Scottish Branch meeting (teleconference) 28 February 2017 at BVA headquarters

**Attendance**
Grace Webster – Branch President
Melissa Donald – Branch JVP
Robert Anderson – Honorary secretary
Freda Scott-Park – HIVSS
Vivienne MacKinnon – APHA
Sheila Voas – Scotland CVO
Sandy Duncan - VPHA
Rob Kelly – recent graduate
Stephen Anderson - Moredun
Tricia Colville - BSAVA
Jenny Helm – Glasgow
Kathleen Robertson – regional representative
David Logue – Ayrshire
Ian Gill – SVS
George Caldow – SRUC
Paul Burr - BCVA

**Apologies**
Gudrun Ravetz – BVA President
Amy Jennings – Edinburgh
Ronnie Soutar – FVS

1) The Branch President welcomed members to the meeting, in particular George Caldow, the new representative for SRUC. A particular note of thanks was made to Brian Hosie who had retired from SRUC, and to Liz Ormerod who had recently stood down as AWF representative. AWF would nominate a replacement in due course.

2) The minutes of the meeting held 13 September 2016 were accepted as an accurate record.

**Matters arising**

3) **Veterinary Delivery Landscape Scotland**
K Robertson and F Scott-Park gave an update on progress with ‘Scottish Vet Futures’, which included a number of working groups looking at issues such as OOH provision, support for recent graduates, and improving sector collaboration and engagement. It was anticipated that a series of recommendations would be made to the steering group shortly.

4) **BVA CPD ‘Livestock less ordinary’**
Concerns were raised regarding take-up for the CPD session in Perth on 30 March. It was noted that SAC had recently run a camelid course and it was suggested that the BVA course could be promoted to the same mailing list.

   **Action: G Caldow to provide appropriate contact at SAC**

**Update paper**

5) **Policy, media and lobbying**
• **Pet welfare**: T Colville reported that BSAVA were currently gathering data on rabbit numbers with a view to discussing the time allocated to rabbits in the undergraduate curriculum with the Veterinary Schools Council.

• **Official Veterinarians**: recent changes to arrangements for OVs in Scotland were noted and the dates for the meetings being held across Scotland had been shared on the BVA Community

• **Consultations**: the live consultation on the Food Standards Scotland regulatory strategy was noted and members were encouraged to feed in their views.

• **Member engagement**: K Robertson gave an update on a successful presentation to Ayrshire Veterinary Association on BVA policy priorities. It was agreed that face-to-face meetings were a useful tool in member engagement and opportunities to do more at a local level should be explored. It was suggested that opportunities for Branch involvement alongside BVA HQ representatives at vet school freshers’ fairs could be explored.

  **Action**: Secretariat to explore options for Branch representative involvement

• **Avian influenza**: changes to the AI prevention zone were noted. The new poster from Scottish Government had been shared on the BVA Community and members alerted via member email.

**Stakeholder groups**

• **Animal welfare meeting**: The Branch President updated members on a meeting held 9 November 2016 to explore a joined up approach to an early warning system for welfare cases. Branch agreed that there was a clear role for the veterinary profession in identifying early signs. It was noted that guidelines were currently being developed. BVA could provide help in promotion and dissemination once finalised. It was suggested that there was a need for guidance, particularly for younger members, in relation to acting as a professional witness. It was agreed that existing BVA and RCVS guidance would be circulated for interest.

  **Action**: Secretariat to circulate available guidance on acting as a professional witness

• **Wild Animal Welfare Committee**: the JVP of Branch reported that the event had been extremely interesting and well worth attending. It was expected to be held annually.

• **Scottish Veterinary Zoonoses Group**: it was noted that a practitioner member was required for the group. BSAVA had nominated Graeme Eckford and therefore a mixed practitioner nominee from BVA would be preferred.

  **Action**: V MacKinnon to provide full details and secretariat to field a nominee

• **Health Protection Scotland**: the President of Branch reported on a HPS led group looking at the control of AMR in Scotland, including prescribing habits in companion animal practice, and antimicrobial stewardship. Members were encouraged to view the associated website: [www.scotlandshealthyanimals.scot](http://www.scotlandshealthyanimals.scot)

**Support for branches**

6) It was noted that some progress had been made including the launch of the
email address, the development of a branch logo which had been used on the manifesto for Scotland 2016-2021, and media and blog training for Branch Officers. It was agreed that the email address needed to be promoted.

**Action: secretariat to promote Branch President email address to membership**

7) It was agreed that BVA plans to develop a regional strategy was a positive move. In discussion it was suggested that the strategy should consider:

- How to increase the frequency and effectiveness of face-to-face meetings at a local level
- Means of demonstrating to members how engagement from grass-roots members was followed through

**BVA working groups**

8) Branch received an update on the activity of the BVA working groups, in particular the Surveillance working group which had met for the first time on 23 February and had included a short presentation from Brian Hosie, who was representing Scotland.

**Horizon scanning**

9) Branch members were invited to make suggestions for inclusion on the BVA list of forthcoming issues for proactive policy development.

**Any other business**

10) **TB testing / grandfather rights:** K Robertson raised concerns regarding the revalidation requirements for veterinarians with grandfather rights. V MacKinnon reported that APHA were aware of suggestions that the requirements were seen as too vigorous and would be meeting with the Scotland CVO to discuss in more detail in March.

11) **Parliamentary briefing:** it was suggested that consideration could be given to holding a parliamentary briefing event in Scotland, similar to the Afternoon Tea held annually in Westminster. Branch strongly supported the proposal.

**Action: Secretariat to progress proposal of parliamentary briefing for Scotland**

12) The President of Branch thanked Branch Council for a useful and productive teleconference. The next meeting would be the Branch AGM on Tuesday 16 May 2017 in Edinburgh.