

# annual report



**2007**

# RCVS annual report 2007

1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

the science behind  
the veterinary  
profession

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**RCVS Council and Staff**

**Inside Back Cover**

Science supports all aspects of veterinary work but its impact is not always apparent. At the start of each section of this year's *Report*, we illustrate some of the veterinary science that goes on behind the scenes of everyday life, from the butcher's shop to a holiday with the family dog.



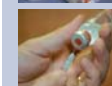
Fundus images showing a normal eye (left) and one with Collie Eye Anomaly (page 2)  
*Courtesy: Professor Sheila Crispin FRCVS*



Routine laboratory testing for infectious diseases in cats (page 4)  
*Courtesy: University of Bristol Veterinary School, Photographic Unit*



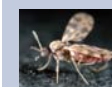
Blood and urine sampling kit for dope testing in racehorses (page 6)  
*Courtesy: HFL Ltd, Newmarket*



Filling a syringe from a vial containing myxomatosis vaccine (page 12)  
*Courtesy: RCVS*



Inoculation of embryonated eggs for the isolation and propagation of Orthomyxoviruses and Paramyxoviruses (page 18)  
*Courtesy: Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Photomaging Unit*



Midge of the *Culicoides* species, a vector of the viral disease Bluetongue (page 22)  
*Courtesy: Institute for Animal Health*



Fluorescence microscope images showing deposition patterns in pig bones caused by different treatments with antibiotics (page 26)  
*Courtesy: Food Standards Agency and Central Science Laboratory*



Transmission electron micrograph of the rabies virus (page 32)  
*Courtesy: Mr Bill Cooley, Veterinary Laboratories Agency, Weybridge*

We are grateful to all the individuals/organisations above for their kind permission to use these photographs.

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 we...

Registered a total of  
**1,334 new members**

See page 8

Met veterinary surgeons, students and  
nurses **face-to-face** around the country  
on 13 separate occasions

See page 23

**Unveiled a new identity**  
for the RCVS Awarding Body

See page 15

Produced **formal guidance** for the  
VN profession

See page 17

**Re-published in full** the *RCVS Guide to  
Professional Conduct*

See page 8

**Overhauled and  
redesigned** *RCVS News*

See page 23

Revamped the **Trust Library's  
membership scheme**

See page 14

Led a successful application  
for over **£90,000** from the **DfES  
Gateways fund**

See page 20

Made or received **6,177  
advice calls** to the public and  
veterinary surgeons

See page 8

**Undertook 120 investigations**  
for the PI Committee

See page 9

Accredited Middlesex University  
to award the **Certificate in  
Advanced Veterinary Practice**  
(Veterinary General Practice)

See page 13

Announced a **£600,000 grants  
programme** through the RCVS  
Trust

See page 15

**Handled 709 complaints**  
in the Professional Conduct  
Department

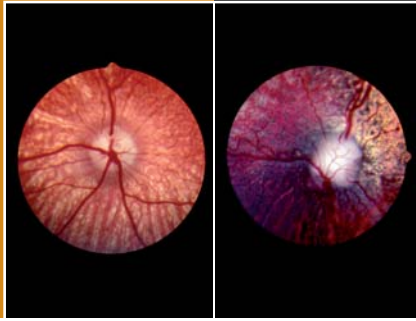
See page 9

Hosted a **Postcards from  
the Future seminar**, building  
on findings from the *Survey of  
the Profession 2006*

See page 25



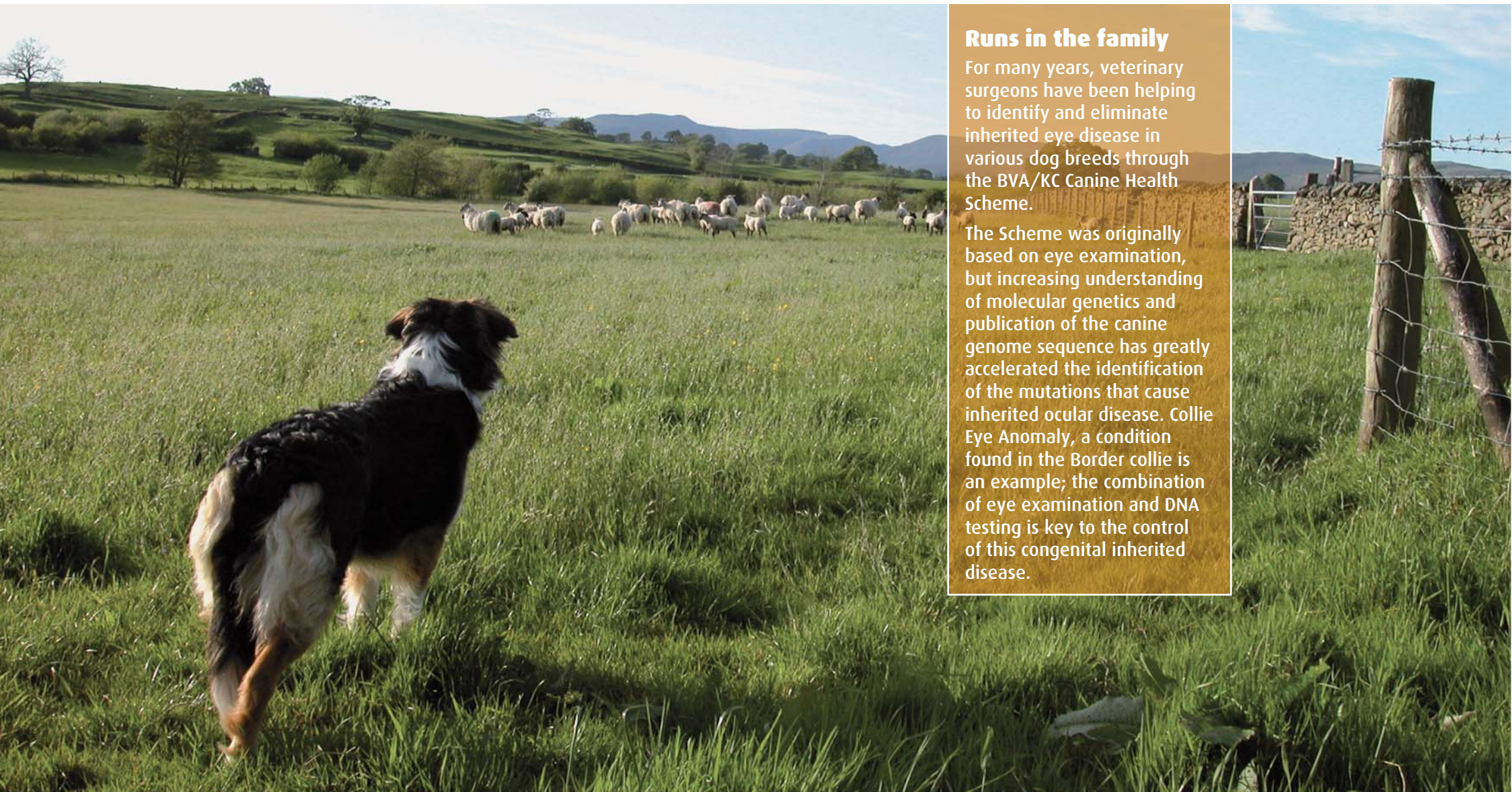
# president's introduction



## Runs in the family

For many years, veterinary surgeons have been helping to identify and eliminate inherited eye disease in various dog breeds through the BVA/KC Canine Health Scheme.

The Scheme was originally based on eye examination, but increasing understanding of molecular genetics and publication of the canine genome sequence has greatly accelerated the identification of the mutations that cause inherited ocular disease. Collie Eye Anomaly, a condition found in the Border collie is an example; the combination of eye examination and DNA testing is key to the control of this congenital inherited disease.





## PRESIDENT'S introduction



“Our commitment to continuing professional development underlines the importance of ensuring veterinary surgeons continue to learn and maintain their own confidence and thus that of the public.”

Each President of the College has his or her own areas of interest and concern yet for all of us, meeting the College's aim of "Promoting and sustaining public confidence in veterinary medicine" is at the root of our endeavours.

'Public' confidence includes that of government and parliament and I have seized every opportunity this year to raise with this audience the profile of veterinary surgeons as scientists as well as practitioners and clinicians. Global travel is making the world a smaller place and climate change plays a part in making what were once national threats, international threats. Zoonotic diseases such as Avian Influenza and Leishmaniasis are clear and present examples of the risk. The importance of veterinary research on the public health agenda cannot be overstated.

Early in 2007, we hosted a discussion with the Government's Chief Scientific Advisor and others entitled 'One Planet, One Disease'. Fittingly, 10 years after the Selborne Report into the state of veterinary research in the UK, we considered the role that the veterinary profession has to play in disease control across the species, including man, and the importance of evidence-based decision making.

Our own Research Subcommittee continues to promote veterinary research to a wide audience, particularly stressing the importance of collaborative work with our human medical colleagues, and a seminar planned for 2008 aims to explore this link in more depth.

In the meantime, the section dividers of this report highlight just some of the ways in which veterinary science is at work behind many scenes of everyday life.

