



President's welcome

It's fair to say that 2020 has brought a lot of challenges, and we've had to adapt very quickly to respond to these. When I became President in September 2019, I knew it would be a busy year, with an imminent general election and a lot to navigate in terms of Brexit and its impact on the workforce. What we didn't know was that we were soon to find ourselves in the midst of an unprecedented pandemic, which has impacted on everyone both personally and professionally.

What I can say wholeheartedly is that I am so proud of how BVA has responded in these challenging times, and how we have always endeavoured to keep our members front and centre in everything we do. Since the early days of lockdown in the UK, staff and Officers have worked tirelessly to keep members informed on how the restrictions may affect them logistically, financially, and emotionally.

At a time when government updates were coming in thick and fast, we held incredibly popular weekly webinars, where veterinary professionals could access relevant information and support, and air their questions and concerns. And

although we couldn't meet politicians in person, we lobbied hard via virtual engagement to make sure that the way that the profession had been impacted by, and had responded to, Covid-19 was well understood at senior political levels.

But what I am most proud of is what BVA has achieved in this past year in spite of Covid-19. It's been a year in which we launched groundbreaking and wide-ranging policy positions on Bovine TB, Good Veterinary Workplaces and Welfare at Slaughter, each gaining fantastic feedback. We've also kept the flag flying for the importance of diversity of people and diversity of careers in the profession,

and I know that my successor James Russell intends to keep championing the importance of supportive work environments and positive wellbeing through his 'Keeping Vets Healthy' presidential theme for the year ahead.

I'm hugely grateful to BVA's staff, Officers, volunteers, and members for everything that has been achieved against such a difficult backdrop this year. As a profession, it really shows what can be achieved when we work together and support each other.

Daniella Dos Santos, President
September 2019–September 2020

Coming through a global crisis

Covid-19 has impacted every part of our lives, and BVA is no exception. The past year has been dominated by our response to the pandemic – both in terms of how we supported our members and in how we managed the significant impact on our own organisation.

I am immensely proud of the myriad ways in which the BVA team has gone above and beyond to support the veterinary profession and one another. In light of the impact on our finances, we made some difficult decisions that affected BVA staff and our journals in order to protect our income and continue providing a great service for members. We remain cautious but confident that we've been able to steady BVA's finances as we begin the new Association year.

There's also been a huge amount to celebrate this year, with fantastic and important pieces of policy work completed, high profile campaigns around EU Exit and Covid-19, and innovative services launched, such as Carpool Cases for students. And we were delighted to announce our new standalone event BVA Live that will take place in Birmingham in June 2021.



The last year has been unlike any other but thanks to our staff, Officers, and volunteers, we have come through it ready to rebuild.

David Calpin
Chief Executive



SUPPORTING THE VETERINARY PROFESSION THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

CAMPAIGNING ON YOUR BEHALF

Early in lockdown, we launched a campaign for veterinary practices to be made eligible for financial support measures. Ultimately, although the UK government did not extend 100% business rates relief to practices, the campaign gained a lot of cross-party support and recognition from Defra of how hard vets were working.

We successfully campaigned for all UK governments to adapt their contact tracing systems to avoid the unnecessary closure of veterinary practices. After we raised this directly with Defra ministers and in the media, Public Health England (PHE) issued updated guidance which clarified that veterinary professionals who have taken all precautions and who wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) when working together will not be considered as contacts and will not be asked to self-isolate. Lobbying of Scottish Government resulted in similar guidance in Scotland.

GUIDANCE FOR VETERINARY PROFESSIONALS

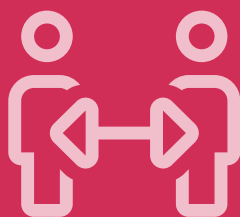
From mid-March we redirected our resources to focus on providing support and guidance for members in response to Covid-19, including:

- ▣ [Advice for veterinary professionals](#)
- ▣ [Coronavirus resources including a social media toolkit](#)
- ▣ [Frequently asked questions](#)
- ▣ [Advice for animal owners alongside calls to respect your vet team during Covid-19](#)
- ▣ [A series of webinars in partnership with The Webinar Vet](#)

All of this guidance could be found on our Coronavirus Information Hub which was regularly updated to help everyone navigate the challenges of the pandemic.

