

The BVA year in review



The veterinary sector is undergoing a period of significant change, and whilst this brings uncertainty and challenges for vet teams, it also affords fantastic opportunities to shape a future veterinary profession we can all be proud of. This year, we've driven an ambitious agenda on behalf of our members, and in seeking to influence and challenge the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) investigation into vet services for household pets and the early development of new legislation to replace the outdated Veterinary Surgeons Act, we've ensured your voice has been heard.

As a 'main party' to the CMA investigation, we've worked throughout the year to ensure the CMA has a full understanding of the complexities of the veterinary landscape to enable them to make informed decisions. Standing up for our members and the wider profession, we've been clear when the CMA has been getting it wrong and we've seen significant shifts in its approach, particularly its acknowledgement that animal welfare must be at the centre of vet businesses; that veterinary professionals must have autonomy; and that regulatory reform is needed. We've also worked hard to ensure the CMA recognises our concerns around the proportionality and possible unintended consequences of its 'potential remedies' published in April. As this annual report goes to print, we're expecting the CMA to publish its 'provisional decision' which we will also respond to on behalf of the profession.

The CMA acknowledging our calls for reform of the outdated Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 was a significant win for BVA and the profession. Getting this on the UK Government's agenda has been a huge step forward and we've been working with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) inputting to an intensive series of meetings to

shape what should be included in new primary legislation. A consultation later in the year will provide an opportunity for the professions, the wider industry and the public to give their views. New legislation will have far reaching impacts for vet teams in practice and so we will continue to ensure that we're in the room representing you.

At BVA Live in June, we marked the first anniversary of our new accreditation scheme, *Great Workplaces by BVA*. We knew there was appetite for such a scheme to support the profession to help tackle recruitment and retention issues by focusing on workplace culture, but we've been pleasantly surprised by just how popular it's proving. We celebrated our first Gold accredited workplace, Swadlincote Veterinary Centre in Derbyshire, joining many more which have secured silver accreditation.

The UK faced a range of welfare and biosecurity issues this year. We've been supporting our members during the ongoing outbreaks of Avian Influenza and Bluetongue BTv-3, as well as reported cases of Foot and Mouth Disease in Europe. Illegal animal imports post Brexit remain a challenge and we got behind vet

and Member of Parliament (MP) Danny Chambers' Puppy Smuggling Bill which is making good progress through the UK Parliament, having completed its journey through the House of Commons. The Bill will tackle illegal imports of dogs, cats and ferrets, reducing the risk of diseases like rabies, and banning dogs with cropped ears.

After years of applying constant pressure, we're finally starting to see progress from the UK Government on a long-term solution to ensure access to vet medicines in Northern Ireland. Our policy position on the issue published earlier this year has clearly influenced the new EU-UK Veterinary Agreement and we're keeping a close eye on the detail as it emerges.

As my year as BVA president comes to a close, I'm hugely proud of what we've achieved and the incredible work the team at BVA has delivered. The work we do is driven by BVA members, without you and your support none of this can happen.

Liz Mullineaux
BVA President 2024-25

Shaping a stronger future for the veterinary profession



David Calpin
BVA Chief Executive

Our work on behalf of our 19,000 members is underpinned by our vision of a strong, respected and diverse veterinary profession – and our strategic themes of people, animals and planet.

This year, supporting and championing our members and the wider profession in the face of the ongoing CMA investigation has continued to be an absolutely critical focus for us as we seek to ensure that the CMA's 'remedies' are proportionate and workable. We've also worked hard to counter negative media coverage by highlighting the incredible work vets do every day, how much they care for animals and clients, and explaining the costs involved in providing veterinary care.

We're keen to see vet teams thrive and we're delighted that our *Great Workplaces by BVA* accreditation scheme continues to gather momentum, driving positive culture change and helping support recruitment and retention.

We've also reiterated our commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion – one of our core values as an organisation. BVA will continue to support all members of the veterinary family, recognising that everyone deserves to be treated with compassion and respect.

Our membership numbers have held up well but the current economic environment is challenging. That's why we're committed to building on our current membership offering and exploring income growth opportunities to ensure that BVA can continue to represent, support and champion the profession well into the future.

This report provides a snapshot of the hard work and achievements of our Officers, staff, and volunteers, on behalf of you – our members. I'd like to thank all of them for making it happen, and you for supporting us.

Speaking up for our members

We lobby and campaign on the issues that matter most to our members, engaging with the UK and devolved governments, politicians, and other key stakeholders and partners across the UK. Our Officer team is supported by our branches in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, which continue to grow and represent the views of BVA members in the devolved nations.