Confidence can only be engendered from outside audiences if it exists within. The RCVS is not a membership organisation in the way that the British Veterinary Association is, and therefore it is not our role to represent our members. However, it is very much our responsibility to see that veterinary surgeons are supported in a way that enables the public to be confident of their skills and knowledge.

A critical element of this is lifelong learning. I am pleased to have been President in the year that has seen the introduction of the Professional Development Phase (PDP) to support new graduates and the new postgraduate Modular Certificate, which aims to make studying while working in practice more achievable. Our commitment to continuing professional development (CPD) also underlines the importance of ensuring veterinary surgeons continue to learn and maintain their own confidence and thus that of the public. We are indebted to practices for their time in helping grow the confidence of the next generation of veterinary surgeons, through their input into Extra-Mural Studies and the PDP.

CPD will soon be a fact of life for veterinary nurses too, as maintaining their knowledge and skills is a responsibility of joining the

new Register. This last year has seen the Veterinary Nurses Council and colleagues on RCVS Council work hard to develop a regulatory framework for veterinary nurses that recognises their professionalism. This work builds on that of the Practice Standards Scheme to extend our regulatory scope to the whole of the veterinary team and the premises in which it works – something that the public rightly expects, if not already takes for granted.

That we are prepared to take a strong stand on animal welfare issues, as we did this year on tail-docking in dogs, signals to the public that we have the welfare and health of animals at the heart of our activities.

Finally, I come to the RCVS staff. Continuing my theme of confidence, it is immensely important to the Officer team and members of Council that the papers and advice we rely upon are robustly researched and sensibly balanced. This would not be possible without the excellent staff of the College and the Trust, and I would like to thank them all for their efforts.

Sheila Crispin  
President

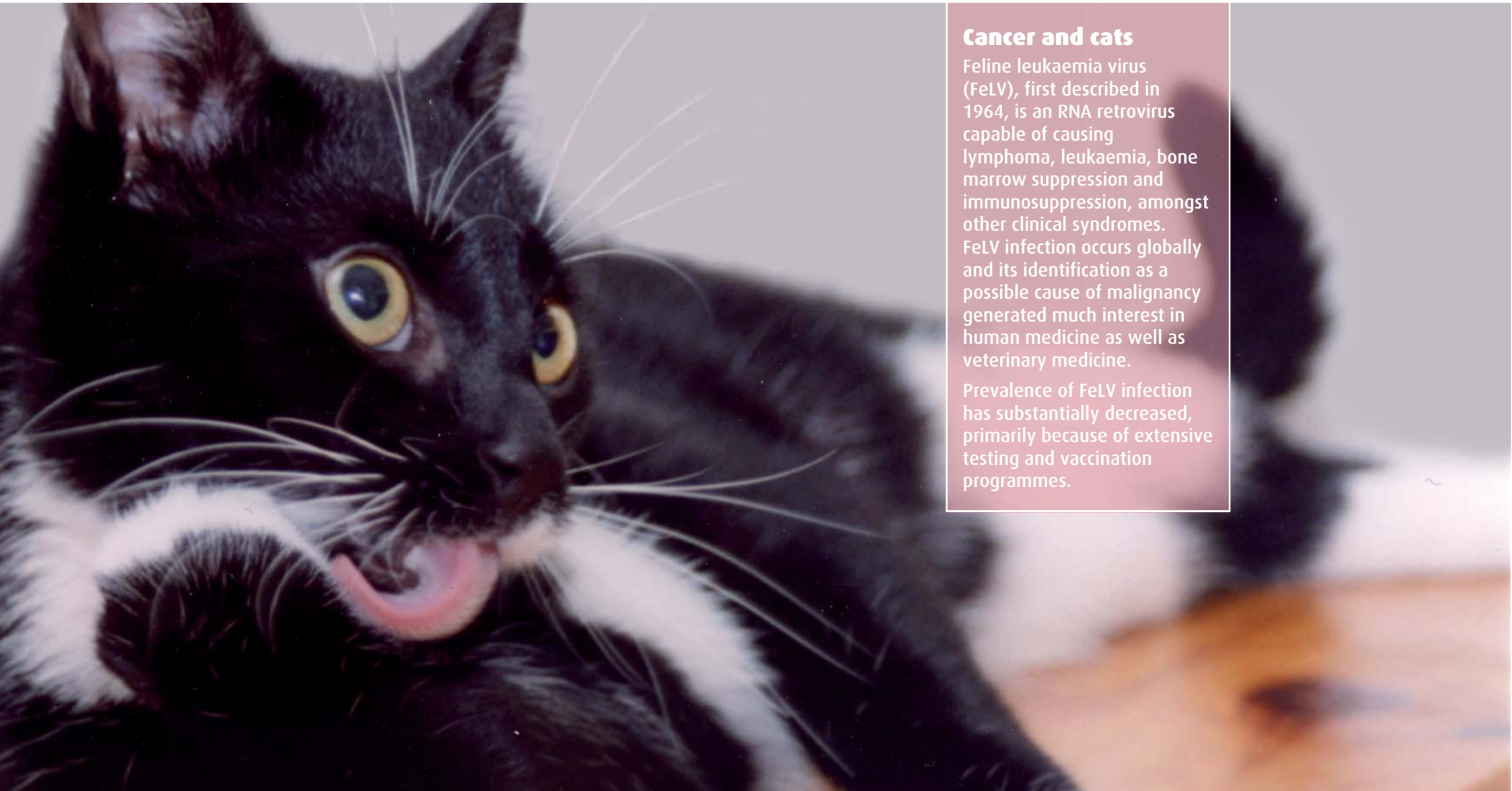
# registrar's review



## **Cancer and cats**

Feline leukaemia virus (FeLV), first described in 1964, is an RNA retrovirus capable of causing lymphoma, leukaemia, bone marrow suppression and immunosuppression, amongst other clinical syndromes. FeLV infection occurs globally and its identification as a possible cause of malignancy generated much interest in human medicine as well as veterinary medicine.

Prevalence of FeLV infection has substantially decreased, primarily because of extensive testing and vaccination programmes.



## REGISTRAR'S review



“ A little like ‘justice’, whatever we do, must be seen to be done, and our activities should neither be done, nor perceived to have been done, in secret. ”

This *Annual Report* follows the now familiar format, but before previewing its various sections, I would like to mention a couple of things which might otherwise go unmentioned.

In the autumn we changed our committee structure to clarify their role in setting policy, with innovations and operational matters delegated more to subcommittees, working parties and boards. RCVS Council remains responsible for the overall strategic direction, the budget, regulations and bye-laws. A Public Affairs Committee now identifies issues and audiences which need addressing within government, at home and overseas, and a more flexible Communications Board oversees the implementation of the communications plan. In the spirit of lifelong learning, two committees are now merged into one Education Policy and Specialisation Committee, which sets the framework for veterinary education from undergraduate to specialist recognition. A new Planning and Resources Committee sharpens the focus on risk assessment and audit rather than the price of sandwiches!

Another change took effect in June when the RCVS became subject to the Freedom of Information Act; another example of legislation that formally designates the RCVS as a public body. These changes, and others mentioned below, are linked by the thread of openness and accountability. A little like ‘justice’, whatever we do, must be seen to be done, and our activities should neither be done,

nor perceived to have been done, in secret. However, we also have obligations under the data protection legislation not to make free with information about individuals in ways they have not consented to. Striking the right balance between what might be perceived as conflicting statutory obligations is something of a challenge.

Turning now to the content of this *Report*, the section on **maintaining standards** covers our statutory responsibilities. This year saw a new edition of the *RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct*, followed by a companion volume for veterinary nurses. The latest countries to join the EU (Bulgaria and Romania) are already featuring in applications for registration and the process for handling complaints is being reviewed against current good practice and the recommendations of the Shipman Inquiry.


**Advancing and supporting** describes our Charter activities and provides news of the new Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice and an online enrolment facility. The VN Awarding Body now has a more distinctive identity of its own; there have also been changes to the VN standards, syllabus and the way the External Verifiers work, which all follow from the review of the National Vocational Qualification arrangements in 2005.

In **building for the future** we feature our introduction of regulation for veterinary nurses, the Professional Development Phase for new veterinary graduates and practice standards: all of which could be part of new legislation in

due course. As the RCVS Trust approaches its Golden Jubilee in 2008, it is making an ever more significant contribution to the funds available for small grants, travel scholarships, residencies, ‘blue sky’ research and more, with some £600,000 awarded in March 2007.

**Listening and communicating** should speak for itself but our new-look *RCVS News* is worthy of brief mention. For those who told us that the old *RCVS News* was “almost unreadable, both physically and mentally”, I hope you feel that we do listen!

And finally, our **facts and figures** and **finance and accounts** should not go unsung. The new veterinary school at Nottingham makes its first appearance in the table of student numbers.

Inevitably there is much more that could be said than can be accommodated in a single report, so please follow the link to RCVSONline wherever this symbol  appears.

In conclusion, it only remains for me to thank all the staff at the College and Trust, Officers, Council Members and Trustees, without whose efforts we could achieve very little.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jane C. Hern'.

