‘I support #TeamVet’ campaign

Launch of Moneypenny as new BVA partner

Launch of BVA Brexit report

MEMBERSHIP up by 1,000

Over 16,000 members

A year of action on Vet Futures

Facebook +106%

98% of CPD delegates said the course they attended was good value for money

Annual report 2016/17

A strong voice for vets
President’s welcome

I’m delighted to present this annual report to you after a year which has seen some of the biggest political changes of recent times.

The impact and aftermath of the EU referendum has taken up a considerable proportion of my Presidency. After 10 months of extensive consultation, we launched our BVA Brexit report which has received positive comments from Westminster, across the UK and Europe. We are now actively engaging with various stakeholders, including government, to make sure that our recommendations are included in the post-Brexit landscape.

Our ‘Team vet’ campaign, launched in February with BVNA, aims to show solidarity and support for everyone in the veterinary family – whoever you are, wherever you’re from – and we will continue to call for guaranteed working rights for non-British EU vets and vet nurses (VNs) currently working and studying in the UK.

This year we have been busy highlighting other priority issues for the profession as well, and we have spoken out on the serious health and welfare problems of brachycephalic breeds, while ensuring antimicrobial resistance, mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses, and surveillance stay high on the parliamentary and public agendas. We have also celebrated the excellent progress that has been made on the Vet Futures actions since the 2016 Summit.

My Presidential theme has been ‘the veterinary family’. We are a relatively small, but diverse, profession with far-reaching influence and impact in so many areas of political and public life.

It has been an honour to represent you as your President. BVA remains an organisation for any and every vet within the profession and I’d like to thank the BVA family for their support over the last 12 months – our members, Board, committees, staff and fellow Presidents from across the BVA Branches and divisions.

Gudrun Ravetz, President

A strong year for BVA

It’s been a year of consolidation and growth for BVA.

As the voice of the veterinary profession, we’ve maintained high visibility in the traditional media and increased our profile on social media.

We’ve made good progress delivering our commitments in the Vet Futures Action Plan and our Animal Welfare Strategy. Having modernised our governance, our new committee structure and electoral college process have worked well.

We’ve seen a further year of solid membership growth, rising to over 16,000 members. The growth in group membership shows how we are responding positively to changes in the profession. We’ve worked hard to keep delivering great value to our members, and have added to our member benefits through our new partnership with Moneypenny.

Thank you for your continued support. And thank you to the BVA staff for their hard work and commitment.

David Calpin, Chief Executive

Social media

We added 2,094 Twitter followers, bringing us to 16,323 in total @BritishVets

We more than doubled the number of Facebook likes from 6,597 to 13,582 /BritishVets

We gained an additional 1,056 LinkedIn followers and now have 4,932 in total /BritishVeterinaryAssociation

BVA blog

Over the past year the BVA blog has had 36,972 unique views. The most popular posts have been:

1. Stop normalising suffering – vets speaking out about brachys
   – Gudrun Ravetz
   Unique page views: 2,477

2. Supporting recent graduates through the early years of veterinary practice
   – Robin Hargreaves
   Unique page views: 1,621

3. Brexit through the eyes of a Spanish vet
   – Bruno Nicolas
   Unique page views: 1,506
BVA in the news

BVA has continued to achieve consistently high media coverage for the veterinary profession on key issues in 2016/17, averaging 300 media hits each month across national, regional and trade press.

Every month we’ve made national news headlines – across print, broadcast and online – for example, by asking pet owners to put animal health and welfare before looks when buying brachycephalic and other designer breeds; by keeping non-stun slaughter and mandatory CCTV high on the agenda (The Times, Daily Mail and trade press); commenting on bovine TB (BBC Radio 4 and regional outlets); and championing vets’ vital role in UK Brexit negotiations (Channel 4 News, Financial Times, Yahoo News).

Driving the news agenda

Our Voice of the Veterinary Profession survey panel continues to support us in driving animal health and welfare stories onto the national news agenda. By giving us the statistics to support our campaigns they have helped us achieve thousands of veterinary stories in broadcast, print and online media. Highlights this year included an ITV Good Morning Britain feature on illegal puppy imports and a Channel 4 News report on Brexit and veterinary recruitment.

Influencing the political debate

“To my mind, of all the organisations from which we take evidence and to which we listen, one stands out from the crowd as scientifically focused, objective, sensible, measured and, above all, more experienced on this issue than any of us ever will be. The BVA has done all that for us: listened to the science, filtered out the nonsense from the good sense, and listened to farmers and – I hope – politicians.”

