

A year of progress

Two and a half years of intensive investigation into the UK veterinary services market for household pets concluded in March when the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) published its final decision. It's been a period of unprecedented scrutiny and uncertainty for the profession but BVA's unwavering work to shape the investigation and its outcome, whilst supporting our members, has resulted in a set of measures that are not only more informed and proportionate to where the CMA started but have provided key opportunities to build a profession that is fit for and able to thrive in the 21st century.



Whilst there's still work ahead to ensure the profession and vet businesses comply with the CMA's remedies, I know many of you will be breathing a sigh of relief that the very public and media-facing parts of the process are now over. The negative and unfair narratives around our motivations as vets, the work we do and the care we provide have been hard and have depicted a profession that, quite frankly, I don't recognise. BVA's #InSafeHands campaign has been working hard to tackle these unfair portrayals, correct the inaccuracies and ensure the real facts about the profession are clear for all to see.

However, there have been positives to emerge from the CMA's investigation. Perhaps the most significant has been the opportunity to drive forward long-overdue reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, which is no longer fit for purpose. Through our engagement with the CMA's inquiry group we made

the case for change, leading the CMA to call on the Government to progress legislative reform. The Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has subsequently published a White Paper setting out its plans for reform, with a view to a Bill being tabled in the UK Parliament in 2027. This is fantastic news, and I'm proud of the leading role BVA has played in delivering this progress for our members. Change is within our reach and if we remain united as a profession, I'm confident we can secure it – and not before time.

It was fantastic to see many of you at BVA Live in Birmingham in June. Now in its fifth year, the event has continued to grow and the feedback on the quality of the clinical CPD and debates on offer has been great to hear. Whilst almost 2,500 delegates joined us this year, the event has retained its relaxed, intimate atmosphere, which has been a popular feature from its early days. We were particularly excited to bring the BVA

Awards to BVA Live this year, where we celebrated excellence and achievement from across the profession, unveiling the BVA Young Vet of the Year 2026; our Outstanding Service Award and our first One Health and Sustainability Award, presented in memory of BVA Past President Professor Simon Doherty.

As my presidential year draws to a close, I wanted to give a special mention to our volunteers who share their time and expertise through BVA's branches, council and committees. Being part of the BVA community is a genuinely special experience, and we couldn't achieve what we do without them or any of our members – you make it all possible. Together we are a strong and united voice, and that is incredibly powerful.



Rob Williams
BVA President 2025–26

What matters to you matters to us

This year saw the launch of BVA's Big Conversation, a profession-wide survey designed to understand what matters most to you. Engagement with the research far exceeded our expectations, with over 4,000 of you completing the survey. We're using the insights to inform the development of our member benefits and services, as well as our next Strategic Plan for 2027-29, which we'll be publishing shortly.



The research has underlined that it's tough being a vet today and you want us to focus on supporting you in your daily work. This is already helping us to shape our policy, lobbying and campaigning priorities for the coming year. We'll be building on the impact and influence that we've already delivered across priorities such as the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) investigation and reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, as well as producing relevant and tailored guidance and resources to support you in your work.

Of course, we can't achieve any of this without our members. It's vital that the profession has a strong representative body to stand up for vets and ensure the veterinary voice is heard.

This report represents just a snapshot of our achievements and impact over the past year, and we are grateful to each and every one of you for your support.

David Calpin, BVA Chief Executive



18,939
MEMBERS

at the end of 2025

80% retention rate

44% Group Scheme

27% Student

12% Main/standard

7% Young Vet

5% Concession

3% Other

1% Joint

1% Associate members



As a profession, I genuinely believe we've got some **real challenges** coming up over the next few years and the more of us that are members of this incredible organisation the stronger we will all be, because **together we are stronger.**

Lucy Dobree, BVA Member and Veterinary Surgeon



Campaigning for change across the UK

We campaign and deliver change on the issues that matter most to our members, engaging with the UK and devolved governments, politicians and key partners across the UK. We're 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.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Worked with industry to press UK Government to protect the supply of veterinary medicines to Northern Ireland following the end of the post-Brexit grace period, helping secure the creation of the Supply Coordination Forum and ensuring the profession's concerns are heard.