Jane C Hern  
Registrar



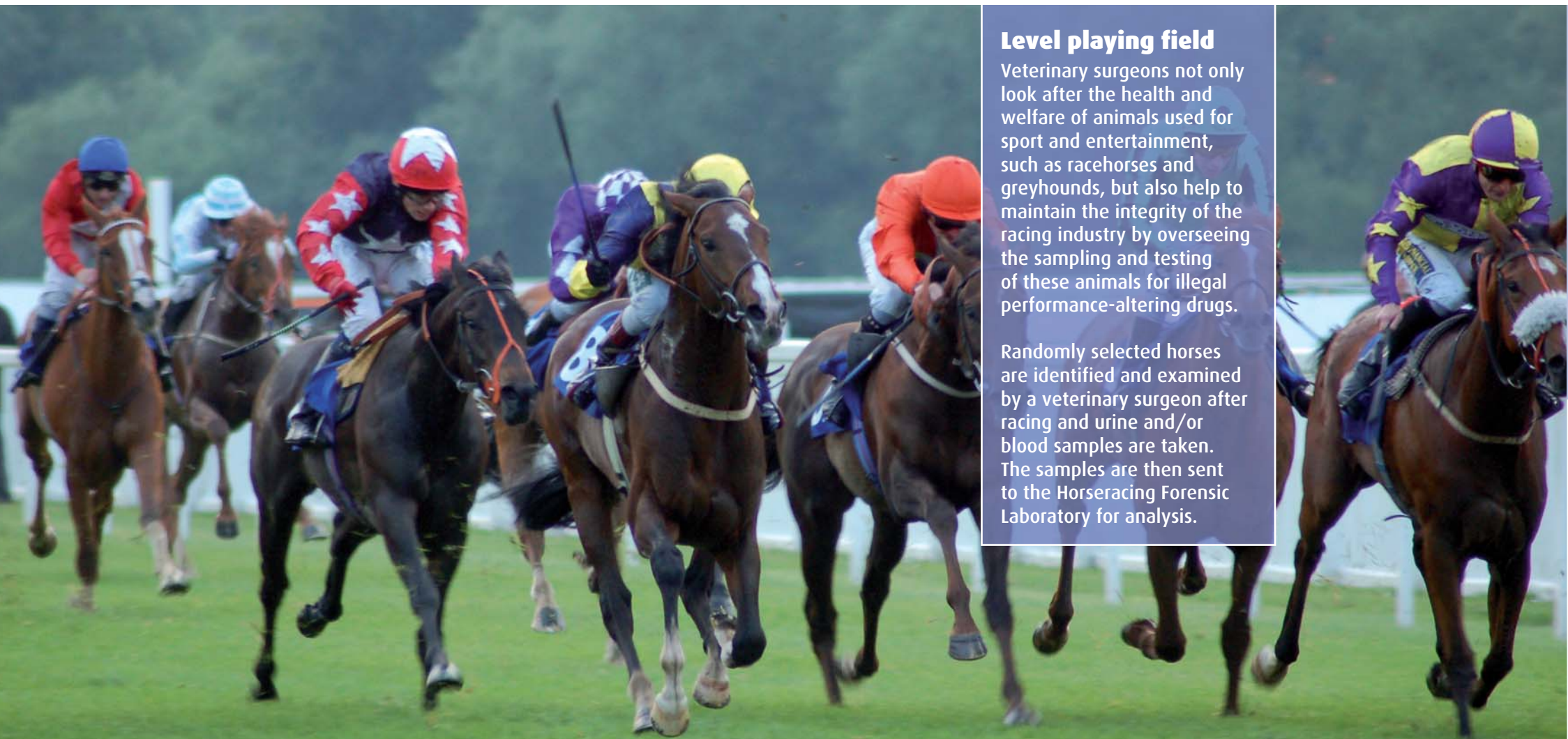
# 1 maintaining standards



## Level playing field

Veterinary surgeons not only look after the health and welfare of animals used for sport and entertainment, such as racehorses and greyhounds, but also help to maintain the integrity of the racing industry by overseeing the sampling and testing of these animals for illegal performance-altering drugs.

Randomly selected horses are identified and examined by a veterinary surgeon after racing and urine and/or blood samples are taken. The samples are then sent to the Horseracing Forensic Laboratory for analysis.





“ The new Education Policy and Specialisation Committee has a challenging remit to set and monitor standards across the continuum of lifelong learning — from undergraduate education to fellowships. ”

Stephen May, Chairman, Education Policy and Specialisation Committee



## In this section...

...we report on our statutory duties to uphold standards of veterinary education, maintain the *Register* and ensure high standards of professional conduct; we note the introduction of formal guidance for veterinary nurses.

### UNDERGRADUATE STANDARDS

One of our fundamental statutory responsibilities is to ensure that when veterinary surgeons graduate in the UK they have achieved a set of 'Day-one Competences'. We do this by monitoring standards in veterinary undergraduate education and one of our key tools in achieving this is the visitation process.

At its February 2007 meeting, the new Education Policy and Specialisation Committee agreed a new framework for visitations. Previously, each of the UK veterinary schools was visited every seven to eight years. The Committee has now agreed to adopt a risk-based approach and extend the normal interval for a full visitation to a maximum of 10 years, with interim reviews held after five years. The Committee will continue to monitor schools closely, taking account of trends in staff student ratios and clinical caseload, to assess when an interim visit may be required.

This year has seen an interim visit conducted at Liverpool University – principally to assess progress on the development of its new small animal hospital – and a full visit to Bristol University in March. The Bristol report will be available in 2007.

In January, we provided an observer to the South African Veterinary Council's (SAVC) visitation to the University of Pretoria, on the basis of which the Primary Qualifications Subcommittee agreed to continue to recognise the university's veterinary degree. In the past we would have sent a full RCVS visitation

team to the university, but this new approach of working with the national regulator aims to reduce cost and bureaucracy and develop a form of global accreditation.

The Subcommittee also received a report about Murdoch University in Perth, Australia, where there was some concern over the lack of access to production animals.

A new veterinary school opened this year at the University of Nottingham, with a first-year intake of 95 students. We do not currently recognise the degree as we cannot assess it until a group of students has completed the course. However, there will be an interim visitation in 2009 and we are in close contact with the school to try to ensure that those who graduate in 2011 will be eligible to join the Register.

### Statutory Membership Examination

The Statutory Membership Examination is taken by veterinary surgeons graduating outside the European Union and the European Economic Area whose qualifications are not otherwise recognised by the College.

This year's was the first such examination to be held under new byelaws that make it mandatory for candidates to hold an English Language qualification (IELTS at Level 7) to facilitate communication with the public and colleagues.

This was also the first examination to be structured in a new way: papers focused on types of practice – such as production animal, small animal, equine and public health – as opposed to medicine or surgery. The new

rules also provide that candidates must score at least 45% in the written paper before they can proceed to the practical, oral and clinical papers, with three attempts to achieve this being allowed.

In 2006, 39 veterinary surgeons enrolled for examination: we formally admitted the 11 successful candidates in July.

### MANAGING THE PROFESSION

Another statutory responsibility we have under the VSA is to keep a Register of veterinary surgeons who are entitled to practise in the UK and use the postnominals MRCVS. In this sense, 'practise' does not pertain just to those veterinary surgeons who work in general practice and look after the health and welfare of animals directly – the more traditional image of the veterinary surgeon – but also to those who earn a living from their veterinary qualification in other ways, perhaps in academia, research, industry or Government (see page 27).

Veterinary surgeons who are not working in practice or in veterinary-related activities, as defined by RCVS Council, may still retain their membership with the College, but as non-practising members. They are required to sign a declaration to this effect and we monitor these category changes to ensure no one is inadvertently practising when they should not be. The non-practising category is also useful for veterinary surgeons who may wish to take a career break, but who do not wish to lose touch with their profession (non-practising members continue to receive all



“ We are pleased that, in launching its Practice Standards Scheme, the RCVS has provided a mechanism whereby owners can be assured of the level of facilities which can be expected from an individual veterinary practice. ”

Diane Mark, Lay Observer, PI Committee



RCVS mailings and may vote in RCVS Council elections). We also have a significant number of overseas members who practise outside the UK but wish to retain their MRCVS status.

Similarly, we have a number of veterinary surgeons who qualified overseas but wish to practise in the UK. In 2006, we suggested

that the sharp rise in such members from countries then most recently to have joined the EU (1 May 2004) might have been due to regulation changes in the meat hygiene sector. These registrations have actually been similar again this year, although the overall number of new overseas registrants fell by some 8%. Nevertheless, with Romania and Bulgaria the latest countries to accede to the EU, on 1 January 2007, we might expect the overseas registration figures to rise again over the coming months. A full breakdown of registration figures is available on page 28.

Although published in paper form just once a year, the Register is not static but needs to be constantly updated to reflect changes in members' working lives and personal circumstances. With over 22,000 members registered as at March 2007, this is a considerable task; we processed 1,812 changes to existing members' details alone this year (an increase of 13%). In addition, we registered 1,334 new members by the year end (actually a 4% drop on last year) and restored to the Register 202 former members. We also removed 1,140 members, leaving a net increase of 396 for the year.

