

Policy Committee

Role description and person specification

Overall purpose

- To ensure that the Policy Committee (PC) fulfils its primary role of advising Council on all veterinary policy matters, including animal health and welfare, public health, and veterinary professional issues.
- To assist the Association in pursuing its priority issues through developing robust, evidence-led policy positions and consultation responses, and advising on BVA campaigns.

Duties and activities

- Actively contributing to PC debates and discussions both in person electronically.
- Reading papers, research and other information presented to the PC in preparation for debates and discussions.
- Actively participating in evidence sessions and discussions with external contributors.
- Attending four PC meetings per year (likely three in London and one via teleconference), in line with the BVA attendance protocol.
- Contributing actively to the work of PC outside of the meetings by promoting discussion and exchange of views on the BVA online forum for committees (Glasscubes)
- Chairing policy working groups on an ad hoc basis, attending working group meetings and inputting to working group research, evidence sessions and debates. Working groups will be time limited and issue focused, and there will be no more than three working groups operating at any one time.
- Promoting BVA and BVA membership as appropriate.
- Safeguarding and promoting the good name and values of BVA at all times.

Term of office

All members of PC shall nominally serve for a term of up to three years. Members will have the option of serving for a second term of up to three years (subject to Nominations and Awards Group (NAG) recommendation and Council approval) but may not serve for three successive terms. Members may seek re-election for a third term following a break in service of at least one year

Person specification

- MRCVS and BVA membership.
- At least one member of the PC must be a recent graduate (up to eight years qualified).
- Commitment to promoting and furthering the interests of the veterinary profession, and of BVA.
- Willingness to commit the necessary time and effort to fulfil the specified duties and activities.

In selecting members of the PC, NAG will be tasked with meeting as many of the following criteria as possible:

Knowledge, skills and experience

Not all of these are essential for each individual but across the whole committee we require a mix of:

- Committee experience

- Policy development skills and experience
- Strategic thinking
- Evidence gathering and research
- Analysis and evaluation
- Excellent oral communication skills and ability to engage positively in debate and discussion
- Decision making
- Team work
- Problem solving
- Understanding of the political and cultural climate in which BVA seeks to influence policy makers
- Understanding of the current veterinary landscape

Veterinary expertise and experience

Across the whole committee we are looking for a mix of experience and expertise within the range of veterinary work, including:

- Large animal practice
- Small animal practice
- Equine practice
- Other species specialisms
- Public health
- Government
- Industry
- Academia
- Research
- International
- Wildlife/conservation
- Charity

Other

Across the committee we are looking to ensure a range of expertise, interests, and backgrounds.

Expenses

Membership of PC is voluntary and unpaid but members are reimbursed for travel and other expenses incurred, in line with [BVA's member expenses policy](#).

PC members receive free membership of BVA for the duration of their term of office.

Declarations of interest and confidentiality

All members of EWAP are required to complete a confidentiality agreement and declarations of interest form at the start of their term, and to notify the secretariat if the declaration needs to be updated.

For more information, please contact the BVA policy team on 020 7908 6370 or via policy@bva.co.uk

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