Brought together politicians and key stakeholders at our annual Northern Ireland Dinner in Stormont in November and our joint event with North of Ireland Veterinary Association (NIVA) at the Balmoral Show in May, using both events to highlight key issues including veterinary medicines access, workforce pressures, biosecurity and disease control.

Engaged with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on its Animal Welfare Pathway policies and consultations, ensuring members' voices and veterinary expertise are reflected in measures designed to improve animal health and welfare.

Advocated for a future farming policy that places animal health and welfare, biosecurity and public health at its heart through engagement with DAERA's Agricultural Policy Stakeholder Group.

WALES

Represented the profession on the Bovine TB Eradication Programme Board and the Welsh Ministerial Round Table for the Sustainable Farming Scheme, championing animal welfare and ensuring veterinary voices were heard in these important policy areas.

Hosted our annual Welsh Dinner at Cardiff Castle in July, welcoming First Minister Rhun ap Iorwerth MS and a wide range of stakeholders to emphasise the vital role of vets in safeguarding animal health and welfare, supporting sustainable agriculture, and strengthening Wales's rural economy.

Engaged with members and colleagues at Vets Cymru at Aberystwyth University in July, giving us a valuable opportunity to hear directly about the pressures vets are facing, and to share how BVA's ongoing work is supporting the profession and animal health and welfare in Wales.

Met with all political party spokespeople responsible for animal welfare following the Senedd Cymru – Welsh Parliament elections in May, building constructive relationships across the political spectrum, to ensure animal health and welfare remain central to the new Government's agenda.

ENGLAND AND ACROSS THE UK

Represented your views through 20 consultation responses, covering topics from small animal parasiticides to UK Biosecurity, and the new UK-EU Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement.

Shaped the UK Government's new Animal Welfare Strategy, which includes our key asks: promotion of responsible dog ownership; a potential ban on the use of electric shock collars; a ban on snares; and the phasing out of confinement systems for farmed animals.

Secured an end to puppy smuggling and a ban on imports of animals with mutilations through the passing of the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Act, which will also help prevent import of disease such as *Brucella canis*.

Established a Welfare at Slaughter Alliance in collaboration with the National Farmers' Union (NFU) and Humane Slaughter Alliance (HAS). Worked with Defra, Halal Certifiers, and other key partners to establish a Halal Export Accreditation Scheme for stunned sheep. Both projects promise to significantly improve welfare for millions of farmed animals.

Published a new position on the use of animals in performance sport, setting out a minimum set of standards sports should achieve to actively promote an animal's positive experiences and minimise negative ones.

Following Home Office changes to the Skilled Worker Visa, we called on the Migration Advisory Committee to review the salary thresholds for non-UK veterinary professionals looking to work in the UK.

Updated our policy position on neutering with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA), supporting vets to understand the latest evidence and take a contextualised approach to neutering dogs.

Joined forces with Cambridge Vet School students, alumni and staff, the Association of Veterinary Students and MPs to support the joint Save the Vet School Campaign, successfully making the case for Cambridge University to retain the school and continue its undergraduate degree in veterinary medicine.

Brought together specialist BVA divisions and key stakeholders including the Responsible Use of Medicines in Agriculture Alliance (RUMA), Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), National Office of Animal Health (NOAH), National Farmers' Union (NFU) and Suitably Qualified Persons (SQP) organisations to co-ordinate our approach to reducing use of parasiticides in grazing animals

Welcomed politicians from across the political spectrum, senior policymakers and members of the veterinary profession to our annual London dinner in Westminster in February, building key relationships and support for the issues that matter most to our members.

SCOTLAND

Secured the Dog Theft (Scotland) Act, which recognises the impact of dog theft on owners and strengthens protections for assistance dogs.

