

The Constitution of the Scottish Branch of the British Veterinary Association

Name

- 1) The name of the organisation shall be The Scottish Branch of the British Veterinary Association ('the Scottish Branch').

Objects

- 2) The objects of the Scottish Branch shall be to
 - 2.1. foster the interests of the veterinary profession in Scotland;
 - 2.2. assist the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in its activities by advising on the consensus view of the Scottish divisions on Scottish and United Kingdom issues particularly with reference to the Scottish Parliament and Government, Scottish law, the National Farmers Union of Scotland and Scottish animal welfare organisations; and
 - 2.3. promote meetings in any part of Scotland for the discussion of veterinary topics and kindred subjects, including assisting in the coordination of Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

Membership

- 3) The membership of the Scottish Branch shall be all members of the BVA resident in Scotland ('a Member' or 'the Members').

Officers

- 4) There shall be three officers of the Branch ('the Officers'), each of whom shall be a Member:
 - 4.1. President;
 - 4.2. Vice-President; and
 - 4.3. Regional Representative

Vice-President and President

- 5) A Member shall be elected to serve one year as (Junior) Vice President followed by two years as President and one year as (Senior) Vice President.
- 6) A new Member shall be elected to begin their term of office as (Junior) Vice President at the same time as the incumbent enters their second year as President. Therefore, during a Member's first year as President there shall also be a (Senior) Vice President and during the second there shall also be a (Junior) Vice President.
- 7) The role of the President shall be to

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- 7.1. be the principal representative of the Branch in relation to veterinary matters, of policy and practice; and
- 7.2. chair all meetings of the Branch.

- 8) In the event of incapacity or prolonged absence of the President the Vice President shall act in their place.

Regional Representative

- 9) A Member shall normally serve as Regional Representative for a term of up to three years.
- 10) The role of the Regional Representative shall be to ensure that the views of BVA members in the region are represented at BVA Council meetings.

Council

- 11) There shall be a council ('the Council') of the Branch and its membership ('the Councillors') shall be the Officers, immediate past President, Honorary Secretary, up to 6 general BVA Scottish Branch Council members, plus one representative of each of the following organisations, each of whom shall be a Member:
 - 11.1. each Scottish territorial division;
 - 11.2. each specialist division with a significant Scottish interest; (NOTE: All specialist divisions should be given the opportunity to attend);
 - 11.3. the University of Glasgow's School of Veterinary Medicine;
 - 11.4. the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies;
 - 11.5. Scotland's Rural College;
 - 11.6. the Moredun Group;
 - 11.7. APHA;
 - 11.8. the Scottish Government;
 - 11.9. the Food Standards Scotland;
 - 11.10. the Highlands and Islands Veterinary Services Scheme;
 - 11.11. Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research Work
 - 11.12. the Animal Welfare Foundation
 - 11.13. a recent graduate
- 12) Each organisation may nominate one Councillor and one alternate who may attend the Council in the place of the Councillor.
- 13) Councillors usually serve for a term of three years, renewable once.
- 14) The membership of the Council shall be ratified at the AGM each year.
 - 14.1. All organisations shall inform the BVA Secretariat of nominations before the AGM.
 - 14.2. Nominees will assume membership of the Council at the meeting of the Branch following the AGM.
- 15) It shall be possible for a single individual to represent more than one organisation at meetings of the Council if so ratified.

- 16) The Council may at any time invite any organisation with a significant veterinary constituency to nominate a representative to join the Council. If the invitation is accepted the representative will be formally ratified at the next AGM in the usual way.
- 17) Council may ask individuals with particular expertise to attend meetings and to help in their business. Such individuals shall not have voting rights upon attendance.
- 18) The role of the Council shall be to
 - 18.1. discuss veterinary policy issues as they relate to Scotland and make all efforts to reach a consensus view on those issues; and
 - 18.2. assist the BVA in formulating policy and advise it of the consensus view of the Scottish divisions on Scottish and United Kingdom issues, particularly with reference to the Scottish Parliament and Government, Scottish law, the National Farmers Union of Scotland and Scottish animal welfare organisations.
- 19) The quorum for a meeting of the Council shall be seven.
- 20) The Council shall meet at least once in person and at least three times in total each year.
- 21) The President shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her own vote where necessary.

Annual General Meeting

- 22) There shall be an Annual General Meeting ('the AGM') which all Members shall be entitled to attend and that shall take place before the end of June.
- 23) The AGM shall
 - 23.1. elect the Officers;
 - 23.2. ratify the membership of the Council;
- 24) The quorum for an AGM shall be eleven or 1% of the Members, whichever is the smaller number, which figure to be determined one month prior to the meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- 25) An EGM may be convened by the Council as required.
- 26) An EGM may only discuss the business for which it was convened.

Secretariat

- 27) Secretariat to the Scottish Branch shall be supplied by the BVA.

Changes to the Constitution

- 28) Proposed changes to this Constitution must be presented to all Councillors and subsequently approved at an AGM.