England and UK-wide activity

Worked with vet and MP Danny Chambers to support the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill, to help end puppy smuggling, ban imports of animals with mutilations, and help prevent disease such as *Brucella canis* from coming into the country.

Worked with key partners to improve welfare at slaughter by raising awareness and implementation of the Demonstration of Life Protocol, an assurance mechanism for halal certification, and briefed BVA Honorary Associates (political representatives in UK and devolved parliaments) ahead of a UK parliamentary debate on non-stun slaughter.

Published our policy position on farrowing crates, developed jointly with the Pig Veterinary Society (PVS), calling for a phasing out of the current system and a supported transition to pig housing that better supports the welfare of sows and piglets.

Collaborated with veterinary experts and other stakeholders to develop our position on the use of animals in performance sport, including two sub-positions focusing on horse and greyhound racing.

Established a working group to develop our position on the use of artificial intelligence, considering general principles, ethical and regulatory considerations, and the practical application of artificial intelligence across a range of veterinary work.

Published our policy position on the responsible use of parasiticides in grazing animals in response to increasing resistance and concerns about impact on biodiversity, advocating for collaboration between vets and Suitably Qualified Persons (SQPs) and increased use of diagnostics to target parasiticide use more effectively.

Supported Ruth Jones MP's Early Day Motion in the UK Parliament to introduce a ban on the use of snares in England, providing a briefing to MPs, encouraging them to support the Bill. This followed successful lobbying on bans in Scotland (2024) and Wales (2023).

Supported Sarah Owen MP's Private Members Bill calling for greater controls on the sale of fireworks to support human and animal welfare. This followed successful lobbying in Scotland which recently saw implementation of Fire Control Zones in Edinburgh.

Worked with British Veterinary Poultry Association (BVPA) towards a policy position on on-farm welfare of broiler chickens.

Created an accessible resource to support pet owners to make decisions on diets that are suitable for their pet, including nutrition, safety, and sustainability aspects.

Scotland

Welcomed Scottish Government plans to introduce a licensing regime for Canine Fertility Clinics following our partnership lobbying with key stakeholders.

Gave evidence to the Scottish Covid-19 Inquiry outlining BVA's leadership role during the pandemic and the impact of the pandemic response on the profession in Scotland.

Briefed Members of the Scottish Parliament (MSPs) to support the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Bill and supported Scottish Government in drafting the Code of Practice.

Hosted our annual Scottish Dinner at Holyrood, attended by the Minister for Agriculture and Connectivity, and Minister for Public Health and Women's Health, as well as agriculture spokespeople from all major political parties.

Wales

Attended the Welsh Ministerial roundtable on the development of the Sustainable Farming Scheme and continued to work with the Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer (OCVO) to introduce more specific animal welfare measures in the tiers which remain under development.

Played a key role on the TB Eradication Programme Board set up to tackle Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB) in Wales, with policy changes to on-farm slaughter and approaches to Inconclusive Reactors already progressed, helping to prevent reinfection and repeated breakdowns.

Successfully lobbied for the enforcement of mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses, which will help safeguard animal welfare and support the important work of Official Veterinarians in public health work.

Hosted our annual Welsh Dinner at Cardiff Castle, with guest of honour Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs, who praised BVA Welsh Branch for its continuous advocacy and hard work on behalf of the profession and animals in Wales.

Northern Ireland

Continued to advocate for a permanent solution to the supply of veterinary medicines in Northern Ireland beyond the December 2025 grace period, meeting with parliamentarians, civil servants and industry representatives, as well as hosting a briefing for MPs at the House of Commons. Through the UK Government's Veterinary Medicines Working Group, we were instrumental in the development of the solution, published in June 2025.

Welcomed the launch of the Northern Ireland Government's 2025-2027 Animal Welfare Pathway, which aligns with many of our existing positions, including proposals to review dog breeding laws and microchipping requirements and regulate canine fertility services.

Hosted our annual Northern Ireland Dinner at Stormont, hosted by Declan McAleer MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) and attended by Minister Andrew Muir and key stakeholders across the veterinary and agriculture sectors.

Hosted a stakeholder event at the Balmoral Show attended by Minister Andrew Muir and other key figures in the veterinary and agriculture industry, focused on Northern Ireland Branch achievements and the continued importance of collaboration.



46,549
resource
downloads



793
member calls
to our free
legal helpline

*Providing
practical
support for
members*



34
hours of
accredited CPD at
London Vet Show
and BVA Live



Four
world-class
journals



CMA investigation

The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) investigation into veterinary services for household pets remains a key focus for us as we continue to champion your interests and promote the value of veterinary care.