Simon Hart MP BVA Honorary Associate
House of Commons debate, Badger Culling, March 2017

“The British Veterinary Association has… come out with an excellent paper and it gave excellent information to the inquiry.”

Chris Davies MP BVA Honorary Associate
House of Commons debate, Animal Welfare, March 2017

A voice for vets on Brexit

Much of our work this year has been dominated by our response to the EU Referendum result. We set up a Brexit Working Group chaired by former Deputy CVO Alick Simmons to consider in detail the many areas of the veterinary profession that will be impacted by the UK leaving the EU. In May we launched our comprehensive BVA Brexit report which has been well received and highly praised by parliamentarians, civil servants and members of the profession.

We have worked hard to brief politicians and stakeholders on our key messages to guarantee the rights of EU vets and VNs, and ensure animal health and welfare, and public health, standards are not compromised. In July we briefed Defra Minister Lord Gardiner on issues relating to the impact of Brexit on the UK veterinary workforce and, following the General Election in June, we held a Brexit briefing in the House of Commons with RCVS to present our report to MPs, Peers and key stakeholders. Working with our Branches we have developed targeted briefings for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

We were particularly pleased when, following our letter and briefing, new Defra Secretary of State Michael Gove recognised the importance of EU veterinary surgeons in a Radio 4 interview.

Gudrun Ravetz, BVA President said:

“Our overriding aim on labelling is for products to be clearly labelled as stunned or non-stunned to help consumers make a positive choice for animal welfare.”

Our top Facebook posts
Our policy priorities

Vet Futures

BVA Animal Welfare Strategy

Brexit

Surveillance and disease eradication

Welfare at slaughter

Welfare of pet animals

AMR and veterinary medicines

Vet workforce & wellbeing

www.bva.co.uk/policy

Campaigning across the UK

UK/England

- Launched our comprehensive BVA Brexit report (see page 3) with targeted briefings for the devolveds
- Highlighted the importance of the whole veterinary family and the contribution of our non-British EU colleagues through the ‘I support #TeamVet’ campaign with BVNA
- Launched our General Election 2017 manifesto and secured more than half of our policies in the main UK political parties’ manifests
- Worked with the specialist divisions to identify and start working on species-specific priority welfare problems under the Animal Welfare Strategy
- Set up a Surveillance Working Group to develop a clear vision for surveillance in the UK and agree key asks for government
- Worked with government to coordinate communications and responses to avian influenza and the threat of bluetongue virus
- Successfully lobbied the Government to introduce mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses in England
- Further developed our pragmatic asks to reduce suffering associated with non-stun slaughter whilst securing national media coverage on our call for an end to the practice
- Worked closely with the sector council and Defra to develop new schedules and guidance on a range of animal licensing activities in England to promote better welfare and best practice
- Developed guidance on use of pet animals in advertising and campaigned against the use of brachycephalic dogs and cats in adverts and merchandise, leading to Sport Relief seeking our advice
- Agreed principles for the development of targets to reduce antimicrobial use and hosted a joint meeting with the Chief Veterinary Officer and Chief Medical Officer to share best practice
- Launched a One Health poster on responsible use of antibiotics in animals and humans with the BMA, Public Health England and VMD. The poster was shortlisted for an Antibiotic Guardian award
- Set up the Veterinary Animal Welfare Coalition, powered by Vet Futures, working with veterinary-led organisations to promote the five welfare needs in the media
- Joined the RCVS-led projects on Graduate Outcomes (a Vet Futures action), exemption orders, and the review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act

Scotland

Through BVA Scottish Branch we:

- Gave oral evidence to the Environment Committee on tail docking of puppies and legislation on wild animals in travelling circuses
- Responded to the Public Petitions Committee inquiry on irresponsible dog breeding

Wales

Through BVA Welsh Branch we:

- Responded to Welsh Government proposals on changes to the bovine TB strategy
- Lobbied the Cabinet Secretary to reconsider mandatory CCTV in slaughterhouses

Northern Ireland

Through BVA Northern Ireland Branch we:

- Hosted a Brexit meeting at the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) with a range of stakeholders to discuss specific NI-related issues
- Launched the veterinary profession’s manifesto for Northern Ireland 2017–2022 to engage with MLAs on key issues

Vet Futures action phase in full flow

www.vetfutures.org.uk

In July BVA and RCVS gave a one-year update on excellent progress against the Vet Futures Action Plan. The project also sparked a Europe-wide initiative with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe.