Vets are working really hard and are there for your animals.

Please respect social distancing so that we can keep you and our team safe.



CORONAVIRUS AND VETS #COVID19



WEEKLY WEBINARS – COVID-19 AND THE VETERINARY PROFESSION

From the start of the crisis we knew how important it would be to provide up to date information and guidance to keep the professions informed. Working with The Webinar Vet we set up weekly (later fortnightly) webinars for the whole profession to tune in to hear the latest updates and ask questions. Feedback from members was extremely positive. One member wrote: "The webinars you provided were unique and extremely valuable sources of information and clear guidance."

LEARNING IN LOCKDOWN

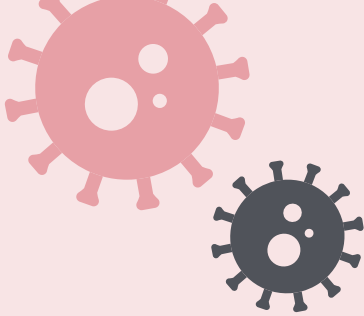
Supporting students and new graduates has never been more important. We provided students with digital and online resources to support their studies, including live presentations for the first and fourth years. We continued to work closely with the Association of Veterinary Students and improved our relationships with UK and Ireland vet schools. Recognising that students were missing out on EMS experiences and having informal face-to-face discussions, we created Carpool Cases to give an online platform for informal group discussions about clinical cases. The Young Vet Network moved online with industry professionals hosting educational webinars on various topics, and several local groups held events for fellow young vets.

RESPECT YOUR VET

Lockdown restrictions meant that veterinary practices had to adapt very quickly in order to keep colleagues and clients safe. New measures included prioritising essential care and treatment, requiring clients to call ahead and often wait outside while their animal was seen, and asking everyone to comply with social distancing requirements. To support better client communication, we created a suite of graphics for social media to help explain these changes and ask clients to #RespectYourVet in terms of their decisions and new ways of working.

WORKING TOGETHER

Throughout the pandemic we maintained regular contact with the RCVS, issuing a number of joint statements to the profession. We also worked closely with the specialist divisions and our affiliate groups, using regular meetings to share updates, helping us to make sure that our activity was appropriate, proportionate, and in the interests of all veterinary professionals. We are grateful to all of the representatives who contributed to those meetings.



“

The support during this crisis has been worth all my 40 years of membership and made me very glad I have been a member contributing to the work [of BVA] all these years.”

BVA MEMBER

109,118

Visits to BVA Coronavirus Information Hub

22

Infographics were created

39,000

Engagements on Facebook during lockdown

22,000

Engagements on Twitter during lockdown

3,000

Engagements on Instagram during lockdown

2,000

Average number of views of the weekly Covid webinars

2,484

Covid-19 related media hits

37

Covid-19 campaign emails

Over 1,600

Emails to the BVA Covid-19 inbox

300

Calls a month to the BVA legal helpline during the height of the pandemic (April and May)

156%

Increase in calls to the legal helpline compared to April and May 2019



Over **400** media hits every month

#VetDiversity

With the added boost of Daniella's presidential theme being #VetDiversity, this year BVA has taken huge strides forward in our efforts to promote equality, diversity, and inclusion in the veterinary profession. In January we hosted a widening participation roundtable to hear from experts and practitioners including Animal Aspirations, Careers Wales, and the BMA. Through the development of the Good Workplace policy and our seat on the RCVS Diversity and Inclusion Group, we're working on practical approaches to promote and support inclusion.