Working with our BVA Working Group, which includes representation from the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA), the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons (SPVS), the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) and the Veterinary Management Group (VMG), and following a formal hearing with the CMA, we responded to a series of five CMA working papers, proposing some consumer-facing solutions which could be implemented in the short to

medium term, whilst avoiding unintended consequences. Most recently we responded to the CMA's potential remedies, raising serious concerns that the remedies are disproportionate to the issues they seek to address, would unfairly impact smaller independent practices and in some cases are simply unworkable. We have been consistently clear that we fully support healthy competition, consumer choice and diversity of business models. This enables clients to select from a wide range of veterinary service providers – whether vet practices are small independents or part of a large group – choosing the best option for their needs and for the health and welfare of their animals. We continue to engage constructively with the CMA as the investigation extends into 2026.

Media impact

BVA's visibility and influence has continued to be high in 2024/25. Throughout the media we've represented members and the wider profession as the CMA continued its investigation, ensuring the cost of vet care, the complexities of the veterinary landscape and the work vets do to support animal welfare is understood. Media work has also supported BVA's campaigning and lobbying efforts, resulting in significant coverage and audience reach.



Talking about the issues behind the BVA-backed Puppy Smuggling Bill, BVA President Liz Mullineaux appeared with Clare Balding on Channel 4's coverage of Crufts which has a television audience of more than 8 million across four days.



BVA President Liz Mullineaux talked to Channel 4 News about responsible veterinary use of parasiticides to treat fleas and ticks in light of emerging research looking at their impact on the environment.

BVA membership

At the end of 2024 our membership total was 19,263

We continue to maintain a healthy retention rate of 80%

- 45% Group Scheme
- 27% Student
- 12% Main/standard
- 7% Young Vet



- 5% Concession
- 2% Other
- 1% Joint
- 1% Associate members

Events and awards



BVA Live

BVA Live returned for its fourth year in June 2025, our biggest event yet, with over 2,200 attendees. It offered two days of high-quality CPD from expert speakers and provided invaluable networking opportunities for the delegates.

For the first time, BVA members benefited from early access to fully funded educational bursaries. The programme featured a broad range of clinical content across small animal, equine and farm specialisms, with the canine neutering lecture a key highlight. Debates on reforming the Veterinary Surgeons Act and the potential impact of CMA's 'potential remedies' were particularly popular. The BVA Interactive Zone was also a huge hit, with every session packed, sparking great delegate discussions on hot topics and ethical dilemmas.

BVA DAY

BVA Day was held for the first time at our HQ in London, providing an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past 12 months, celebrate the winners of BVA's prestigious awards – the BVA Council Impact Award and the Harry Steele-Bodger Scholarship – and elect our President and Junior Vice President for the coming year. Following the success of the new format, the second BVA Day will take place at BVA HQ on 25 September 2025.

BVA YOUNG VET OF THE YEAR AWARD 2024

Supported by **zoetis**

Now in its seventh year, BVA's annual young vet award celebrates inspirational early career vets. The 2024 winner, David Charles (pictured above), is a remarkable early career vet who demonstrated an outstanding range of commitment and support for the farming community whilst overcoming significant personal challenges.

BVA Congress at London Vet Show

The CMA investigation into UK vet services topped the agenda at BVA Congress in November 2024 at the London Vet Show. Martin Coleman, Chair of the CMA Inquiry Group, provided an update, followed by a panel debate with leading vets, including Danny Chambers MP.

Other key discussion topics included contextualised care, fostering great workplaces, and risk-based preventative healthcare. Sessions also explored alternative pet diets, ethical questions surrounding gene editing, and the crucial debate on balancing the needs of pets and their owners. The Wooldridge Memorial Lecture, delivered by bee ecologist Professor Dave Goulson, addressed the impact of companion animal parasiticides on biodiversity, urging veterinary professionals to consider broader environmental effects.

BVA Wellbeing Awards 2024



BVA's Wellbeing Awards celebrate outstanding veterinary workplaces fostering inclusive cultures where staff feel valued, empowered, and supported.

The 2024 winners impressed the judging panel with their exceptional commitment to team wellbeing. Sponsored by MSD Animal Health, this year's awards recognised: Axe Valley Large Animal Vets, Somersset (Small/Medium Practice), Old Golf House Vets, Thetford (Large Practice), and The University of Central Lancashire – School of Veterinary Medicine (Non-Clinical).



