

The Constitution of the Welsh Branch of the British Veterinary Association

Name

- 1) The name of the organisation shall be The Welsh Branch of the British Veterinary Association ('the Welsh Branch').

Objects

- 2) The objects of the Welsh Branch shall be to:
 - 2.1. foster the interests of the veterinary profession in Wales;
 - 2.2. promote the BVA in Wales
 - 2.3. assist the British Veterinary Association (BVA) in its activities by advising on the consensus view of Welsh members on Welsh and United Kingdom issues particularly with reference to the Welsh Assembly Government, the National Farmers Union Cymru and the Farmers Union of Wales and Welsh animal welfare organisations; and
 - 2.4. promote meetings in any part of Wales for the discussion of veterinary topics and kindred subjects, including assisting in the promotion of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) provided by the territorial and specialist divisions.

Membership

- 3) The membership of the Welsh Branch shall be all members of the BVA resident in Wales ('a Member' or 'the Members').

Officers

- 4) There shall be three officers of the Branch ('the Officers'), each of whom shall be a Member:

- 4.1. President;
- 4.2. Vice-President;
- 4.3. Regional Representative;

Vice-President and President

- 5) A Member shall be elected to serve one year as (Junior) Vice President followed by two years as President and one year as (Senior) Vice President.
- 6) A new Member shall be elected to begin their term of office as (Junior) Vice President at the same time as the incumbent enters their second year as President. Therefore, during a Member's first year as President there shall also be a (Senior) Vice President and during the second there shall also be a (Junior) Vice President.
- 7) The role of the President shall be to
 - 7.1. be the principal representative of the Branch in relation to veterinary matters; and
 - 7.2. chair all meetings of the Branch.

- 8) In the event of incapacity or prolonged absence of the President the Junior Vice President shall act in their place.
- 9) In the event of a vacancy occurring amongst the Officers, the Council may at its discretion appoint a substitute to fill the vacancy at its next meeting and the appointment shall continue until the next AGM.

Regional Representative

- 10) A Member shall be elected to serve as Regional Representative for three years.
- 11) The role of the Regional Representative shall be to ensure that the views of BVA members in the region are represented at BVA Council meetings.

Council

- 12) There shall be a council ('the Council') of the Branch and its membership ('the Councillors') shall be the Officers, up to six Branch members as recommended by NAG, plus one representative of each of the following organisations, each of whom shall be a Member:
 - 12.1. the North Wales territorial division;
 - 12.2. a representative of the major specialist divisions (NOTE: All specialist divisions should be given the opportunity to attend);
 - 12.3. the Young Vet Network/a recent graduate;
 - 12.4. the BVA Animal Welfare Foundation
 - 12.5. the University of Bristol Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
 - 12.6. the University of Liverpool Faculty of Veterinary Medicine;
 - 12.7. the University of Aberystwyth/RVC partnership;
 - 12.8. APHA;
 - 12.9. the Senior Vice President of branch (immediate past president)
 - 12.10. the Wales Veterinary Science Centre
 - 12.11. the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group
 - 12.12. the British Veterinary Nursing Association
- 13) Each of these organisations may nominate one Councillor and one alternate who may attend the Council in the place of the Councillor.
- 14) A maximum term of office of three years, renewable once, will normally apply to each Councillor. After the completion of two terms of office a minimum gap of two years will apply before the member can be nominated again.
- 15) The membership of the Council shall be ratified at the AGM each year.
 - 15.1. All organisations shall inform the secretariat of nominations before the AGM.
 - 15.2. Nominees will assume membership of the Council at the meeting of the Branch following the AGM.
- 16) It shall be possible for a single individual to represent more than one organisation at meetings of the Council if so ratified.

- 17)** The Council may at any time invite any organisation with a significant veterinary constituency to nominate a representative to join the Council. If the invitation is accepted the representative will be formally ratified at the next AGM in the usual way.
- 18)** Council may ask individuals with particular expertise to attend meetings and to help in their business. Such individuals shall not have voting rights upon attendance.
- 19)** The role of the Council shall be to
 - 19.1.** discuss veterinary policy issues as they relate to Wales and make all efforts to reach a consensus view on those issues; and
 - 19.2.** assist the BVA in formulating policy.
- 20)** The quorum for a meeting of the Council shall be seven.
- 21)** The Council shall meet at least once in person (normally the AGM) and at least three times in total each year.
- 22)** The President shall have a casting vote in addition to his or her own vote where necessary.

Annual General Meeting

- 23)** There shall be an Annual General Meeting ('the AGM') which all Members shall be entitled to attend and that will normally take place in June or July.
- 24)** The AGM shall
 - 24.1.** elect the Officers;
 - 24.2.** ratify the membership of the Council;
- 25)** The quorum for an AGM shall be seven or 1% of the Members, whichever is the smaller number, which figure to be determined one month prior to the meeting.

Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

- 26)** An EGM may be convened by the Council as required.
- 27)** An EGM may only discuss the business for which it was convened.

Secretariat

- 28)** Secretariat to the Welsh Branch shall be supplied by the BVA.

Changes to the Constitution

- 29)** Proposed changes to this Constitution must be presented to all Councillors and subsequently approved at an AGM and BVA Board