Ensured that Scottish Government's new regulations for licensing canine fertility clinics, and the Welfare of Dogs (Act) code of practice, delivered as intended.

Played a key role in persuading the Scottish Animal Welfare Committee to re-examine the status of the unmanaged sheep population on St Kilda.

Secured key asks on issues that matter most to our members in the manifestos of the Scottish National Party (SNP), Scottish Labour, and the Scottish Green Party ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections in May 2026, as outlined in BVA's Manifesto for Scotland's vets and animals.

BVA's Big Conversation

In October, we launched BVA's Big Conversation, a profession-wide survey designed to understand the challenges and capture experiences of working as a vet today. We wanted to know what matters most to our members, and how we can best support them.

More than 4,000 vets completed the survey, providing a range of insights that are now informing our future plans. Key takeaways included: a desire to know more about our campaigning and impact; priority focus on improving public perception of the profession; and more practical resources. We're already delivering on these challenges now and will take them forward into the 2026/27 association year.

Get in touch

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CMA investigation

The Final Decision Report published by the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) following its investigation into vet services for household pets published in March and gave us much to welcome – not least the clear support for our longstanding calls for reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act.

Our hard work has significantly influenced the outcomes, with the CMA clearly listening to concerns we raised about a number of its earlier proposals, many of which were disproportionate to the issues they sought to address.

Significant changes which directly reflect our constructive and evidence-based engagement with the CMA's Inquiry Group include the increase of the fee cap for a written prescription from its earlier suggestion of £16 for one or more medicines to £21 (for the first medicine) and £12.50 (for any additional medicines). In addition, the timeframe for delivering a written

prescription to the client has increased from the end of the day to 48 hours, and the implementation timeframe for the remedies has increased, with independent practices having an additional three months to comply.

But it doesn't stop there. The conclusion of the investigation meant we could turn our attention to developing resources and guidance for members on complying with the remedies, as well as playing a lead role in ensuring that the CMA Orders, which implement the remedies, are fit for purpose, with absolute clarity for all those affected by the changes.

#InSafeHands: Changing the narrative

Our public-facing #InSafeHands campaign is championing the vital role vets play in society and challenging negative narratives circulating about vet teams, which have intensified because of the Competition and Markets Authority's investigation into vet services for household pets.

This year, we placed scores of positive veterinary stories across the media; continued to share short films illustrating the diversity of roles that vets deliver and how much they care; and published a campaign toolkit, empowering the profession to share and highlight the amazing work vets do.

It's having an impact – a YouGov survey of 2,126 people in September showed that 78 per cent of people strongly agree or agree that vets provide highly skilled medical care for the animals in their care and 66 per cent strongly agreed or agreed that vets are motivated by the health and welfare of the animals in their care.



PROVIDING PRACTICAL SUPPORT FOR MEMBERS

New
for 2025/26

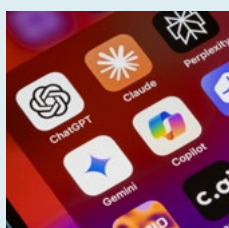
CMA: get ready, get compliant

- A handy downloadable guide and a series of short videos to help vets and vet practices get ready for the new Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) measures for vet businesses that come into force in autumn 2026.

Veterinary Surgeons Act (VSA) reform

- Three-part webinar series taking members through why we need reform of the VSA and what proposed changes will mean for vets, plus live Q&A with Defra about its proposals.

AI in the veterinary profession



As Artificial Intelligence is rapidly adopted across society, we've been leading the debate on its use across the veterinary profession, outlining

- the opportunities and risks this new technology poses in our new policy position – *Artificial Intelligence in the Veterinary Profession* – and publishing a suite of resources to support members to utilise it.