Where vet teams thrive

Great Workplaces by BVA marked its first anniversary in June, celebrating a growing movement towards positive workplace culture in the veterinary profession. Designed to support both clinical and non-clinical teams, the accreditation scheme has gained widespread recognition, with early adopters including Swadlincote Veterinary Centre – the first to achieve Gold accreditation – and Food Standards Scotland. A series of CPD webinars introduced the accreditation framework's key themes, drawing strong engagement and paving the way for future sessions. Year one has demonstrated the scheme's value in inspiring and celebrating meaningful change across diverse roles and settings, as we continue to champion wellbeing and excellence at work.



Veterinary legislative reform

After years of lobbying for reform of the outdated Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, we are pleased to be working alongside RCVS and BVNA to help inform Defra's work developing a series of recommendations for Ministers with a view to public consultation. New legislation will aim to address the regulation of allied professions, the protection of the veterinary nurse title, the regulation of veterinary practices, and the implementation of a forward-looking fitness to practise regime, as well as ensuring a future-proof governance structure. We continue to lobby the UK Government to ensure that a commitment to this important Bill is included in its programme of legislation for the next parliamentary session.

EU veterinary agreement

In response to Government plans to negotiate a veterinary agreement with the EU, we convened a working group to develop our policy position, which calls for an agreement which allows the removal of barriers to trade while ensuring access to databases for effective biosecurity and disease surveillance. In May, we welcomed commitments made at the EU-UK Summit that will ease trade whilst protecting animal welfare and UK biosecurity, in line with our calls for dynamic alignment. We continue to engage with the UK Government to influence negotiations as the detail of the agreement is developed.

Northern Ireland medicines

In 2025 we ramped up our efforts to secure the permanent supply of veterinary medicines to Northern Ireland, working closely with our Northern Ireland Branch to lobby MPs and MLAs. We have continued to engage with the UK Government's Veterinary Medicines Working Group, given evidence to the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee inquiry into the Windsor Framework and delivered a briefing in the House of Commons, sponsored by Robin Swan MP. Having been instrumental in the development of the solution, published in June 2025, we continue to engage on the detail and practical implementation of the schemes for vets in Northern Ireland.

Net Zero report

Working alongside Vet Sustain, we published our Net Zero report, which provides guidance for everyone working in veterinary workplaces on how to contribute to tackling climate change. The report aims to break down the challenge of working towards net zero emissions, with practical actions to consider at individual, team and profession level, as well as motivational case studies and links to useful resources, providing inspiration and information for all.



Animal Welfare Strategy

In April we celebrated a decade of animal welfare wins through the publication of our report, 'BVA Animal Welfare Strategy - Evaluation and Next Steps', outlining significant achievements since the publication of our landmark Animal Welfare Strategy as a result of our policymaking, campaigning and lobbying work. The new report details six new areas for future action identified following consultation with BVA's committees, engagement with its specialist divisions, and a cross-sector survey of stakeholders on the role of vets and vet nurses in improving animal welfare. These fall under broad themes such as national and international advocacy, technology and environmental sustainability.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

The BVA Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Advisory Group, including representatives from the British Veterinary Chronic Illness Society (BVCIS), the British Veterinary Ethnicity and Diversity Society (BVEDS), BVLGBT+ and Animal Aspirations, has now been established as a standing committee, to provide advice and guidance during the policy development process, support the development of EDI guidance and resources, and formalise our relationship with the affinity groups. Following an open application and blind recruitment process for all our committee vacancies, we will shortly be welcoming new members who bring their lived experience to inform the work of the group.

Animal Welfare Foundation – BVA's charity

This year, BVA's charity the Animal Welfare Foundation (AWF) funded five student research projects covering rabbits, calves, cats and bearded dragons, ensuring animal welfare is kept at the forefront of veterinary education. AWF has also offered to fund two researcher-led projects covering pig and laying hen welfare. The annual AWF Discussion Forum in May 2025 gathered 200 delegates to discuss animal behaviour as a key indicator of welfare, extreme breeding practices, the complex relationship between economics and farm animal welfare, and the often-overlooked welfare considerations of pet fish.

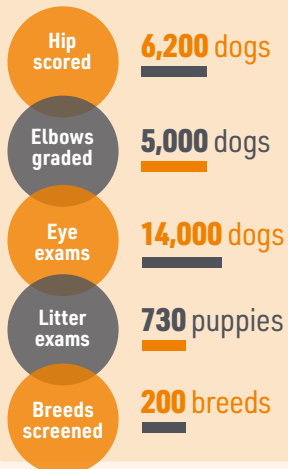


The Young Network (YVN), supported by the Veterinary Defence Society (VDS), connects recent graduates with other vets in their local area, so that they can share career experiences and benefit from the knowledge and support of the wider young vet community. This year we have refreshed the network, recruiting new local representatives and issued an updated handbook to help reps organise social and CPD events. We have seen an increase in events, both in-person and online, and will continue to build a thriving community into the future.