Approximately 50% of removals were for non-payment of the retention fee (see table 1 for this year's fees). Members cannot practise legally without retaining the appropriate membership status. To reduce the risk of such (albeit inadvertent) illegal practice, having reduced the payment window to just

two months this year, we then wrote to advise all removed members that they were no longer registered.

### UPHOLDING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

#### Advising and guiding

Providing advice and guidance for veterinary surgeons remains our preferred method of upholding standards of conduct within the profession – a principal RCVS responsibility under the Veterinary Surgeons Act. The foundation on which our guidance is built is the *RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct*, which we re-published in full in May. A further update to the *Guide* in February contained amended guidance on disclosure of information, promoting the practice and the use of veterinary medicinal products.

The results of a reader survey in the summer told us that the profession found articles and reminders about advice and guidance one of the most useful aspects of our newsletter, *RCVS News*. Over the year, therefore, we have published additional advice about a wide range of subjects, including: medicines and contraindications, blood storage and collection, illegal imports, companion animal vaccinations, referrals, pet nutrition, and the use of medicines in dart guns. In March, we also published interim advice on the use, prescription and supply of controlled drugs, pending a review of the relevant veterinary legislation by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD).

**Table 1. RCVS fees effective from 1 April 2007 (2006 fees)**

REGISTRATION FEE	£70 <sup>1</sup>	(£66)
<b>ANNUAL RETENTION FEES</b>		
Home-practising	£277	(£264)
Postgraduate	£139	(£132)
Overseas-practising	£139	(£132)
Non-practising	£46	(£43)
Non-practising (70+)	Free	(Free)
SVR (1948)	£27	(£27)
SVR (1966)	£13	(£13)
SVR Retired	£15	(£15)
<b>RESTORATION FEES</b>		
Following voluntary removal	£139 <sup>2</sup>	(£132)
Following non-payment removal	£277 <sup>3</sup>	(£264)

SVR = Supplementary Veterinary Register

<sup>1</sup> Plus proportion of home-practising retention fee expressed in quarters of the year

<sup>2</sup> Plus proportion of relevant retention fee for the remaining year

<sup>3</sup> Plus full retention fee for membership category at time of removal

We have continued to provide advice over the telephone and in writing – both to members of the profession and the general public.

The number of telephone calls we made or received increased a further 12% this year to 6,177 (including calls about complaints and existing cases). Our post bag has also grown, with 1,194 written requests for advice



read more online  
[www.rcvs.org.uk/guide](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/guide)



“ We indicated that the veterinary surgeon’s different methods of suturing would not have affected the post-operative complications, which were unfortunate, but not an issue of professional conduct. ”



David Harding, Chairman, PI Committee (Report to Council, June 2006)

received – up 5% on the previous 12 months – including 735 from non-veterinary surgeons (a breakdown of topics can be seen in figure 1). Overall, we handled around 30 requests for advice every working day of the year.

#### Advice notes

To help ensure our advice is consistent, we introduced a series of advice notes that cover a range of different subjects. These are approved by our Advisory Committee and are regularly used by our Professional Conduct Department, but they are not a formal part of the *Guide*. A set of 12 – on subjects including negligence, serious professional misconduct, companion

animal vaccinations and the use of new technology – went online in March, and we will continue to add to it as appropriate.



#### Guidance for veterinary nurses

In March, for the first time, we also produced formal guidance for the veterinary nursing profession, in preparation for the introduction of the non-statutory Register of veterinary nurses later in 2007, and the implementation of the VN disciplinary framework in 2010 (see page 21 for more details).

#### Handling complaints

Under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, we have the responsibility, and the desire, to assess quickly and thoroughly all complaints

against veterinary surgeons that we receive and investigate them in as much detail as appropriate and possible.

At 709, the number of complaints we received this year rose by 11%, although it was only 4% higher than the average number received over the previous five years. All complaints (see figure 1) are investigated robustly to determine whether the veterinary surgeon is fit to practise. Once again, the main category of complaint was alleged inadequate care by the veterinary surgeon; such complaints may only amount to alleged negligence, on which we have no power to adjudicate.

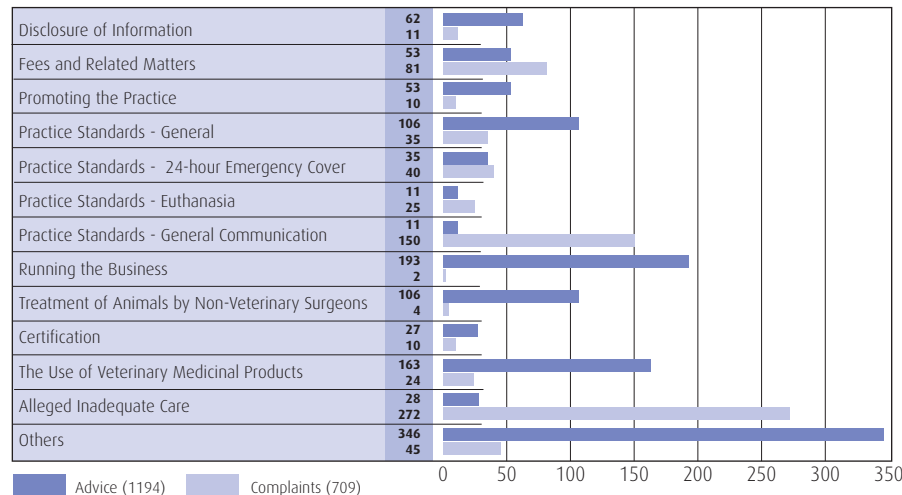
#### Under investigation

We work hard to ensure the correct balance is struck between the interests of the veterinary surgeon and the complainant, and that our investigations are as thorough and as fair as we can make them. But what exactly is involved in our investigative process and why do we go to such lengths before decisions are made?

Back in 2001, we cited an important legal principle arising from a case involving the General Medical Council (GMC), where a judicial review highlighted the importance of justifying why a complaint was not going to be investigated further, as well as one that was going to be referred for a full disciplinary inquiry (*RCVS Annual Report 2001*, page 11).

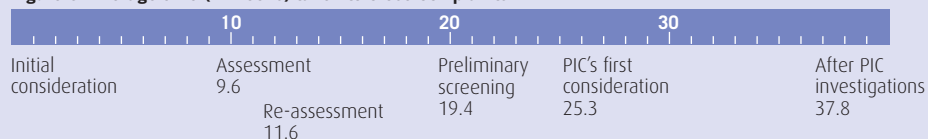


Figure 1. Number and category of complaints and written requests for advice received during the year



read more online  
[www.rcvs.org.uk/advicenotes](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/advicenotes)

**Figure 3. Average time (in weeks) taken to close complaints\***



\*Complaints can be closed at any stage during the investigation process. This chart highlights average completion times for each stage shown, based on the 731 complaints closed in the year under review.



### What's involved?

When a complaint is received, it undergoes a period of assessment by one of our caseworkers (solicitors or barristers) and a senior veterinary surgeon. If an issue of professional misconduct is identified, the veterinary surgeon(s) involved is invited to respond; other relevant persons are asked for information and the complainant is invited to comment on the information received. All paperwork is then screened by two members of the Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC); if either considers it appropriate, the complaint will be considered at the next PIC meeting.

### Preliminary Investigation Committee

The PIC meets around once a month. Meetings last all day and are attended by six Council Members (including three RCVS Officers), three Lay Observers (whose presence contributes to the objectivity and independence of our complaints process), the Assistant Registrar and the caseworkers. The amount of paperwork involved is significant: one PIC member estimated that it took him two full days to read everything for each meeting! This year, to save trees and the postman's back, all papers were sent out digitally and, by the end of the year, meetings were paperless. After its first consideration of a case, PIC may request further investigation of the types displayed in figure 2 and explained below.

During initial **in-house investigations**, our caseworkers gather more details about the complaint from both parties, and any third-party witnesses, over the telephone or in

writing; additional supporting documentation, such as correspondence and clinical records, may also be collated. At the PIC's request, we undertook 45 such investigations this year, 12 more than last year.

We also held 28 **informal interviews**, where we asked the veterinary surgeon to attend Belgravia House (often choosing a legal advisor) to answer further questions in person. It is easier to gain a clearer picture of events when meeting people face-to-face, although, unlike **formal interviews** where a transcript of discussions is produced, the information passed on may not be used in evidence during any subsequent Disciplinary Committee (DC) Inquiry.

Sometimes, it is more appropriate to visit a veterinary surgeon or complainant *in situ*, as we did during 27 **announced visits** this year (up from 15 the year before). We now visit both parties, rather than just the veterinary practice, and it is useful to do so around the same time. We announce these visits to ensure the parties will be present, and we also take the opportunity to advise them about our procedures. **Unannounced visits** can be helpful, depending on the nature of the case, but our caseworkers and PIC members do not have powers of entry.

These procedures help establish a general picture of the alleged facts to determine whether further investigation is necessary. If it is, PIC may request that the case be **referred to external solicitors** – as they did 27 times last year – who then take statements under oath from the complainant and other witnesses.

A DC Inquiry requires very detailed formal evidence in order to assess cases fairly.

