co.uk or 020 7636 6541.

BVA membership

For further information on BVA membership, please visit www.bva.co.uk or contact the BVA on membership@bva.co.uk or 020 7636 6541.

The BVA

The BVA is the representative body for vets with over 10,000 members working in all areas of the profession.

The Association's main functions are policy development promotion of the profession and provision of services to members.

The BVA provides support advice and information whatever stage of your career.

In recognition of the increasing debt levels among veterinary students, the BVA has introduced a gradual membership fee for recent graduates for the first eight years after qualifying.

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