Our Canine Health Schemes (CHS), in partnership with the Kennel Club, continue to operate efficiently with consistently quick turnaround times.

OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS



In the past 12 months, we have delivered a successful webinar, Hip and elbow screening explained: tools for responsible dog breeding, which attracted over 200 attendees. Targeted email campaigns have further supported engagement, with our, Getting started with health testing leaflet, proving to be an excellent resource for both breeders and veterinary practices.

Attendance at events such as BVA Live and the London Vet Show provided further opportunities to engage directly with the veterinary community and breeders, with encouraging levels of interest and feedback.

These initiatives form part of a broader strategy to raise the profile of the schemes and encourage wider participation.

BVA's online engagement continues to grow, with an average engagement rate of over 3.5%, exceeding our targets across social media. Over the past year:



3m
impressions



170,000
followers



50,000
likes and reactions



2,000
posts



1,800
comments



6,200
shares

Our website offers a dynamic mix of content – from the latest news, expert advice and popular blog posts, to a dedicated members' area packed with exclusive benefits, resources and guides. Over the past year, we've continued to refresh and expand our content, creating new materials to help members inform clients on key topics such as *Brucella canis* and pet diets. We've also been enhancing our member portal, with valuable new tools including return-to-work and redundancy support resources.



Most-read blogs

19,000 views | *Brucella canis*: what vets need to know

10,000 views | Is it safe to feed my dog a plant-based diet?

5,000 views | Alabama Rot: what dog owners need to know

Three eventful years

● Anna Judson, BVA Senior Vice President 2024/25



As I look back on my time as a BVA Officer, I'm extremely proud of what has been achieved in just three short but incredibly eventful years. As I stepped into the role of President, the CMA had just announced its investigation into the vet services market for household pets and the task ahead seemed mammoth.

However, what I quickly learnt is just how hard the team at BVA works not only to support the Officers but to represent members and the profession more widely and we've seen the impact of that as the investigation has progressed. Sustainability and inclusivity are two areas that I'm

particularly passionate about and I'm so pleased that we've delivered great initiatives and practical support linked to both and which are already making a real difference to vets in practice. The work, of course, goes on and I know that BVA will continue to fight the good fight on behalf of members.



VetRecord

InPractice

VetRecord
Open

VetRecord
CaseReports

BVA

Journals

The BVA Journals – *Vet Record*, *In Practice*, *Vet Record Case Reports* and *Vet Record Open* – continue to provide up-to-date and relevant news and CPD for members.

This year a new series of *Vet Record* podcasts launched and *In Practice* has augmented companion animal clinical content with more farm animal and equine content. *Vet Record Open* recruited a new editor, Sebastián Moya Durán, who is committed to making contributions more accessible to more researchers. Research is truly international, with an increase in submissions seen from the USA in 2024, and with downloads across the journals reaching around one-and-a-half million last year, our reach is global.

BVA's
No.1
member
benefit



British Veterinary Association

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Our finances

Income

Membership subscriptions	54%
Canine Health Schemes	17%
Publications	13%
Membership services and sponsorship	9%
Investments and misc	4%
Events	3%

The results for 2024 show an operating deficit of £169k before depreciation and donations, compared to a surplus of £283k in 2023. After allowing for depreciation charges of £316k and donations during the year to veterinary related charities of £14k, BVA's reported deficit was £499k (2023: £77k deficit).

Revenue decreased by £73k (1%) during the year to £4.9m (2023: £5.0m). Income from membership saw a small increase during the year, whilst income from publications saw a small decrease. Income from the Canine Health Schemes dropped by 18%, reflecting the decrease in puppy ownership to pre-pandemic levels. All three of BVA's core revenue streams continue to make a net contribution.

Expenditure

Membership subscriptions, services and policy	41%
Overheads and support costs	33%
Canine Health Schemes	11%
Publications – cost of sales	9%
Events	4%
Investments and misc	1%
Donations	1%

Expenditure increased by 6.8% during the year to £5.4m (2023: £5.1m). The main reason for the increase is the launch of the *Great Workplaces by BVA* accreditation scheme during the year. We additionally continue to invest in staff capacity to support our lobbying and campaigning, membership services and events. The underlying administrative costs decreased during the year by £7k.

Reserves

After allowing for unrealised investment gains of £92k and a net gain in the property of £161k, BVA's total reserves decreased by £246k to £12.5m which includes the value of our headquarters building in London, at £11m.

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