### Doubling our efforts

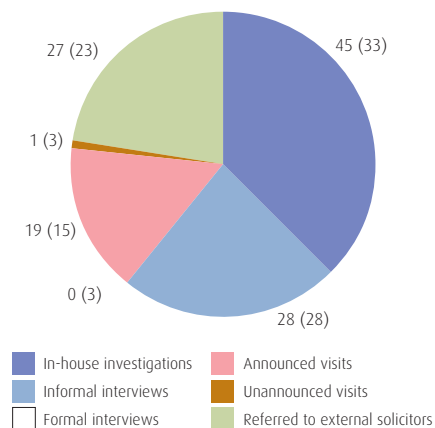
Our investigations are designed to identify any indication of serious professional misconduct, ie fitness to practise, to test whether the allegations can be substantiated and the evidence corroborated, and to check the reliability of witnesses.

At the time of the GMC case, our investigatory work had already been increasing annually for some years, however, of the 835 complaints we reported in 2001, only 115 (14%) were referred to the PIC for further investigation. By comparison, of the 709 complaints we received this year, 213 (30%) were passed to the PIC. Despite, or indeed because of, this doubling of our investigatory efforts, the PIC does actually close the vast majority of complaints referred to it, or closes them with advice to the veterinary surgeon if his/her conduct was not of a high standard (see figure 3 for average closing times).

Nevertheless, for the most serious cases, the PIC may either hold a case open for up to two years so that any subsequent complaints about a veterinary surgeon can be considered in parallel, or it might decide that a full DC Inquiry is warranted. This year, there were 12 such Inquiries, the details of which may be seen in table 2.

We are confident that our investigations are sufficiently thorough to justify these decisions.

**Figure 2. Number and type of investigations requested by PI Committee in year under review (last year)**



 [read more online  
www.rcvs.org.uk/disciplinary](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/disciplinary)



“Employers of veterinary surgeons owe a duty of care towards more inexperienced veterinary surgeons...the clinical mentoring of inexperienced vets cannot be forsaken or ignored, nor can it be delegated to VNs or lay management personnel.”

Brian Jennings, Chairman, Disciplinary Committee (from the DC Inquiry into Mr Lyndon Basha)



**Table 2. Summary of Disciplinary Committee hearings**

Date	Name	Complaint concerning	Outcome	Reported	Cost (£) <sup>1</sup>
02-03/05/06	Mr David C Wilson	Failure to euthanase dog when instructed to do so by clients having received payment for same.	Reprimand.	RCVSONline (03/05/06) <i>RCVS News</i> (Jun 06)	14,000
04-22/09/06 & 10/11/06	Mr Lyndon Basha	Failure to provide adequate professional care; dishonesty to clients; inadequate record keeping; inaccurate/misleading insurance claims.	Held open for two years subject to ongoing compliance with conditions.	RCVSONline (21/09/06, 10/11/06 & 14/11/06) <i>RCVS News</i> (Nov 06)	159,000
02-04/10/06	Mr Joseph L Holmes	Inappropriate administration and packaging of cytotoxic drugs; lack of informed consent to treatment; failure to discuss treatment options and side-effects.	Held open for two years subject to ongoing compliance with conditions.	RCVSONline (06/10/2006) <i>RCVS News</i> (Nov 06)	44,000
06/10/06	Mr Maurice J Kirk	Name removed from Register in early 2004.	Third application for restoration refused. (First application refused 06/01/05; second application refused 07/11/05.)	RCVSONline (10/10/06) <i>RCVS News</i> (Nov 06)	19,000
08-09/11/06	Mr William W Sim	Breach of condition, re abstinence from alcohol, imposed at DC Inquiry on 30/01/06 (when judgment was postponed for two years subject to compliance with conditions).	Direction to remove from Register. Removed on 15/12/06.	RCVSONline (10/11/06)	9,000
11/12/06 & 26/01/07	Miss Judith L Kay	Conviction for drink-driving.	Direction to remove from Register. (Failure to comply with conditions.) Removed on 01/03/07.	RCVSONline (29/01/07) <i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 07)	17,000
29-31/01/07	Dr John A Walker	False certification of entries in two horse passports.	Direction to remove from Register. Appeal to Privy Council lodged and pending.	RCVSONline (31/01/07) <i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 07)	23,000
01/02/07	Mr Michael M McCarthy	Theft of controlled drugs from employers; obtaining improperly controlled drugs for personal use from NVS.	Direction to remove from Register. Removed on 09/03/07.	RCVSONline (02/02/07) <i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 07)	38,000
06/02/07	Mr Ranes K Sanyal	Name removed from Register in 2005.	First application for restoration to Register adjourned at Mr Sanyal's request and now rescheduled for 21/05/07.	<i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 07)	20,000
26/02 - 01/03/07	Mr Lodewijk De Smet	Hitting horse about its head on one occasion without justification.	Facts found proved but not guilty of disgraceful misconduct.	RCVSONline (01/03/07)	20,000
12-14/03/07	Mr Mpho D Lesolle	Advising greyhound trainer that permissible to race a greyhound when under treatment of Soloxine when ought to have known this breached NGRC rules.	Guilty of disgraceful conduct; no additional penalty imposed.	RCVSONline (16/03/07)	22,000

<sup>1</sup> The cost of the case to the RCVS includes all external legal costs and the costs of the Disciplinary Committee, but excludes RCVS staff costs. Costs have not been incurred exclusively in the financial year (1 January 2006 - 31 December 2006) or the *Annual Report* year (1 April 2006 - 31 March 2007) and may have been incurred in previous years. Costs associated with appeals to the Privy Council are shown separately where the appeal has concluded. All costs are rounded to the nearest £1,000.

# 2 advancing and supporting



## **Preventing disease**

Wild animals often act as a source of infection for domestic animals.

Myxomatosis, a viral disease that decimated the UK wild rabbit population in the 1950s, remains rife in wild rabbits and often passes to domestic rabbits via fleas and mosquitoes. In 1984, viral haemorrhagic disease (VHD), another highly fatal disease spread indirectly by insects and birds, originated from China and spread rapidly across the world.

Vaccination is a crucial aspect of disease prevention for many animal diseases and myxomatosis and VHD are no exception.



## In this section...

...we describe our Charter functions of promoting lifelong learning and awarding postgraduate qualifications; the RCVS Trust's support for veterinary education and research; and, our veterinary-nursing related activities.

### ENCOURAGING FURTHER EDUCATION

#### Modular certificates

As outlined on page 5 there have been changes this year to the structure of the committees. The merging of the two committees that previously looked after under- and postgraduate education reflects our focus on the continuum of lifelong learning: from the undergraduate degree, through the Professional Development Phase and mandatory continuing professional development (CPD) to more formal postgraduate qualifications.

New subcommittees were convened to consider specific aspects of postgraduate education: the modular Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice, Fellowship and Specialist Recognition. The existing Subject Boards continue to look after the traditional certificates and diplomas.

Last summer, Council agreed byelaws for the new modular postgraduate certificate and the first meeting of the new subcommittee, which includes a broad range of non-RCVS Council members, took place in October.

The objective of the new modular approach is to make studying for a certificate more accessible for those in practice, although the level of the qualification (the equivalent

of a Masters) will not be changed. An increasing trend towards those enrolled on the old-style certificate not completing their studies signalled to us that a radical change was required to make the certificate more appropriate to the learning needs of today's veterinary surgeons.

Under the new approach, candidates will have three routes open to them. They can take a module as stand-alone CPD or they can opt to take a Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (CertAVP), the points for which can be accrued by completing a broad range of modules. The third option will be to take a prescribed set of modules that would result in a CertAVP in a designated subject, for example, CertAVP (Small Animal Practice).

We are delegating the assessment of individual modules and will accredit universities' assessment systems, rather than particular courses. Course providers must be, or have links to, universities, and the first accreditation was granted to Middlesex University in March to award the Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice (Veterinary General Practice). We held a workshop with universities and potential course providers in January to encourage further submissions and we are currently developing an online enrolment system.



read more online  
[www.rcvs.org.uk/modcerts](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/modcerts)

“The new modular certificate scheme will make postgraduate qualifications more accessible for practising veterinary surgeons. In future, we hope that it will become the norm for modules to become incorporated into their structured CPD programmes.”

Bradley Viner, Chairman, CertAVP Subcommittee





“The Trust Library now offers 21 different electronic casebooks available over 12 different subject areas - invaluable for those wishing to study towards an RCVS certificate.”

**Table 3. Successful diploma holders by subject**

<b>Equine Internal Medicine</b>
Neil P H Hudson
<b>Laboratory Animal Science</b>
Lionel A Bomzon
Lucy E Whitfield
<b>Sheep Health and Production</b>
David J Wilson
<b>Small Animal Medicine</b>
Patricia I Orruno
Mark R Goodfellow
Lucy J Davison
Nicholas H Bexfield
Rory D Bell
<b>Small Animal Medicine (Feline)</b>
Rachel S Dean
<b>Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics)</b>
Stephen P Clarke
<b>State Veterinary Medicine</b>
Philip A Robinson
<b>Veterinary Anaesthesia</b>
Nicola J Grint
Emma J Love
<b>Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging</b>
Avi Avner
Esther L Barrett
Anna L M Newitt
<b>Veterinary Ophthalmology</b>
Susan P Manning
<b>Zoological Medicine (Mammalian)</b>
Emma J Keeble
<b>Zoological Medicine (Reptilian)</b>
Kevin Eatwell

### Existing qualifications

The last chance for candidates to enrol under the existing certificate system will be November 2007. At 288, the number of new enrolments has remained relatively stable when compared to last year (282).

