BVA Scottish Branch meeting (teleconference) Friday 22 March 2019 at BVA headquarters

Attendance
Melissa Donald – Branch President
Kathleen Robertson – Branch JVP
Emma Callaghan – BVA Regional Representative
Vivienne MacKinnon – APHA
Mary Fraser – Branch Council member
Romain Pizzi -BVZS
Mary Fraser- Branch Council member
Stephen Anderson - Moredun
Lawrence John Brown – Branch Council Member
Jenny Helm – University of Glasgow
David Logue – Ayrshire
Ronnie Soutar – FVS
Grace Webster - PVS
Hayley Atkin – BVA Policy Officer
Kirsty Miller – Branch Council Member

Apologies
Sheila Voas – Scotland CVO
Freda Scott-Park – HIVSS

1) The Branch President welcomed the new R(D)SVS representative Dr. Suzanne Murphy to Branch Council

Minutes of the last meeting
2) The minutes of the meeting held in December 2018 were accepted as an accurate record.

3) Matters arising
M. Donald thanked R.Pizzi for volunteering to be the BVA representative on the Scottish Veterinary Zoonoses Group.

Update paper: policy, media and lobbying
4) Brexit
Branch President updated on BVA’s continued lobbying to get vets on the Shortage Occupation List. In the coming weeks, BVA would continue to push out its ‘No-deal’ Brexit and the veterinary profession briefing document and 8-point plan for surviving a no deal Brexit to support members.

5) VN Prescribers
Branch Council discussed the joint BVNA and BVA VN prescribers position that had been submitted to BVA Council for final agreement. Members agreed that they had concerns around vet nurses being able to prescribe antibiotics or medicines for farm animals.

Action: M. Donald to feedback Branch thoughts to A.Findon

6) Pet welfare
Public Audit and Post Legislative Scrutiny Committee: Control of Dogs Act (2010)
The Branch President updated on giving oral evidence to the Public Audit and Post
Legislative Scrutiny Committee examining the effectiveness of current dog control legislation. Branch would be kept up to date with the outcome of the inquiry.

7) Welfare at slaughter
Branch President noted that following a successful open letter and #EndNonStun social media campaign with the RSPCA, BVA had approached SSPCA to undertake similar joint campaigning around non-stun and labelling in Scotland. Branch would be kept updated.

8) Surveillance
M.Donald updated that the SRUC service at Inverness was expected to close at the end of April and that the facility had been sold. It was understood that a new facility with some farm animal post mortem provision would re-open in 18 months’ time. Until then, SRUC would be operating a satellite model whereby the VIO would be going out on to farms to collect samples. It was hoped that this would not reduce coverage in the area and improve farmer-vet communications.

9) BVA position on fireworks
Branch Council agreed that fireworks had a negative impact on animal welfare and animal owners. Members were broadly supportive of licensing for public displays and measures to reduce sound levels in fireworks intended for public sale and use eg. light-only, soundless fireworks.

10) BVA working groups
Branch members received an update on the new BVA working groups that had been convened by Policy Committee for the 2018/19 Association year: good place to work (which would incorporate the results of the recent BVA discrimination survey), bTb and welfare at slaughter. It was reported that Branch member, Gareth Hateley, would be on the bTb working group and would be able to feedback to Branch should Scotland specific input be required.

BVA Scottish Branch Activity

11) Member engagement
BVA/EPIC Reception at the Royal Highland Show (RHS)
M.Donald updated that BVA was exploring the feasibility of holding a drinks reception with EPIC on the Friday afternoon of RHS. Branch were asked who should be invited to the drinks reception. Suggestions included (on a RSVP basis to manage numbers):

- All Branch members via member email
- All those on the guest list for the Scottish Parliament dinner
- Local clients in the area
- Scotland YVN representatives

Branch would be kept updated as to arrangements.

12) BVA/SSPCA Member engagement CPD evening
M.Donald reported that at the previous meeting with SSPCA, Branch Officers had floated the idea of doing a joint member engagement evening to debate welfare issues pertinent to both organisations. Branch members suggested that Stirling or Cumbernauld should be considered as potential locations for the event to ensure maximum attendance.

Action: Branch Officers to follow up with SSPCA at next meeting about proposed member engagement event

13) Stakeholder meetings
M.Donald noted that BVA Scottish Branch AGM was confirmed to take place on
Tuesday 21 May, 15.00-17.00, Saughton House, Edinburgh. As part of our biannual stakeholder meeting schedule, Branch Officers were also going to meet with the CVO team, APHA, SSPCA and NFUS in May 2019. Around this time, the Branch President would be meeting with Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment, Mairi Gougeon MSP.

Stakeholder groups
14) M.Donald thanked Branch members for their continued representation on stakeholder groups.

15) Vet Delivery Landscape
K. Robertson reported that The Scottish Vet Delivery Landscape project was running four projects to address four key challenges the profession is currently facing: A support programme for graduates entering the veterinary profession (first 1-5 years); The Out of Hours challenge; Collaboration between sectors to promote more effective working across the profession; Communications and Engagement – Demonstrating the full value of the vet and of veterinary education and expertise.

These streams were discussed at the HIVSS conference in February 2019.

K.Robertson also updated that the group were exploring ways to adopt the Vet Support NI peer support service model, to complement the VetLife helpline in Scotland. It was expected that this service would be launched in Scotland at the VETTrust conference and would initially be ran by the service in Northern Ireland until the service could be properly staffed in Scotland.

Action: K.Robertson to draft a blog on the Scotland peer support service and send to HA

16) VETTrust
K. Robertson confirmed that the VETTrust conference would be taking place on 11-12th June 2019.

17) HIVSS
M.Donald reported that HIVSS had been approached by the Scottish Government to encourage practices to undertake the free OV training that was currently on offer to mitigate certification capacity concerns post-Brexit.

18) SSPCA tackling the puppy trade working group
E.Callaghan reported that the tackling puppy trade working group was going to meet again in April 2019. The main activity of the group to date was cross-stakeholder support for the #BuyAPuppySafely Scottish Government communications campaign.

Action: H.Atkin to circulate working group minutes to Branch Council for info

Any other business
19) Dates for the diary
**BVA Council papers discussion**
Telecon: Tuesday 9 April, 7.30-8.30pm

**Scottish Branch AGM**
Tuesday 21 May, 15.00-17.00, Saughton House, Edinburgh

**Scottish Branch Parliament dinner**
Tuesday 21 May 2019 from 19.00 at Holyrood