CPD webinar series

- A new BVA-In Practice co-branded monthly CPD webinar series for members, drawing on the most popular articles from the In Practice archive, giving authors a new platform to showcase content. Popular sessions explored decision-making in *Brucella canis*, the causes and diagnosis of feline anaemia, and a clinical guide to movement disorders in dogs and cats.

Skilled worker visas for overseas vets

- A new FAQ resource supporting members, both vets and veterinary employers, to navigate the latest Home Office rules when recruiting overseas vets to work in the UK and applying for a Skilled Worker Visa.

Veterinary legislative reform

In March, we responded to the Defra consultation on reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act, following a year of intense engagement with Defra as a member of the core group tasked with developing the proposals. We're clear that we support the regulation of allied veterinary professionals and protection of titles, regulation of veterinary and animal healthcare businesses, replacement of the current out-of-date disciplinary process with a modern fitness to practise regime, and a governance structure which delivers an effective regulator, trusted by the public and the veterinary professions, with a strong and well-funded professional leadership function.

In July, shortly after our Parliamentary event calling for cross-party support for reform, we were able to welcome the Defra White Paper *Our vision for a thriving veterinary profession*, which closely reflects our recommendations for new legislation, and represents a significant step towards achieving the Parliamentary time for a Bill for which we have long campaigned.

Disease resilience and biosecurity

We've been calling on Government to strengthen disease resilience and biosecurity across the UK, using speeches at key events and meetings with MPs to raise awareness of the risks and advocate for robust prevention and preparedness measures. We've also supported the submission of parliamentary questions to secure government accountability and transparency on biosecurity funding, disease surveillance, and emergency response capability and capacity. Plans are underway to bring together our specialist divisions to develop a unified, cross-species approach to these challenges, drawing on skills from across the veterinary profession.

Collaborative working on animal welfare problems

We worked closely with British Veterinary Poultry Association to develop a policy position on housing systems for laying hens, calling for a phasing out of cages and a transition to systems that better support welfare. We are using this position to press Government and industry to make much-needed changes to support better welfare for our nation's chicken flock.

Pet parasiticides

In light of growing evidence that parasiticides, used to treat cats and dogs for fleas and ticks, are potentially having a negative impact on the environment, we've updated our policy position strengthening our calls for risk-based prescribing and a move away from blanket treatments. We've also added calls for topical products to be avoided for pets that are likely to swim or be bathed after treatment. We've been calling for change on this important issue, raising awareness through the media and member webinars, and campaigning for changes in how these products are regulated and sold, recently giving evidence to the House of Lords Committee on the Environment and Climate Change, which subsequently cited our evidence in its report published in August. Our updated policy is a collaboration with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association and British Veterinary Zoological Society.

A profession for everyone

We're committed to creating a veterinary profession where everyone feels welcome, respected and valued. Our newly established Equality Diversity Inclusion Advisory Group has been developing its role as an important check and balance in the development of member resources and policy positions. With representation from BVLGBT+, British Veterinary Ethnicity and Diversity Society, and British Veterinary Chronic Illness Society, as well as four independent members, the group has been well placed to lead the development of a template EDI policy for veterinary workplaces, accompanied by a refreshed EDI champion role description, both recently published for BVA members.

BVA ACROSS THE MEDIA

BVA's visibility and influence continued to be extraordinarily high in 2025/26, with BVA views, messages and spokespeople featuring across national, regional and trade media an average of 353 times each month, reaching millions of people. We've represented members and the wider profession on the cost of veterinary care and the conclusion of the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) investigation and its final remedies; made the case for reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act; and supported members on critical issues like the proposed closure of Cambridge Vet School.



BVA President Rob Williams spoke to the media several times across the year on the CMA's proposed remedies and next steps following its final decision, outlining the value of veterinary care and the opportunities the investigation has presented.



BVA President Rob Williams talked to broadcast media about the need for legislative reform as Defra published its consultation and subsequent White Paper laying out proposals for reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act.



BVA Young Vet of the Year 2025 Leah Hunter spoke to BBC Breakfast about securing the prestigious award and her work on Orkney.