Meanwhile, 14 new candidates enrolled for the diplomas, up slightly on last year. Twenty candidates successfully completed their diploma examinations during the *Annual Report* year (see table 3), nine more than 12 months ago.

Studying for a diploma usually requires the candidate to complete a residency, which can be difficult for those outside of academia. However, the College's highest award, the RCVS fellowship, is accessible to all. It is awarded for meritorious contributions to learning or by submission of a thesis. Three fellowships by thesis were awarded by the President at RCVS Day in July: to Ian Robinson, Michael David Stanford and Frances Harcourt-Brown.

### Specialists

Diplomates and Fellows often go on to achieve RCVS Recognised Specialist status. To be included on the List of Recognised Specialists, an individual must have achieved a postgraduate qualification at least at diploma level, and must additionally satisfy the RCVS that they make an active contribution to their specialty, have national and international

acclaim and publish widely in their field. There were 242 Recognised Specialists at the end of March 2007, and in order to encourage more to join, we simplified the application procedures this year, and reduced the re-application fee.

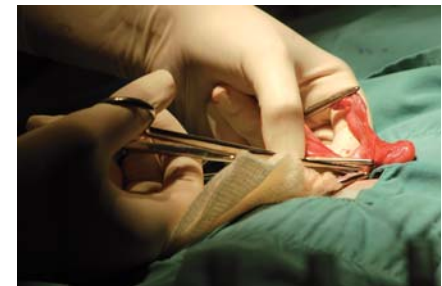
### SUPPORTING VETERINARY EDUCATION

Significant support for such academic achievements has continued to be offered by the RCVS Trust. An independent charity, the Trust works to help animals and the people who care for them, and is committed to providing high-quality educational services to the veterinary and veterinary nursing professions. It does this in two ways: by maintaining the RCVS Library and Information Service and through an ever-expanding and increasingly-exciting grant-making programme.

### Library & Information Service

The Library has continued to improve its services for its users and, especially, its members throughout the year, aiming for a more customer-focused approach. In particular, it has made its extensive range of services – both traditional and electronic – more flexible and accessible for veterinary surgeons working in practice.

The Library's membership scheme has been completely revamped with a new rolling subscription system that helps to maximise its value. Members no longer have to sign up





“We are delighted that our RCVS Trust grant will allow us to assess objectively the mechanical properties of a surgical technique commonly used in the management of canine cranial cruciate ligament disease.”

Eithne Comerford, Senior Lecturer in Small Animal Orthopaedics, University of Liverpool



to the scheme at a specific time of year, but can enjoy a full 12 months' membership from whenever they choose to subscribe.

Other Library services have also been expanded. There are now 21 different electronic casebooks available over 12 different subject areas – invaluable for those wishing to study towards an RCVS certificate – and the popular range of Quarterly Updates has been augmented with new subjects in dairy cattle and aquaculture, bringing the number of available subjects to 22. The Library continually reviews the subject areas that it provides and plans to widen this range further in order to meet the changing demands of the profession.

This commitment to service was pushed even further in October! Trust Librarian Helen Heathcote joined 30,000 runners in London's Hyde Park and successfully completed the RunLondon Nike 10K race, raising over £750 for the Trust in the process. Another fundraising milestone was reached in November with the 100<sup>th</sup> adoption of a book from the Library's historical collection. Some £15,000 has been pledged to date to help conserve a veterinary heritage that dates back to 1514.

#### Where does the money go?

This time last year, we reported that the Trust had announced a grants programme for the next 12 months worth some £450,000, and

described a few of the projects and research that would flow out of that funding. Some of these have since come to fruition and been published in peer-reviewed journals or reported in the veterinary press.

These include the results of a prospective study to investigate the efficacy of adhesive incise drape use in preventing bacterial contamination and infection of clean canine surgical wounds, and an epidemiological study of *Echinococcus granulosus* in urban and rural domestic dogs in Uganda.

Other projects take a little longer to bear fruit. An RCVS Trust Blue-Sky Project, led by Dr John Roe from Bristol University's Department of Veterinary Science in 2005, planned to investigate methods of testing for the bovine tuberculosis-causing *Mycobacterium bovis* in the respired air from TB-infected cattle and badgers.

Although the study's primary objective was ultimately not met, it did produce significant achievements: it led to the development and validation of the first *M. bovis*-specific, quantitative real-time polymerase chain reaction assay (understood to be the first application of this technology to bovine TB), and the validation of gelatine filters as aerosol capture devices for mycobacteria. These results were disseminated at the last International Conference on *Mycobacterium bovis* and have contributed to other research

(published this year) into the infection route of bovine TB through airborne transmission; after further study, they might also help to determine a non-invasive and welfare-friendly method of determining infection in local badger populations.

#### Adapting to change

Like its Library services, the Trust is keen to ensure its grants programme continues to adapt in order to meet the needs of those who work to improve animal health and welfare. A major programme review by the Grants Panel last June was approved by the Trustees and led to a significant uplift in funding activity. A £600,000 grants programme was announced in March, representing an increase of 33% on the previous year and a ten-fold increase since 2000.

The scope of funding has also been increased, with travel scholarships now available throughout the year and the introduction of Practice-based Diplomas. Inevitably, much of the Trust's funding is channelled through the veterinary schools and other academic institutions, so it was especially pleased to be able to provide these diplomas for veterinary surgeons working in practice.

#### Vis unita fortior – Strength through unity

Funding partnerships have also been embraced. Inevitably, there is a limit to how much the Trust can achieve on its own, but by joining forces with organisations that have



 [read more online  
www.rcvs.org.uk/librarymembership](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/librarymembership)



“ The new VN syllabus had a change in emphasis away from anatomy and physiology towards a more holistic approach to veterinary nursing, equipping the student with the skills required to develop patient-centred nursing plans. ”

complementary interests and objectives, significantly more can be achieved. In March, the Trust also pledged grants to the Institute of Zoology, the Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad, the Bat Conservation Trust, the Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust and the Veterinary Benevolent Fund (VBF).

The latter agreement extends the Trust's long history of supporting the VBF and other organisations that work to improve the welfare of the veterinary professional. It is delighted, therefore, to be increasing its impact in this area with a raft of measures to help safeguard the future wellbeing of veterinary students and veterinary surgeons (see page 21).

#### RCVS AWARDBODY

The RCVS Awarding Body for veterinary nursing has responsibility for delivery of the veterinary nursing national vocational qualifications (NVQs), including enrolment and examination of candidates and quality assurance of all aspects of training.

To clarify the role of the Awarding Body, and avoid confusion with the regulatory activities of the Veterinary Nurses Council, a new identity was unveiled in October. The logo, which was based on the dove being held by St Francis on the VN badge, clearly distinguishes documents and information emanating from the Awarding Body.

As at 31 March 2007 there were:

- 1,654 Training Practices, including 98 newly-approved practices, reflecting our encouragement of Veterinary Nursing Approved Centres (VNACs) to recruit more training practices
- 47 VNACs - one withdrew during the year

#### New syllabus and standards

The Awarding Body is regulated by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) and this July the veterinary nursing awards were due for reaccreditation. This offered the opportunity for a significant review of the veterinary nursing syllabus, taking account of the new National Occupational Standards for Veterinary Nursing that had been developed by the Sector Skills Council, Lantra, with input from the VN Council.

The result was two new awards based on a single syllabus for both small animal and equine qualifications. The new syllabus was

issued during the summer and took effect from September 2006.

Its content was influenced by several periods of consultation, including feedback from over 60 TPs, colleges and centres. A key feature was a change in emphasis away from anatomy and physiology towards a more holistic approach to veterinary nursing, equipping the student with the skills required to develop patient-centred nursing plans.

There have also been changes to the way in which the qualifications are supported and administered, allowing a greater degree of flexibility in how students are taught and assessed. We held training days over the summer to help those delivering the new syllabus to adjust to the changes.

It will be summer 2008 before the first candidates achieve both new qualifications, but the feedback so far has been very positive.



**Table 4. Uptake and pass-rate for VN examinations in 2005 and 2006**

	Level 2				Level 3			
	Entries		Pass rate (%)		Entries		Pass rate %	
Summer 2005	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq
	Summer 2005	793	23	82	83	713	17	69
Summer 2006	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq
	767	20	76	75	771	21	60	81
Winter 2005	Entries		Pass rate (%)		Entries		Pass rate %	
	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq
Winter 2005	328	8	65	25	412	9	56	56
Winter 2006	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq
	353	17	64	76	516	4	62	100

SA = Small Animal Eq = Equine



“2006 saw the first tangible moves towards establishing veterinary nursing as an accountable profession. The *VN Guide* and revised regulatory Bye-laws will pave the way for non-statutory regulation in 2007.”

