Attendees
Romain Pizzi – Branch President (Chair)
Robert Anderson – Honorary secretary
Stephen Anderson - Moredun
Emma Callaghan – regional representative
Melissa Donald – past president
Matthew Erskine – council member
Amelia Findon – BVA Head of Policy, Public Affairs and Governance
Ian Futter – council member
Gareth Hateley – council member
David Logue - Ayrshire
Colin Mason - BCVA
Luke McBain – AVS Glasgow
Calum McIntyre – AVS Edinburgh
Matt Metselaar – Fish Veterinary Society
Malcolm Morley – BVA JVP
Liz Mullineaux – council member
Osiris Ointa – council member
Freda Scott-Park – HIVSS coordinator
Sheila Voas – Scotland CVO
Arabella White – council member

Apologies received from: Kathleen Robertson (Branch SVP), Ronnie Soutar (FVS – Matt Metselaar as alternate), Grace Webster (PVS), Tricia Colville (BSAVA)

Minutes of the last meeting
1. The minutes of the meeting held 8 December 2021 were accepted as an accurate record.

Policy, media and lobbying update
2. There had been an enormous amount of activity across a wide range of policy priorities since the last meeting. In discussion it was noted that:

- Contributors to a blog series to support BVA activity around sustainability and greener veterinary workplaces were being invited. G Hateley could potentially get involved and the secretariat would follow up offline.
- The BVA EMS Working Group should consider the challenges presented by the distributive model for EMS and the blurring between EMS and IMR provision. It was noted that this was in scope for the group and would be considered at the appropriate point in the programme of work.
- The vacancies for Branch nominated members of Policy Committee were being advertised and Branch members were encouraged to apply ahead of the deadline of 21 March.
- The first All Officer Branch meeting would take place 22 March, providing an opportunity for Branch Officers across the devolved countries of the UK to share ideas and discuss cross-cutting priorities with the team at HQ. Branch Council would be kept updated.

Scottish Branch activity update
3. It was noted that:

- In February R Pizzi had met with Finlay Carson MSP to discuss a range of issues from sustainable agriculture and emissions to the Scottish Veterinary Service. An area of particular interest was sustainable aquaculture, and it was anticipated that RAINE would be seeking evidence in May/June, by which point the thinking of the BVA Sustainable Aquaculture Working Group would be further developed.
• The Branch AGM and Scottish dinner would take place 17 May, alongside a series of stakeholder meetings.
• The response to the Scottish Parliament Criminal Justice Committee call for evidence on the Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles (Scotland) Bill had recently been submitted, following coordination with SSPCA. A note of thanks was recorded to K Robertson for all her efforts via the fireworks working group.
• T Colville would be attending a SAWC evidence session in April on electronic collars.
• Following the announcement of plans to develop the Scottish Veterinary Service it was expected that the first year would focus on agreeing the scope and carrying out cost-benefit analyses. It was currently undecided whether the service would simply represent a rebranding of the APHA Field Service or whether it would incorporate other strands (eg local authority inspectors, aquaculture, FSS, etc) Surveillance was not in scope. A strategy group and a series of working groups would be convened, and it was likely that some Branch members would be invited to participate.
• The joint work with SSPCA on the veterinary forensics conference and veterinary education outreach event ‘Vetastic adventures’ had been enormously successful. A particular note of thanks was recorded to H Atkin who had led the organisation and liaison on behalf of Scottish Branch.

Stakeholder groups
4. Branch council members were encouraged to add updates to Glasscubes following relevant stakeholder meetings. In discussion it was noted that:
• Animal Health and Welfare Stakeholder Group: D Logue had added some notes to Glasscubes following the recent meeting.
• Scottish Veterinary Zoonoses Group: Avian influenza remained a key focus. It was agreed that the BVA/BVZS/BSAVA/BVPA guidance note should continue to be promoted (Action) and shared via social media.
• Cross Party Group on Animal Welfare: Tricia Colville was generally able to attend, R Pizzi also managed to attend some. The agendas were a fairly mixed bag but it was useful to have a presence, particularly to correct any misinformation.
• Livestock Health Scotland: G Hateley would be taking over from K Robertson.
• Scottish Veterinary Delivery Landscape: R Pizzi had attended the most recent meeting. There was a plan to develop a short-life working group to develop some of the thinking around vet school funding.
• National Rural Mental Health Forum: a volunteer was needed to take over from M Donald.
• HIVSS: the survey of HIVSS practices had been developed and set up online for distribution by the Scottish Government team. The HIVSS conference had been a great success.
• SSPCA working groups: a volunteer was needed to take over from E Callaghan, for at least one of the groups
• Scottish One Health Antimicrobial Use and Antimicrobial Resistance Report (SONAAR): a new website was being developed and the BVA and Scottish Branch logos had been supplied.
• Farmed Fish Health Framework: the group was chaired by S Voas who reported that R Soutar was doing excellent work liaising with VMD on the challenges surrounding degree days.

RCVS workforce report
5. The College had held a workforce summit on 30 November, attended by BVA Officers and 80 other stakeholders from across the veterinary industry, focused on six key themes: readiness for work; work-life balance; workplace culture; client interactions; career development; and return to work. The report of the summit had been published 28 February alongside some potential solutions which would be developed further and incorporated into an action plan. In discussion
the following points were made by individual council members:

- There was already some unhappiness with the mandatory VetGDP initiative, therefore it was not encouraging to see that there was potential for further mandatory requirements.
- It was important that diversity was encouraged across the profession.
- There were concerns regarding the lack of male applicants to vet school.
- There was a need to address the gender pay gap and ensure a fair and just workplace culture which would support everyone.
- The undergraduate degree was an academic programme of study for a practical job. The mismatch needed to be addressed.
- It was important to better understand why people were leaving the profession.
- Mental wellbeing of undergraduates was an area of concern.

6. Scottish Branch members were encouraged to continue feeding in views via Glasscubes.

Any other business

7. Ukraine
   A programme of subsidised quarantine for refugees from Ukraine travelling with their pets was under development. Members would be kept updated.

8. P&O
   The suspension of P&O services between Scotland and NI represented a potential animal welfare issue if it continued. An application had been made to the European Commission for the option to use the Belfast route in the meantime.

Date of the next meeting: 17 May (AGM) and 16 September (Branch Council)