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Member benefits

BVA journals

In February 2017 we welcomed award-winning health journalist Adele Waters as the new editor of Veterinary Record and In Practice.

At the end of 2017 Veterinary Record will undergo a redesign, with a fresh new look to ensure it continues to provide members with both a quick professional update at work or a more considered off-duty read.

BVA In Practice CPD

Bookings for BVA In Practice CPD have continued to be strong over the last year, with over 580 delegates attending 27 courses. 95% of 2016 delegates who provided feedback said the course they attended provided good value for money. In January–June 2017 that figure rose to 100%.

The CPD Committee have planned an exciting programme for 2018. Covering a wide range of clinical and non-clinical topics, courses will be held across the UK in Bristol, Edinburgh, London, Manchester and Perth.

Debt recovery service

In 2016, we partnered with Legal & Recoveries Collection Ltd (LRC) as part of our drive to support members and add value to the BVA membership package. LRC offer a full range of debt recovery services led by a team of professionals specialising in pre-legal collection, legal recoveries and enforcement services. The company is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) which ensures they are also able to conduct litigation in-house.

Telephone answering service

In 2017, we welcomed one of the UK’s leading telephone answering and outsourced switchboard providers, Moneypenny, as a new partner. BVA members benefit from the most competitive rates on Moneypenny’s telephone answering service, and are provided with a Moneypenny Receptionist who is specially trained in the veterinary sector and their business. This is crucial as excellent and seamless customer service is essential to the success of our members in practice.

Meeting members

In 2016 we welcomed 120 members and guests to BVA Members’ Day at the eco-friendly At-Bristol Science Centre. In 2017 Members’ Day was held in Belfast for the first time at W5 at Odyssey with keynote speaker Professor Christopher Elliott.

November 2016 saw the London Vet Show move to its new home at ExCeL. The new venue proved a fantastic success and saw over 5,000 delegates attend the two-day event. BVA is proud to be an education partner at the show and will be providing both clinical and non-clinical content at the 2017 event which features BVA Congress, the BVA Career Development stream, BVA Farm Animal theatre and BVA/BEVA Equine theatre alongside the new BVA Farm Associations room and RVC content.

The BVA Officers and staff have continued to visit each of the vet schools to raise awareness of the support BVA provides for both their future profession, and them as members.

Canine Health Schemes

The Canine Health Schemes, run by BVA in partnership with the Kennel Club, had another busy year with a steady increase in overall submissions.

Over the past 12 months:
  * Over 9,500 dogs had their hips scored
  * Over 5,500 dogs had their elbows graded
  * Over 18,000 dogs had eye examinations

Online submissions
We will soon be launching online submissions for the Hip and Elbow Dysplasia Schemes, making them quicker and easier to use:
  * Submitting vets will find it easier to submit information and images
  * Time and cost associated with posting CDs and forms will be saved
  * Data can be more efficiently collected
  * Submitting vets will be able to track the progress of submissions
  * The results will be available faster
  * Examination results will be published on the Kennel Club website more quickly
Our finances

For the year ending 31 December 2016 BVA made an operating surplus before tax and donations of £150,929, up significantly from the £91,787 surplus in 2015.

Income

Gross revenue increased by 4% during the year with all key business areas yielding an above cost return.

Expenditure

BVA continued to invest substantial resource in policy and media activities, lobbying and campaigning on priority issues such as animal welfare. Member-focused initiatives progressed apace with the Vet Futures project in particular being implemented following its successful launch at the end of 2015. Administrative expenditure decreased by 3%.

We donated £14,000 to veterinary-related charities. Capital expenditure totalled £15,215, primarily on further development of the membership database and IT for the Canine Health Schemes.

Reserves

After allowing for tax, donations and unrealised movement on our investments the year-end total reserves increased by £269,769 to just over £10.3 million, including working capital reserves of just over £2.7 million.

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

Membership

In 2016 we were pleased to welcome nearly 3,000 new members to BVA as we grew our total membership by 6.8%. At the December Council, we reported a membership figure of 16,619.

2016 saw continued growth in Group scheme members (up by 27%). By the end of the year there were over 4,700 members on a Group scheme, representing nearly 29% of the total membership. The year also saw growth in the Concessionary and Student categories, up by 7% and 5% respectively.