

<b>Summary</b>	
Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	9 May 2022
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee held remotely on Monday, 9 May 2022, at 10am
Decisions required	None
Attachments	Classified appendix 1 Classified appendix 2 (Secure docs version)
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<b>Classifications</b>		
<b>Document</b>	<b>Classification<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Rationales<sup>2</sup></b>
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix 1	<b>Confidential</b>	1, 2 and 3
Classified appendix 2 (Secure docs version)	<b>Confidential</b>	1, 2 and 3

**1 Classifications explained**

Unclassified	Papers will be published on the internet and recipients may share them and discuss them freely with anyone. This may include papers marked 'Draft'.
Confidential	Temporarily available only to Council Members, non-Council members of the relevant committee, sub-committee, working party or Board and not for dissemination outside that group unless and until the relevant committee or Council has given approval for public discussion, consultation or publication.
Private	The paper includes personal data which should not be disclosed at any time or for any reason, unless the data subject has agreed otherwise. The Chair may, however, indicate after discussion that there are general issues which can be disclosed, for example in reports to committees and Council.

**2 Classification rationales**

Confidential	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others</li> <li>2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation</li> <li>3. To protect commercially sensitive information</li> <li>4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS</li> </ol>
Private	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation</li> </ol>

Minutes of the Standards Committee held remotely on Monday, 9 May 2022, at 10 am

<b>Members:</b>	M A Donald	Chair
	L Allum	
	B Andrews-Jones	
	L Belton	Vice Chair
	M Castle	
	D Chambers	
	M Gardiner	
	C-L McLaughlan	
	T Parkin	
	C Roberts	
<b>In attendance:</b>	E C Ferguson	Registrar
	M Greene	Senior Vice President
	L Lockett	CEO
	G Kingswell	Head of Legal Services (Standards)
	B Jinks	Standards and Advisory Lead
	S Bruce-Smith	Senior Standards and Advice Officer
	K Richardson	Senior Standards and Advice Officer
	V Kwok	Standards and Advice Officer
	AI 2(a) only:	
	A Day	Policy Lead, Defra
	C Balaban	Defra
	K Patel	Head of Veterinary Trade Facilitation, Defra
	AI 2(c) only:	
	D Morton	Chair, RCVS Ethics Review Panel
	AI 2(e) only:	
	L Clegg	PSS Lead
	S Iddon	Head of Legal Services (PSS)
	R Hillson	Centre for Sustainable Healthcare
	I Steinbach	Centre for Sustainable Healthcare

AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1. The Chair welcomed the Senior Vice President and CEO to the meeting as observers.
2. Apologies were received from D Chambers.

[AI 1 Minutes of the meetings held on 7 Feb 2022 and 31 March 2022](#)

3. It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meetings are accurate.
4. It was reported that every action item has either been actioned or appears on the agenda for this meeting.

[Matters for decision](#)

[AI 2\(a\) Remote certification – confidential](#)

5. The discussion of this agenda item can be found in the classified appendix, paragraphs 1-4.

[AI 2\(b\) RVP](#)

[This item was initially classified as confidential, but has been reclassified following the meeting]

6. The Committee was reminded that the RVP Working Group was formed in 2019 on instruction of the Standards Committee in order to address the confusion that exists around veterinary research and recognised veterinary practice. Subsequently a sub/Small Group of the WG was formed and delegated the following tasks: 1) amend guidance within Chapter 25 of the Supporting Guidance to the Code of Professional Conduct to provide further information on RVP; and 2) create a framework of how to make decisions about RVP in practice/at an organisational level.
7. The completed drafts of Chapter 25, plus the framework in the form of FAQs, were presented to the Committee.
8. The Committee approved the drafts for publications subject to the following changes:
  - a) The paragraph on blood transfusions requires more context to enable proper flow of the guidance.
  - b) Additionally, the word “cat” should be removed from the paragraph on blood transfusions.

**Action: Standards and Advice Lead**

9. The Committee felt that the new guidance should be adequately publicised to ensure veterinary surgeons were aware of the changes such as the need for ethics review. It was therefore suggested that publicity should go further than the usual channels, and could, for example include the veterinary academic journals and vet press.

**Action: Standards and Advice Lead**

[AI 2\(c\) Clinical Case Reviews – Confidential](#)

10. The discussion of this agenda item can be found in the classified appendix, paragraphs 5-13.

[AI 2\(d\) Canine AI](#)

[This item was initially classified as confidential, but has been reclassified following the meeting]