BVA Live celebrates five-year milestone

BVA Live 2026 welcomed 2,400 veterinary professionals and 140 exhibitors to the NEC Birmingham on 11-12 June, marking the event's fifth anniversary with its biggest and most successful edition to date. Across two days, the event delivered high-quality CPD, hands-on learning, networking opportunities and the latest innovations for the veterinary profession.

Not only did BVA Live deliver a strong CPD programme, it brought together some of the most influential voices from across the veterinary, animal welfare and public sectors, including Martin Coleman, Chair of the Competition and Markets Authority's (CMA) investigation into veterinary services. Delegates had a unique opportunity to engage directly with the CMA, raising their questions and concerns as the investigation enters its crucial final stages.

BVA Awards

The BVA Awards relaunched this year with three new awards categories – BVA Veterinary Leadership Award, BVA Veterinary Mentor Award and BVA One Health and Sustainability Award, presented in memory of BVA Past President Simon Doherty. We also partnered with the Worldwide Veterinary Service to launch the WVS Global Veterinary Challenge Award which saw the winning project secure up to £100,000 to deliver its vision.



This year's awards dinner took place for the first time during BVA Live, at the Hilton Birmingham Metropole on 11 June and was attended by more than 130 guests, including our awards sponsors Zoetis, ManyPets, Hill's Pet Nutrition, YuMOVE Veterinary, Vetnique and Lloyd & Whyte.

BVA Day

We welcomed BVA members to BVA Day in September, held for the second time at our HQ in London. This annual event provides an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the past 12 months, celebrate the winners of BVA's prestigious Council Impact Award and the Harry Steele-Bodger Scholarship, and elect our President and Junior Vice President for the coming year. The next event will take place at BVA HQ on 24 September 2026 and we look forward to seeing many of you there or alternatively, online.

BVA Congress at London Vet Show

Cambridge professor and obesity expert, Giles Yeo, delivered the prestigious Wooldridge Memorial Lecture at BVA Congress 2025, held during London Vet Show at ExCel in November. This was a keynote session in a wide ranging and thought-provoking programme which also included a deep dive into the implications of the CMA investigation, an exploration of Veterinary Surgeons Act reform, and a conversation around everyday ethical challenges in small animal practice.





Animal Welfare Foundation – BVA's charity

The AWF held its flagship Discussion Forum in London in May. Expert speakers led debate and CPD on pressing animal welfare issues, including responsible pet ownership, rewilding and inequalities in welfare standards across species. Attendees also heard updates on AWF-funded research and a lightning talk from the Links Group, followed by an evening networking reception.

AWF also introduced a new governance structure, including committees for research grants and education, new Trustees, and the election of BVA Senior Vice President Liz Mullineux as Chair of Trustees, succeeding Julian Kupfer. Significant recent legacies will enable AWF to fund more research, including work supporting BVA's policy and lobbying activity.

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

In the past 12 months, we've worked on further digitalisation projects for the Hip, Elbow and Eye Schemes; created useful aids for veterinary practices including Positioning Posters for the Hip & Elbow schemes; and celebrated 60 years of the Hip Dysplasia Scheme.

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

All our activity forms part of a broader strategy to raise the profile of the schemes and encourage even wider participation.



OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS



Our workplace accreditation scheme, Great Workplaces by BVA, continues to grow and marked its

second anniversary this June at BVA Live. The scheme supports a thriving veterinary workforce by fostering positive workplace culture and wellbeing across all veterinary teams, both clinical and non-clinical.

As the scheme grows, the Great Workplaces community is developing, and we've delivered a programme of steady support to our workplaces to help them get the most out of accreditation. Through online peer-to-peer learning opportunities, where workplaces can share experiences and hear from guest speakers, we're helping teams sustain momentum and embed positive change into everyday workplace culture.