Andrea Jeffery, Chairman, VN Council



In the meantime, the results from the 2006 summer and winter examinations are displayed in table 4. We were pleased to see that the equine pass-rate has improved overall, although the small animal pass-rate in the summer exams has decreased slightly. We remain concerned over the low pass-rate for the level 3 practical examinations and are actively working with centres to try and improve clinical teaching in training practices.

#### External verifiers

We appreciate that the quality assurance process can be disruptive and time-consuming for those involved with VN training, but it is necessary as part of our QCA accreditation.

We continually strive to make the process more efficient for all concerned, and early in 2007, we streamlined the activities of our External Verifier team to reduce the number of visits to our VNACs and TPs by up to 25%. The new structure also gives centres and their TPs greater autonomy to address their operational requirements.

The changes followed recommendations made by an Independent Review of the NVQ commissioned by the College in 2005. This called for increased devolution of responsibility across the training structure, recognising that the training system had found its feet since veterinary nurse NVQs were introduced in 1999.

## VN COUNCIL

### New members

The VN Council deals with the regulation of the veterinary nursing profession and the majority of its members are elected veterinary nurses. Elections were held last April resulting in three new faces being welcomed to Council at RCVS Day in July: Elizabeth Branscombe, Hilary Orpet and Josephine Yates. Margaret Moore was re-elected and she, together with Elizabeth Branscombe, will serve for one year, in order to replace veterinary nurses who left Council mid-term.

### Team approach

In 2005, a member of the VN Council sat on the Advisory Committee for the first time. This reflected a greater team approach to the delivery of veterinary services in practice, and has proved to be very beneficial this year. For example, the Council worked closely with the Advisory Committee on the development of the *RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses*, which underpins the non-statutory Register (see page 21 for more details).

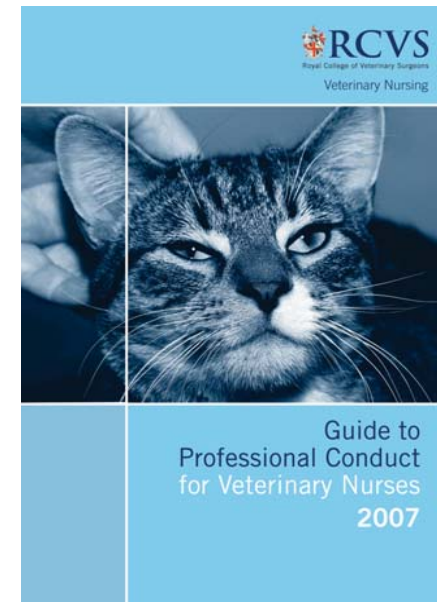
Interesting discussions have also taken place on the role of VNs in monitoring and maintaining anaesthesia, veterinary nurse job titles and the role of veterinary nurses in vaccinating small animals.

## VN listing

We maintain a database of veterinary nurses from which the *RCVS List of Veterinary Nurses* is drawn. The database contains 11,633 entries for qualified VNs, which includes everyone who has achieved the RCVS VN or Registered Animal Nursing Auxiliary (RANA) qualification since 1963, of whom 7,039 (61%) of eligible VNs are currently listed.

We removed 418 nurses from the List on 1 January, compared with 374 for the previous 12-month period. These VNs are no longer allowed to undertake delegated work under the provision of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 Schedule 3, nor can they act as NVQ assessors for student veterinary nurses. Our website has a facility to check if a veterinary nurse is listed (or a veterinary surgeon is registered). From September 2007, the List will be subdivided to include the new non-statutory Register (see page 21 for more information).

A more detailed overview of the veterinary nursing year will be provided in the *VN Annual Report*, available in summer 2007.



 [read more online  
www.rcvs.org.uk/vnlist](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/vnlist)

# 3 building for the future



## Incoming trouble

New animal disease strains are continually evolving. The UK is increasingly under threat from the risk of a number of exotic animal diseases, from the highly pathogenic H5N1 Avian Influenza (in the UK recently) to West Nile Virus (yet to arrive).

Government veterinary surgeons are involved in contingency planning for exotic disease outbreaks and carry out official animal disease inspections. Veterinary surgeons in practice have a crucial role in veterinary surveillance and testing, whereas others undertake the vital research that provides the evidence base for scientific policies.





“By offering a structured way to record experience, the PDP should give new graduates added confidence to build on their Day-one Competences. The new Postgraduate Deans will be on hand to provide help and support.”

Stephen Ware, PDP Postgraduate Dean



## In this section...

...we outline our future plans and describe the work we have undertaken to prepare for new legislation, raise and maintain practice standards, support new graduates and regulate veterinary nurses.

### REVIEW OF THE VSA

The RCVS Council adopted firm proposals for new veterinary legislation in November 2005 after taking stock of the responses to the College's consultation paper issued in June that year. The proposals envisage separate Councils to set standards for veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, a separate body to monitor compliance with the standards and a separate Conduct and Competence Committee. The RCVS also seeks power to introduce statutory regulation of practice standards.

Government legislation is needed in order to make all this happen. Ministers have indicated in replies to Parliamentary Questions that DEFRA is working closely with us, but it is not yet clear when there may be an opportunity for legislation. We continue to brief members of both Houses of Parliament on what we are trying to achieve.

In February 2007 the Government published the White Paper – *Trust, Assurance and Safety - The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21st Century* – which set out decisions on the future regulation of the human healthcare professions in the light of the recommendations of the Shipman Inquiry. It is encouraging that our proposals for veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses fit well with the changes being made in the field of human health.



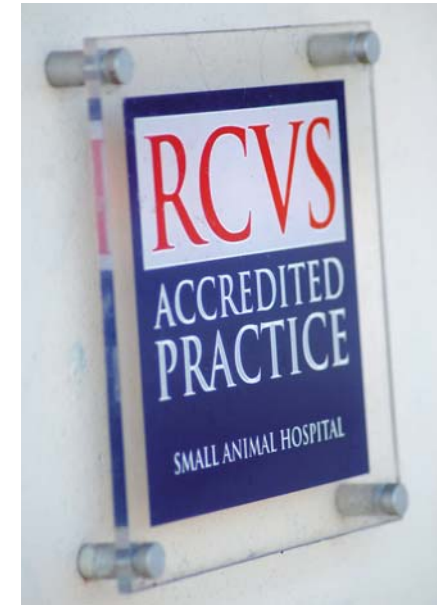
read more online  
[www.rcvs.org.uk/vsa](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/vsa)

### PRACTICE STANDARDS

In proposing new veterinary legislation, RCVS Council has made no secret of its hope for some form of mandatory practice standards scheme. In a world where professional services come under increasing scrutiny, simply regulating veterinary surgeons is no longer enough. To build and maintain public confidence in the delivery of veterinary services, the whole veterinary practice needs to be considered.

While we await parliamentary time for a new Act, we are progressing on a non-statutory basis. The Practice Standards Scheme, which involves practices volunteering for regular and rigorous inspections, was launched to the public in March 2006. It will take time for awareness of the RCVS Accredited Practice logo to build and we will continue to promote the Scheme throughout the next year.

The Scheme needs to move forward to remain relevant to modern practice and is thus subject to ongoing review. For example, clinical audit, currently only a requirement for those joining at tiers 2 and 3 of the Scheme, is an aspect for future development. We also need to move away from the 'tick box' type of assessment towards an appraisal of outcomes and how these are achieved within practices. The recruitment of more inspectors has been a key activity this year and next year will see inspection for a large number of practices on the Scheme.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE

We are critically aware that the transition from veterinary school to practice life can be difficult and stressful for new graduates. In order to assist graduates during this formative period, Council agreed that the Professional Development Phase (PDP) should become compulsory for all new graduates from 2007, including those registering from overseas.



read more online  
<http://pdp.rcvs.org.uk>



“The Gateways to the Professions project is an excellent example of the College and the veterinary schools working together to increase the accessibility of veterinary qualifications.”



The objective of the PDP is to help new graduates put theory into practice by encouraging benchmarking and reflective learning. A password-protected, web-based database of competencies, against which cases are logged, provides a structured way of assessing where experience has been gained effectively and where support is required. This also allows practices to plan more structured appraisals for new graduates and to plan relevant CPD to take the new graduates into the next phase of their careers.

In March, we appointed two Postgraduate Deans to support graduates through their PDP. Between them, practitioner and Council Member Stephen Ware and Professor David Noakes will be able to share a breadth of experience with new graduates.

In addition to being compulsory for new graduates, the PDP will also provide a useful framework for those returning to practice or switching to a new species or veterinary discipline.

#### **GATEWAYS TO THE PROFESSION**

Each summer we hold a careers afternoon for students and their parents and teachers. It is a popular event and offers the opportunity to hear about the wide variety of veterinary career opportunities, together with advice and guidance on applying to veterinary school.

However, the event is generally limited to 60 delegates and can only go so far in

encouraging applications to veterinary school. One of the ways in which we are trying to strengthen our communication to potential students is through the Gateways to the Profession project.