11. The Committee were reminded that the RCVS' historical position has been that intravaginal artificial insemination (AI) in bitches was not an act of veterinary surgery, meaning that lay people may carry out this procedure without the involvement of a veterinary surgeon.
12. The Standards Committee has previously decided that this procedure was an act of veterinary surgery albeit a minor one that would be suitable for an exemption order. In 2019, RCVS recommended to Defra that an exemption order for this procedure should be made but indicated that, in the meantime, the RCVS would maintain the status quo in terms of the advice it gave as regards lay people carrying out the procedure.
13. Three years has passed since that recommendation was made and, as yet, no exemption order has been made. The Committee recognised this position could not continue indefinitely and that currently, there is no indication of when this situation may resolve itself. The Committee was therefore asked to look at matters afresh in terms of whether this procedure is t an act of veterinary surgery, and if it is, whether the College should renew its recommendation to Defra that an exemption order should be made.
14. The Committee discussed the following:
  - a) It was agreed that intravaginal AI is an act of veterinary surgery and confirmed this was on the basis that the procedure was invasive and had some potential to cause harm, for example risk of tearing the vaginal wall, if not done properly.
  - b) Although it is an act of veterinary surgery, it is a minor one with a relatively low risk of harm. It was noted that the RCVS is not aware of any widespread issues caused by lay people being able to carry out this procedure.
  - c) No new information had been presented to suggest that the procedure was not suitable for an exemption order.
15. The Committee therefore agreed that the recommendation to Defra for an exemption order should be renewed and that the status quo should continue to be maintained in the meantime. It was further agreed that the Committee would continue to keep this issue under review and that any updates from Defra should be reported back.

**Action: Head of Legal Services (Standards)**

#### [AI 2\(e\) PSS updates](#)

[This item was initially classified as confidential, but has been reclassified following the meeting]

*L Clegg, S Iddon, R Hillson, and I Steinbach joined the meeting*

Part A: environmental sustainability requirements

16. The Committee was provided with a summary of the environmental sustainability framework, and it was explained that this new guidance will provide tools and structure to make sustainable change within practices, including in working for the reduction of carbon emission from estates and clinical practices.

17. The following discussion was had:

- a. The salary sacrifice scheme (award requirement) should be applicable for equine not just small animals.
- b. Related to the GP anaesthetic requirement (the practice demonstrates that they employ techniques to minimise anaesthetic gas usage): a comment was made around low flow anaesthesia not currently included in Veterinary Nurse training as standard.
- c. A comment was discussed around setting an annual energy target, but it was felt that each practice will be at different stages of their sustainability journey, so this is not achievable as part of the overall standard.
- d. It was explained that although there is no uniform model that is used to measure a carbon footprint, practices will be provided with a methodology which is similar to the NHS in order to make their calculations. Practices will then be able to benchmark themselves. The Committee was assured that guidance will be provided to ensure consistency between groups of the same veterinary surgery, more so than comparing between different surgeries. There are also plans for a veterinary practice-specific methodology to be developed.
- e. With regards to endoparasitocides and ectoparasitocides, although responsible use is supported, it was agreed that practices need to be careful not to discourage clients from obtaining these from veterinary practice and instead should educate clients about the use of parasitocides.
- f. It was highlighted that although it is unusual to be adding in new Core requirements in-between major reviews of PSS, this is being done now because sustainability is an important consideration. It was acknowledged that practices are already under a lot of pressure due to workforce issues, however, these new requirements will have a longer lead time for implementation for this reason.

18. The Committee approved the implementation of the environmental sustainability framework with a 6–12-month lead time with advance notice to the profession of the requirements, and agreed that the supporting guidance should be updated to reflect the changes.

**Action: Standards and Advice Lead**

**Action: PSS Lead**

Part B: social sustainability requirements

19. The Committee were provided with social sustainability requirements which have been proposed by the Environment and Sustainability Working Party with input from the RCVS Leadership and Inclusion Manager

20. The Committee approved the implementation of the social sustainability requirements with a three-month lead time and agreed that the supporting guidance should be updated to reflect the changes.

**Action: Standards and Advice Lead**

**Action: PSS Lead**

Part C: summary of the changes

21. The Committee approved the proposed changes.

**Action: PSS Lead**

*L Clegg, S Iddon, R Hillson, and I Steinbach left the meeting*

[AI 2\(f\) UCOOH – Confidential](#)

22. The discussion of this agenda item can be found in the classified appendix (secure docs version), paragraphs 1 and 2.

[AI 3\(a\) DC report](#)

23. To be addressed at the additional Standards Committee meeting 19 May 2022

[AI 3\(b\) PSS report](#)

24. To be addressed at the additional Standards Committee meeting 19 May 2022

[AI 3\(c\) Riding Establishments Subcommittee report](#)

25. To be addressed at the additional Standards Committee meeting 19 May 2022

[AI 4\(a\) RVP Subcommittee report – Confidential](#)

26. To be addressed at the additional Standards Committee meeting 19 May 2022

[AI 4\(b\) ERP report – Confidential](#)

27. To be addressed at the additional Standards Committee meeting 19 May 2022

[AI 4\(c\) Certification subcommittee report – Confidential](#)

28. To be addressed at the additional Standards Committee meeting 19 May 2022

[Risk and equality](#)

29. To be addressed at the additional Standards Committee meeting 19 May 2022

[Date of next meeting](#)

30. The date of the next meeting is 19 May 2022

## Table of actions

<b>Paragraph(s)</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Assigned to</b>
8	Make suggested amendments to RVP guidance	<b>Standards and Advice Lead</b>
9	Work with Comms to publicise new RVP guidance.	<b>Standards and Advice Lead</b>
16	Re-open discussion with Defra about exemption orders	<b>Head of Legal Services (Standards)</b>
18/20/21	Make agreed amendments to the PSS guidance	<b>PSS Lead</b>
18	Proposed supporting guidance amendments in line with the environmental sustainability framework	<b>Standards and Advice Lead</b>
20	Proposed supporting guidance amendments in line with the social sustainability guidance	<b>Standards and Advice Lead</b>