Daniella spoke at the National Health Careers Conference to promote veterinary careers to young people from under-represented groups and at the University of Surrey's Courageous Conversations conference designed to raise awareness of issues within the profession. And we've developed some fantastic new content for the My Vet Future online careers hub to showcase diverse people in diverse veterinary roles. The work is ongoing and we're proud to be taking forward some initiatives into next year.

Thank you to #TeamVet

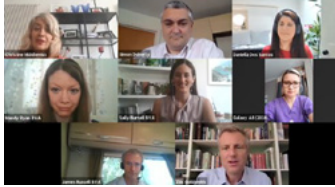
The strength of BVA is in the time, energy, and expertise of our amazing volunteers who contribute on our committees, Branches, and Council, or through running the Young Vet Network. This year we were overwhelmed with applications to join our committees with over 70 members applying for just four places, and it was fantastic to see such a high level of interest in getting involved with BVA's work. We continue to support our volunteers through the regional reps training day and BVA volunteer induction day, and we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who gives up their time to support the profession.





We welcomed over **3,000** new members

Virtual lobbying



During lockdown we stepped up our virtual engagement with parliamentarians. Highlights included a Zoom briefing during

which the BVA Officers addressed 22 MPs, peers and researchers on how vets had responded to and been impacted by the pandemic, as well as covering other priority areas. In June, we held a really successful 'virtual visit' with Animal Welfare Minister Lord Goldsmith, which included screening a range of video clips from vets working in different practice areas. We also met with the Rural Affairs Ministers in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, the chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee, and the UK International Trade Minister.

BVA Wall of Recognition



At the beginning of 2020 we launched a new philanthropic fundraising appeal that will help us to do even more to make sure the veterinary profession is valued, supported,

and listened to, ensuring we leave a positive legacy for generations to come. To recognise the generosity of those who make contributions, we're adding their name, or the name of someone they choose to recognise, to the BVA Wall of Recognition. Funds raised will be invested into strengthening the profession and improving animal welfare.

Partnering with leading organisations

We invite leading organisations with which we share strategic aims to become BVA's corporate partners. This year we have been working with Mars Petcare to examine the links between pet nutrition, human behaviour, and healthy body weight in pets and with Zoetis to showcase the contribution of young vets to the veterinary profession.

A new Chair for the BVA Board



In January we welcomed Steve Anderson Dixon as the new chair of our Board. Steve joined the Board in 2017 as a lay member and brings a wealth of experience in publishing

and communications to the team. Taking up the role, Steve said it was a privilege to be associated with the veterinary profession and thanked outgoing chair Philip Lowndes for his excellent term.



Over **11,500** dogs had eye examinations through the BVA/KC Canine Health Schemes

Celebrating inspirational early-career vets

Following the success of the first BVA Young Vet of the Year Award last year, together with Zoetis we launched the award for the second year running. We received over 100 nominations and we were truly inspired by the impact these young vets are having on the veterinary community. The winner of the award will be announced on 13 November.

BVA  **YOUNG VET OF THE YEAR AWARD 2020**

Supported by 

Working together for welfare

The Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) is BVA's charity and we support the work of AWF to fund research, educate, and generate debate on animal welfare, through our communications with the profession and wider public.



Due to Covid-19 AWF's popular annual Discussion Forum was sadly cancelled, but we worked with AWF to promote previous debate sessions on topical animal welfare and ethics issues to

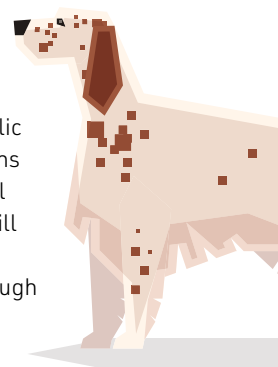
support vets through quality CPD. This year we also worked together to promote the publication of the AWF-funded Delphi research project to prioritise animal welfare issues. The report provides an important reference for all animal welfare researchers.

