# BVA Working Group: scoping document

## Terms of reference/scope

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Working Group</th>
<th>Non-traditional companion animals (NTCAWG)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>Sean Wensley</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary (BVA policy team)</td>
<td>Hayley Atkin</td>
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<tr>
<td>BVA Officers</td>
<td>Daniella Dos Santos and Justine Shotton</td>
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| Members (divisions, individuals, Branches, EWAP) | • BSAVA representative – John Chitty (cc Adrienne Conroy)  
• BVZS representative – Romain Pizzi and Mike Stanford, Liz Mullineaux for wildlife strand, and Jon Cracknell for DWA strand.  
• FVS representative – Willie Wildgoose  
• PC representative – Alice Moore  
• EWAP representative – Matt Leach  
• BVNA – Craig Tessyman  
Other potential contributors:  
• Joanna Hedley  
• Jenna Richardson  
• Sonya Miles  
• Steph Jayson |

## Aims/objective

To develop the BVA position non-traditional companion animals

## Intended audience

The veterinary professions, the animal owning public, governments, retailers (of pets and pet products)

## Remit/scope and desired outputs (to be completed by PC)

In developing the BVA position the working group should consider:

- A definition of NTCA
- The role of vets in pre-purchase education
- The role of retailers in pre-purchase and point of sale education
- Owner education on longevity of some species
- Optimum captive environments and welfare assessments vs minimum legislative standards and statutory codes of practice
- The merits of positive lists, negative lists, and traffic light systems (and any international approaches)
- Local authority enforcement and inspection
- The adequacy of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act
- DWA inspections and template form
- Responsible captive breeding and import of captive bred
- Sustainable farming of exotics overseas for purposes of pet trade and role in local economy
- Selective breeding and extreme conformation, including morphs
- Hybrids
• Wild caught NTCAs (including sustainability and welfare, and local communities involved) – inc CITES enforcement
• Rehoming and rescue centres
• Online advertising and sales
• Environmental issues – intentional or unintentional release of NTCAs and impacts on local habitats and public safety (including adequacy of legislation EU invasive species directive, abandonment of animals act etc)
• Veterinary undergraduate training in NTCAs
• Availability of medicines, licensing, Cascade, availability of formularies
• Welfare of animals produced as food for NTCAs (chicks, mice, invertebrates etc) including sustainability (links to surplus male animals) and associated – public health issues (salmonella etc – consult VPHA)
• NTCAs kept or used for exhibition (eg. the Animals Activities Licensing 2018 regulations)
• Issues associated with wildlife ‘rescues’ keeping wild animals long term. Welfare risk assessments not applied – NE and NatureScot for info on licensing (NOTE: wildlife and exotics should not be conflated- separate issue but acknowledge here)
• Pet shops using ‘not-for-sale’ exotics to attract footfall
• Availability of veterinary care and provision of emergency care to NTCAs
• Knowledge and use of specialist equipment for keeping and providing care for NTCAs
• Poor LAIA standards (minimum is seen as temporary, yet owners see this as gold standard) – current AWC review and problems with snake enclosure size
• Adequacy of approach to specialisation in exotics, inc European Board of Veterinary Specialisation
• Humane killing of exotics

Identified priority animal welfare problems in NTCAs (Note: extract of list agreed by Council in 2017):
• Social isolation, primates
• Inappropriate diet, primates
• Husbandry and welfare of NTCAs
• Welfare of animals killed for exotic pet food
• Wild-caught animals for pet trade
• Abnormal & problem behaviour, eg parrots
• Performing animals eg circuses, children’s parties
• Dangerous Wild Animals – keeping and zoo licence loophole
• Training of veterinary undergraduates in NTCAs and wildlife

Existing policies/positions (BVA and/or divisions)
• BVA, BSAVA, BVZS, FVS position on NTCAs (2015)
• BVA position on animal welfare and likely shift to five domains model
• BVA position on primates as pets
• BVA position on extreme conformation (2018)
- BVA BVZS position on import of wild caught reptiles and amphibians (2013)
- BVA BVZS holding statement on trade in exotics (2013)
- BVZS wildlife centre guidelines
- BVZS position on tethering birds of prey
- BSAVA Scientific Position on NTCAs
  [https://www.bsava.com/Resources/Veterinary-resources/Position-statements/Non-traditional-companion-animals](https://www.bsava.com/Resources/Veterinary-resources/Position-statements/Non-traditional-companion-animals)
- BVA position on the recognition of animals as sentient beings
- BVA, BSAVA and BVZS position on housing rabbits in pairs or compatible groups

### Potential consultees/other sources of information/evidence

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Completed by PC and EWAP</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Potential consultees/other sources of information/evidence</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Companion Animal Sector Council</td>
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<td>• ABTC</td>
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<td>• PFMA</td>
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<td>• RSPCA</td>
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<td>• Born Free DWA report and other resources</td>
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<td>• World Animal Protection</td>
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<td>• Belgium and Netherlands – positive lists</td>
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<td>• Invasive species legislation</td>
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<td>• REPTA/OATA</td>
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<td>• Police, ports and airports for wild caught evidence</td>
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<td>• FE and HE Colleges with centres for animal management</td>
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<td>• Lab animal breeders who generate secondary income from NTCA food supply</td>
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<td>• PAAG, including online retailers such as Pets4Homes</td>
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<td>• Pet Industry Federation (PIF)</td>
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<td>• Italy and Norway – as countries who have banned keeping of NTCAs</td>
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<td>• Germany – considered positive/negative lists for NTCAs and decided against them</td>
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<td>• Higher Education Association – on use of NTCAs in colleges</td>
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<td>• Local authorities/Local Government Animal Welfare Group</td>
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<td>• Heathrow animal reception centre – on transport conditions</td>
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| • Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association, “Wild caught ornamental fish: The trade, the benefits, the facts”.

### Legislative/policy differences in devolved regions of UK?
| Local/regional nuances to be considered? |  |