This year, we partnered with ManyPets to deliver a series of webinars based on the Great Workplaces accreditation framework. Alongside this, our popular collaboration with VDS Training continues this autumn, offering free non-clinical CPD for all team members.

Year two has shown the scheme's tangible value to vet businesses, inspiring meaningful change within vet teams and even more workplaces are making the commitment to wellbeing by signing up to Great Workplaces.

We continued to grow our digital presence, achieving an average engagement rate of over 3.5% and exceeding our targets.

Our website puts the latest news, expert advice and practical resources at members' fingertips. This year, we expanded our content with new materials on topics including *Brucella canis* and pet diets, while adding return-to-work and redundancy support to our member portal.



6.3m
impressions



200k
followers



52,600
likes and
reactions



1,800
posts



2,660
comments



Most popular blogs

Updated neutering guidance from BVA and BSAVA moves away from one-size-fits-all approach

Brucella canis: What vets need to know

Is it safe to feed my dog a plant-based diet?

Alabama rot: What dog owners need to know

How to dispose of veterinary medicines



Proud of our progress

● Liz Mullineaux, BVA Senior Vice President 2025/26

When I started my journey as a BVA officer, I was told by those that came before me that the three years would absolutely fly by and would present me with unique opportunities and challenges.

It's safe to say the BVA officer role has more than lived up to my expectations. I took up the role of Junior Vice President in September 2023, at the same time as the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) launched its initial review into vet services for household pets and my officer team will end the day after the review's final deadline.

Alongside the CMA investigation, work on reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act has been another dominant piece of work during my officer term and I'm pleased to see this long overdue legislation finally progressing with the launch of a White Paper in July. BVA is very much a team effort and I'm incredibly proud of what has been achieved by all of us over the last three years. As I wrap up, the profession is in good shape to face the future, there are real opportunities ahead, and I leave BVA in the safe hands of an incredible staff and officer team.

BVA Journals

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

VetRecord

InPractice

VetRecord Open

VetRecord CaseReports

Our journals continue to be our leading member benefit. A new editorial strategy is looking to evolve and grow the journals' digital offer, including introducing a simplified sign-in process for BVA members. We've continued to develop The *Vet Record* Podcast to include more news and clinical content. Open-access content increases and article access remains strong, with a global reach.

A new manuscript-submission system has been introduced to all four journals, developed by our publisher Wiley. *Vet Record* has appointed a new Senior Clinical Research Editor, Nicola Gladden, and we are currently recruiting a new editorial team for *Vet Record Case Reports*. Special issues have been launched on *Vet Record* and *Vet Record Open*.



BVA Young Vet Network

The Young Vet 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've seen an increase in events, both in-person and online covering a wide range of topics from clinical CPD to professional and personal development as well as social events. We continue to build a thriving community into the future.

OUR FINANCES

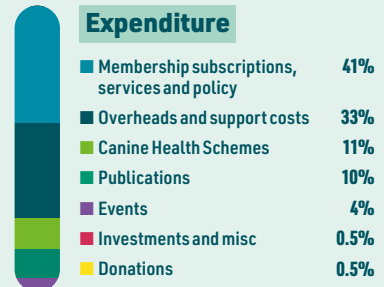
The results for 2025 show an operating deficit of £18k before depreciation and donations, compared to a deficit of £169k in 2024. After allowing for depreciation charges of £305k and donations during the year to veterinary related charities of £15k, BVA's reported deficit was £338k (2024: £499k deficit).

Income



Revenue increased by £83k (2%) during the year to £5m (2024: £4.9m). Income from membership increased by 2% during the year, whilst income from Canine Health Schemes increased by 1%. Publications income saw a very small decrease. All three of BVA's core revenue streams continue to make a net contribution.

Expenditure



Expenditure decreased by 1.4% during the year to £5.38m (2024: £5.46m). We were able to contain most areas of cost during the year including no increase in our administrative costs.

Reserves

After allowing for unrealised investment gains of £120k BVA's total reserves decreased by £218k to £12.3m 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