
October 2020
Contact: media@bva.co.uk
Introduction

• The BVA Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey panel had been paused during 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

• Six months on from the national lockdown we decided to run a small snapshot survey to “take the temperature” of BVA members to understand how concerned they are feeling about a number of areas that have been impacted (or may be impacted) by Covid-19.

• A snapshot survey using Survey Monkey was sent to members of the BVA Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey panel (2086 members) on Tuesday 29 September.

• A follow up reminder email was sent to those who had not opened the original email on Wednesday 7 October and the survey closed on Wednesday 14 October.

• We had 565 responses which is a 27% response rate.
### Question areas

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<td>… production AHW …</td>
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<td>… wildlife and zoo AHW …</td>
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Just over half of the respondents are in small animal/exotics practice (54%).

*Other veterinary roles account for one fifth including charity 2%, government 3%, academia 3%, industry 4%, meat hygiene 1%, research/lab 1%, and other 5%.

Note: respondents could select more than one response
515/565 answered this question.

Just over half of the 515 respondents are employees.

Note: respondents could select more than one response
Demographics: region and age

Q3. Which part of the UK do you live in?

- Overseas, inc RoI: 1.59%
- South East: 15.22%
- South West: 17.17%
- London: 8.32%
- Wales: 8.67%
- East of England: 8.50%
- East Midlands: 5.84%
- West Midlands: 3.89%
- Northern Ireland: 2.65%
- Yorkshire and Humber: 8.85%
- North East: 11.33%
- North West: 2.66%
- Scotland: 11.72%

Q4. What is your age?

- 66+: 11.72%
- 56-65: 24.16%
- 46-55: 24.33%
- 36-45: 22.56%
- 26-35: 14.56%
- 18-25: 2.66%
Health and wellbeing
Four in ten are very or quite concerned about contracting Covid-19 in their workplace.

Q5 The risk of contracting Covid-19 in your own workplace

- Not at all concerned: 16%
- A little concerned: 36%
- Quite concerned: 29%
- Very concerned: 13%
- Don’t know or N/A: 42%

It varies by type of work but not by age, region or employment status…

- 55% mixed
- 21% production*
- 50% companion/exotics
- 19% Government*
- 40% equine*

* Small sample size <25
Three quarters are very or quite concerned about stress and burnout in the profession.

Q6/7/8: To what extent are you concerned about stress and burnout....

For yourself...

45% very or quite concerned

Amongst your workplace colleagues...

67% very or quite concerned

In the profession generally...

74% very or quite concerned
Students and small animal vets are the most concerned about their own stress and burnout.

Q6/7/8: To what extent are you concerned about stress and burnout….

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>...for yourself</th>
<th>...for colleagues</th>
<th>...for the profession</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% quite or very concerned</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>45% average</td>
<td>67% average</td>
<td>74% average</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>58% SA/exotics</td>
<td>77% SA/exotics</td>
<td>81% SA/exotics</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>67% students*</td>
<td>85% research/lab*</td>
<td>85% research/lab*</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>12% production*</td>
<td>50% academia*</td>
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* Small sample size <25
Self-employed vets and partners are less likely to be concerned about stress and burnout.
The older members are, the less concerned they are about stress and burnout.

26-35 year olds are the most concerned about stress and burnout amongst their colleagues and in the profession more generally.
Finance and employment
Four in ten are **very** or **quite** concerned about the financial sustainability of the vet sector.

Q9 The financial sustainability of the veterinary sector in light of the Covid-19 pandemic

![Bar chart showing level of concern by type of work](chart)

The level of concern varies by **type of work** …

- **77%** charity*
- **60%** retired
- **59%** Government*
- **59%** equine*
- **22%** academia*
- **27%** industry*
- **29%** production*

* Small sample size <25
Three in ten are very or quite concerned about job security in the vet sector and over 1/5 are not at all concerned.

Q10 Job security in the veterinary sector as a whole

The level of concern varies by age group.

Those aged 46-55 and 66+ are the most concerned about job security in the vet sector.
Equine and charity vets are most concerned about job security in their own sector.

Q11: To what extent are you concerned about job security in your own sector of veterinary work?

- **23%** of all respondents are very or quite concerned about job security in their own sector.
  - **18%** are very concerned.
- **45%** of equine vets are very or quite concerned about job security in their own sector.
  - **18%** are very concerned.
  - *But none are very concerned.*
- **64%** of charity vets are very or quite concerned about job security in their own sector.
- **6%** of government vets are very or quite concerned.
- **12%** of mixed practice vets are very or quite concerned.
  - **41%** are not at all concerned.
- **13%** of production animal vets are very or quite concerned.
  - **54%** are not at all concerned.
95% have some level of concern about the potential impact of a recession on the vet sector.

Q12 The potential impact of a UK-wide recession on the veterinary sector as a whole

Answered: 564  Skipped: 1

Not at all concerned: 3%
A little concerned: 33%
Quite concerned: 41%
Very concerned: 21%
Don't know or N/A: 0%

% very or quite concerned

Most concerned:

- 81% Government
- 77% Equine
- 77% Charity
- 75% Retired

Least concerned:

- 40% Meat hygiene
- 46% Production
- 46% North West
- 53% Aged 56-65

One fifth are very concerned

*Small sample size

A strong voice for vets
Equine and charity vets are most concerned about the impact of a recession on their own workplace

Q13: To what extent are you concerned about the potential impact of a UK-wide recession on your workplace?
Students and new grads
Two thirds are very or quite concerned about student and new grad confidence

Q14 The impact of Covid-19 on student and new graduate confidence in entering the veterinary workforce

Answered: 564  Skipped: 1

Not at all concerned: 8%
A little concerned: 21%
Quite concerned: 37%
Very concerned: 30%

Older vets are less concerned than younger vets:

- 66% Older (36+)
- 79% Younger (18-35)

% very or quite concerned
72% are very or quite concerned about the provision of EMS placements this coming year.

Q15 The ability of veterinary workplaces to provide EMS placements for vet students this coming academic year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Concern Level</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Most Concerned</th>
<th>Least Concerned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Not at all concerned</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>Research /lab*</td>
<td>Governm’t</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A little concerned</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>Production &amp; academia</td>
<td>Industry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quite concerned</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>Students</td>
<td>Small &amp; charity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very concerned</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>Wales</td>
<td>Yorks and the Humber</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know or N/A</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>North East*</td>
<td>NI* &amp; South East</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Small sample size
Animal health and welfare
Respondents were more concerned for the health and welfare of wildlife/zoo animals and companion animals.

Q16/17/18/19: To what extent are you concerned about the impact of Covid-19 on the health and welfare in the medium term (3-6 months) in…

- Very or quite concerned about wildlife and zoo animal H&W: 62%
- Very or quite concerned about farm animal H&W: 39%
- Very or quite concerned about equine H&W: 45%
- Very or quite concerned about companion animal H&W: 49%

*Percentages calculated from those who gave a view (ie don't know / N/A responses have been removed)
Summary
Areas of greatest concern: stress & burnout in the profession, provision of EMS, and student & new grad confidence

More than a quarter of respondents are very concerned about: stress & burnout amongst colleagues (35%) and in the profession generally (37%); student & new grad confidence (30%) and provision of EMS (37%)

More than half of respondents are very or quite concerned about: stress & burnout amongst colleagues (67%); stress & burnout within the profession (74%); the impact of a recession on the veterinary sector (62%); student and new grad confidence (67%); the provision of EMS (72%); and wildlife & zoo animal health and welfare in the medium term (62%)