Canine Health Schemes



During lockdown BVA advised breeders not

to mate their dogs and discouraged the public from buying 'pandemic puppies'. Submissions have therefore been a lot lower than normal this year, but the Canine Health Schemes still scored over 9,700 hip and elbow dysplasia submissions and over 11,500 dogs went through the eye scheme.





Over **56,000** views of the BVA blog



Over **18,000** members



Over **100,000** visits to the BVA Coronavirus Hub

A busy year for our Branches

Our Branches in the devolved regions of the UK continue to go from strength to strength and have played a key role in navigating national differences in relation to Covid-19, as well as making invaluable contributions to our ongoing policy and lobbying work around all things EU Exit. We've grown our Branch Councils, and members have led stakeholder engagement at a local level across a range of priority areas, from bTB and responsible pet ownership, to mental wellbeing.

Understanding 'Under our care'

In recognition of questions and concerns across the profession in relation to 'telemedicine' we've been developing our position via the BVA Under Our Care Working Group. Chaired by former UK CVO Nigel Gibbens, the group has consulted widely to consider: the definition and interpretation of 'under care'; the vet-client-patient relationship; continuity of care out of hours; remote consultation; and remote prescribing. The final draft position will be going to BVA Council in December.

Pushing for change on the welfare of animals at slaughter

Welfare at slaughter matters to our members, and we think it should be high on the agenda for government and consumers too. So, this year we published our most comprehensive position on welfare at slaughter yet. Developed through our expert welfare at slaughter working group, our recommendations build on current legislation and best practise spanning the whole slaughter process, from preparation on-farm to processes at the abattoir, effective stunning, regulation of non-stun slaughter, and labelling.

#ChooseAssured



With increasing consumer interest in the UK's high animal health and welfare standards, we continue to raise awareness of the great work of the UK's farm assurance schemes, and

encourage shoppers to #ChooseAssured by purchasing UK farm assured produce. Our BVA #ChooseAssured: UK Farm Assurance Schemes infographic and pocket-sized 'Z-cards' empower both vets and the wider public to better understand the animal welfare credentials of the food they buy, and make informed choices to support UK producers.

#ItTakesTwo

At the start of the year we joined forces with BSAVA



and BVZS to spread the word on the importance of providing companionship for pet rabbits with our #ItTakesTwo campaign. To help members kickstart these important conversations with clients, we developed several shareable resources for members, including colourful infographics and top tips from the Rabbit Welfare Association and Fund on how to make sure rabbits are healthy and happy.

One Health in Action



We launched our One Health in Action report in November 2019, to explain the concept of One Health and showcase real-world examples of projects making a difference

in the UK. It featured case studies from veterinary, environmental, and medical professionals, and highlighted practical ways in which everyone can help.

Championing good veterinary workplaces

The BVA good veterinary workplaces position sets out all of the elements which are important for creating a happy and healthy workplace. Its 64



recommendations cover the major issues faced by members of the veterinary team, and most importantly, what employers and employees can do to help. We also published a voluntary code and workbook to help members commit to our vision and work through the recommendations.

Applying behavioural science to tackle bTB

Our new bovine TB policy, launched in July, brings together veterinary expertise to apply new and emerging evidence to set out a roadmap to guide the efforts of vets, farmers, and governments. At the heart of the new policy is the application of behavioural science. This means rewarding good biosecurity practices, providing vets and farmers with the data they need to make decisions, and recognising the human impact of this devastating disease.

Brexit and the veterinary profession

As the UK leaves the EU it must safeguard its reputation for animal health and welfare. This year we successfully pushed for these to be recognised as public goods within the Agriculture Bill and are now working with government and industry to design new interventions. We have continued to lobby government to make sure trade deals won't allow goods into the UK that would undercut our commitment to health and welfare at home.

