

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Wednesday 18 December 2002

### **ESSEX VET GUILTY OF DECEIT AND INTIMIDATION STRUCK OFF BY ROYAL COLLEGE**

The RCVS Disciplinary Committee yesterday moved to strike off one of its members from the Register of Veterinary Surgeons, having found her guilty of disgraceful conduct in a professional respect on three charges.

Mrs Diana Yvonne Carr, principal of a veterinary practice in Rettendon, Essex, was found guilty in three out of four charges brought; two of which involved false certification of a foal's parentage and one of intimidation. Mrs Carr was acquitted of one charge as the Committee found there to be insufficient evidence.

Although in one of the false certification charges Mrs Carr had not signed documents in her professional capacity, the Committee considered that, "...a veterinary surgeon has a clear duty of care to ensure accuracy when signing in any capacity". In the second false certification charge, where Mrs Carr had acted in her capacity as a breeder, owner and veterinary surgeon, the Committee felt it inconceivable that she did not know the correct parentage of the foal concerned.

In the fourth charge, Mrs Carr had stood accused of seeking to resolve a dispute between herself and a former client and employee by unprofessional means using intimidation and force. In agreeing with Mrs Carr's admission that her actions were inappropriate and unlawful, the Chairman of the Disciplinary Committee, Mr Brian Jennings said, "I am not surprised, given the evidence, that witnesses to Mrs Carr's actions perceived this episode to be frightening and intimidating. Her behaviour as a veterinary surgeon was wholly unacceptable and has brought her profession into disrepute."

**ENDS**

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## NOTES FOR EDITORS

1. The RCVS is the regulatory body for veterinary surgeons in the UK and deals with issues of professional misconduct, maintaining the register of veterinary surgeons eligible to practise in the UK and assuring standards of veterinary education.
2. RCVS disciplinary powers are exercised through the Preliminary Investigation and Disciplinary Committees, established in accordance with Schedule 2 to the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 (the 1966 Act). The RCVS has authority to deal with three types of case:
  - a) Fraudulent registration
  - b) Criminal convictions
  - c) Allegations of disgraceful professional conduct
3. The Disciplinary Committee is a constituted judicial tribunal under the 1966 Act and follows rules of evidence similar to those used in a court of law.
4. Further information, including the charges against Mrs Carr and the Disciplinary Committee's findings can be found at:

[www.rcvs.org.uk/vet\\_surgeons/complaints/dis\\_hearings.html](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/vet_surgeons/complaints/dis_hearings.html)