BVA on social media

f 29,960
followers

/BritishVets

t 24,803
followers

@BritishVets

in 34,465
followers

/BritishVeterinaryAssociation

ig 4,477
followers

@BritishVets

BVA in the media



The BVA media team has been incredibly busy this year with over 400 media hits every month in national, regional, and trade outlets. Key spikes in coverage surrounded our advice on pets and coronavirus, Brexit-related commentary, and seasonal releases on areas including fireworks, chocolate poisoning, and warnings over blue-green algae. Our Officers reached large audiences via appearances on the *Today* programme, *The One Show* and BBC News, and we even appeared on Crufts, when Daniella was interviewed by Clare Balding to give advice on veterinary careers.

THE BVA BLOG

With over 56,000 page views during the last year, the BVA blog continues to grow. This year our most popular blog posts featured Covid-19 advice and guidance:

9,401 views

Why lockdown isn't the right time to get pet

2,669 views

Responding to your questions on our updated Covid-19 guidance

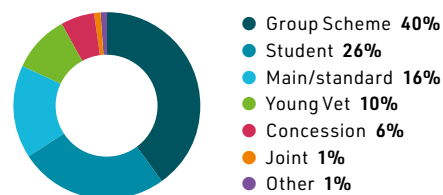
2,664 views

PHE's clarification on PPE use and contact tracing what it means for you



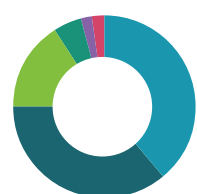
Membership

In 2019 we welcomed nearly 3,000 new members. Combined with a healthy retention rate this meant that we ended the year with a total of 18,489 members.



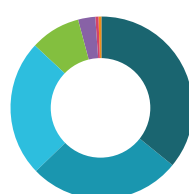
Year	2019
Members at the start of the year	18,262
New members joining	2,988
Members retained	15,501
Retention rate	85%
Members leaving	2,761
Members at the end of period	18,489
Net gain	227
Net gain (%)	1.2%

Our finances



Income £6,176,389

- Membership subscriptions **39%**
- Publications **36%**
- Canine Health Schemes **16%**
- Membership services and sponsorship **5%**
- CPD courses/BVA at the London Vet Show **2%**
- Investments and miscellaneous **2%**



Expenditure £6,173,857

- Publications **36%**
- Membership services **27%**
- Overheads and support costs **24%**
- Canine Health Schemes **9%**
- CPD courses/BVA at the London Vet Show **3%**
- Investments and miscellaneous **0.5%**
- Donations **0.5%**

For the year ending 31 December 2019 the results show an operating surplus before investment gains and taxation of £2,532 which is significantly down from the corresponding £124,484 surplus in 2018.

Total income increased by 1.6% during the year to £6,176,389 with all key business areas yielding an above cost return.

Expenditure increased by 3.7% during the year to £6,173,857 with BVA continuing to spend substantial resource on policy and media activities, lobbying and campaigning on priority issues such as Brexit and animal welfare, as well as on

the provision of membership benefits and membership engagement. Administrative expenditure increased during the year by 4.2% due to associated property refurbishment costs including alternative accommodation costs incurred whilst the property refurbishment took place.

There was £19,000 in donations to veterinary related charities.

There was £251,682 capital expenditure during 2019, including £84,810 on the re-launched BVA website with the majority of the balance relating to property re-fit costs.

Reserves

There were unrealised investment gains during the year of £45,619.

BVA's total reserves for the year increased by £2,001,958 to £12,656,377. Following the completion of the refurbishment of the property, the capital cost of which was £1,831,365, the property was revalued at the end of the year at £12,080,000 leading to an unrealised gain of £2,706,784. After allowing for a corresponding increase in BVA's deferred tax provision of £752,977 the net unrealised gain was £1,953,807.

A copy of the full set of statutory accounts is available to all members, on request, from BVA HQ. They also appear in the members' section of the BVA website at www.bva.co.uk