An RCVS-led team comprising six of the seven veterinary schools and DEFRA successfully applied for over £90,000 from the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Gateways fund in November, to add to the £80,000 pledged by the group itself.

DfES set up its Gateways fund to allow professions to act on the findings of Sir Alan Langlands' *Gateways to the Profession Report*, which was commissioned in response to concerns about the potential impact on entry to the professions when the new higher education funding regime was introduced in 2006.

With just 2% of veterinary surgeons indicating they are from minority ethnic groups (*2006 Survey of the Profession*), and the number of applications per veterinary school place falling over recent years, the veterinary profession falls squarely into the category of those needing to attract students from a wider ethnic and socio-economic base.

Phase one of the project is research-based. During early 2007, independent researchers carried out desk-based, phone and face-to-face market research with school students and their teachers and careers advisors to understand the messages they currently

receive, their motivation to take science qualifications and their interest in veterinary medicine.

The second phase aims to develop new, more relevant communications materials to help overcome any barriers identified by the research. This stage will be kicked off by a workshop in June 2007, to which a broad range of individuals involved in advising school students and recruiting veterinary students will be invited to share their views.

#### **Inter-school collaboration**

The Gateways project is an excellent example of the College and the veterinary schools working together to increase the accessibility of veterinary qualifications. We have been involved with two other major educational projects this year. The Royal Veterinary College has led the Lifelong Independent Veterinary Education (LIVE) project, using money from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to become a centre of excellence for teaching and learning in veterinary education. We were represented on the steering group and the LIVE centre opened in February 2007.

A second project – the VETNET Lifelong Learning Network – aims to improve access to veterinary and other animal-related degrees by improving the progression routes for students in further education working towards relevant vocational qualifications. All of the UK's veterinary schools, together with the College, are involved.

“ The non-statutory Register for Veterinary Nurses represents one of the most major changes to the regulation of VNs for decades. ”



## RCVS TRUST

Since its outset, the RCVS Trust has played an important role in supporting the development of veterinary students and has a long history of funding veterinary welfare initiatives. The Trust's announcement of its grants round in March saw this support set to increase substantially over the next few years, both for veterinary students about to embark on their careers, and for more experienced professionals.

The Trust has helped fund the annual Final-Year Student Seminar in Lancaster since the first one was held back in 1987. In March, however, it was delighted to agree a further three years' financial assistance, totalling just under £30,000, to help ensure that this popular and effective extra-curricular training can continue to help veterinary students prepare for working life. To support future veterinary surgeons immediately after they qualify, the BVA is also set to receive a £5,000 Trust grant to help fund its new Recent Graduate Support Scheme.

For veterinary surgeons who might experience difficulties at any time in their professional or personal lives, the Veterinary Benevolent Fund's (VBF) 'Vet Helpline' can provide the support, understanding and advice they might need. The VBF will receive a further £5,000 from the Trust this year to support its vital work.

Looking still further ahead at the future wellbeing of veterinary professionals, this year the Trust has also provided seed-funding for a major piece of research into the factors surrounding veterinary suicides.

## SELF-REGULATION FOR VNS

September 2007 will see the opening of a new non-statutory Register for Veterinary Nurses. This is an important first step towards statutory self-regulation, which will only be possible if and when new legislation is put in place.

In the meantime, the non-statutory Register represents one of the most major changes to the regulation of veterinary nurses for decades. Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN) status will signal to the public and employers that the individual is accountable for his or her professional conduct and is prepared to keep their skills and knowledge up to date.

All those veterinary nurses who listed since 1 January 2003 will transfer automatically to the Register; for others it will be voluntary. Registration brings a continuing professional development requirement of 15 hours per year, plus the responsibility to abide by the *RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses*. There will also be implications for those RVNs returning to work following a career break, who must undertake a period of supervised practice.



 [read more online  
www.rcvs.org.uk/vnguide](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/vnguide)

Originally, the Register was to open during April, but responding to feedback from a useful consultation exercise during December 2006, the Veterinary Nurses Council agreed a change of plan. It was clear that a reasonable amount of time should be allowed for VNs to get to grips with registration and its implications before the Register took effect.

The *CPD Record Card and Guide*, together with *Veterinary Nursing Byelaws 2007* and explanatory notes, will be available from April 2007, and we will host meetings over the summer to prepare VNs for the opening of the Register later in the year.

Those nurses joining the Register could be subject to disciplinary procedures, in the same way that veterinary surgeons are. This will not take effect until 2010, to allow time for nurses to become accustomed to their new responsibilities.

The opening of the Register in 2007 will be the culmination of a great deal of hard work from the Veterinary Nurses Council and other committees within the College. It's an exciting development - perhaps the most important for veterinary nursing since the revision of Schedule 3 to the Veterinary Surgeons Act in 1991 which allowed veterinary surgeons to delegate some activities to VNs - and reflects a real desire from veterinary nurses to be considered as professionals in their own right.





# 4 listening and communicating



## Feeling the heat

Climate change is having an impact on the veterinary world. For example, as the weather gets warmer, so environmental conditions across northern Europe have become more favourable for midges of the *Culicoides* species – vectors of the viral diseases Bluetongue and African Horse Sickness.

The Institute of Animal Health is collaborating with veterinary scientists at the University of Cambridge (and others) to investigate Bluetongue transmission and risk, using techniques including field collections, laboratory experiments, computer modelling and satellite imagery.





“Excellent newsletter - well laid out and a good style that invites reading of what are necessary but often (dare I say) boring subjects. Thus good communication.”

Paul Tucker, The Veterinary Hospital, Bognor Regis

## In this section...

...we explain our communications activities and interaction with the media, policy-makers and other stakeholders, and outline our activities in Europe; we also report on a forward-looking seminar.

### WEBSITE AND PUBLICATIONS

RCVSONline, remains a very important communications tool and it is vital that we continue to review and develop it. This year we added a new search engine, based on latest technology, to offer more relevant returns, and improved our Find a Vet service. Users of [www.findavet.org.uk](http://www.findavet.org.uk) can now search for practices located nearest to their postcode, in addition to selecting on criteria such as practices with Practice Standards accreditation, areas of specific interest or RCVS Recognised Specialists.

Despite the popularity of electronic communications, a survey of the readership of *RCVS News* in the summer highlighted that the majority would still prefer to receive a hard copy of the newsletter. The objective of the survey was to assist in a review of the newsletter. Feedback was generally positive although some less flattering comments – generally the most amusing – stood out, for example: “It feels like a gentleman’s club publication. You can almost smell the old leather chairs...”.

March 2007 saw the first issue in a fresh new design. Our focus was on improving readability, with a clearer structure and more appealing use of imagery. The introduction of elements such as speed-read boxes and an ‘At a glance’ summary of the entire publication helps time-pressed readers. The survey allowed us to identify and retain the articles readers enjoyed and we have added new features, such as a guest column, reports from

Trust grant-holders and in-depth reviews of ongoing issues on our agenda.

Non-members can download a copy from RCVSONline. Feedback has been extremely positive and next year we hope to launch a new-look *Annual Report*.

### PUBLIC, PROFESSION AND PRESS

#### Listening to individuals...

With our Survey of the Profession and *RCVS News* readership survey we’ve been listening a lot this year. We also asked for views on the draft *RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct for Veterinary Nurses* and guidelines for 24-hour cover in remote areas. The former was a very useful exercise, with responses indicating that there should be a period of awareness-raising prior to the opening of the Register, so that VNs have time to digest the content of the *Guide* and accompanying CPD requirements. The launch of the Register was therefore put back from April to September 2007. The 24-hour cover consultation is still in progress and will be reviewed in next year’s report.

#### ...communicating in person

We appreciate it when people take the time to share their views with us and hope that the profession also welcomes the opportunity to talk directly with the College. This year, our Officer team took to the road again, with well-attended and lively Regional Question Time meetings in Cheltenham, Kendal and Cambridge, plus a session at BSAVA Congress. It was pleasing to see so many nurses joining their veterinary colleagues at the events and

full reports can be downloaded from the website.

The President continued the series of final-year student talks at the veterinary schools this year, focusing on the Professional Development Phase, compulsory for all those graduating from 2007.

Although new graduates may vow never to take an examination again, we hope that some of them will, in due course, and go on to receive their certificate or diploma at RCVS Day, our annual general meeting and awards ceremony. This year’s event was held at London Zoo, with award holders and their family and friends enjoying the chance to view the zoo’s conservation work at first hand.

We welcome the opportunity to invite members to the College. It provides a good chance for veterinary surgeons and other members of the veterinary team to understand more fully what we can and can’t do and who does what. We held four Meet the RCVS Days during the 12-month period, including one specifically for members of the Government Veterinary Service (GVS).

We have been working with the GVS directly this year, with College representatives on both its Learning and Development, and Communications and Networking Working Groups. We also assisted with the development of the Tracks to 2012 Workshop held in the DEFRA Innovation Centre in Reading in November, which aimed to consider the future of rural veterinary services.



read more online  
[www.rcvs.org.uk/rcvsnews](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/rcvsnews)



read more online  
[www.rcvs.org.uk/questiontime](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/questiontime)



**Table 5. Meetings with external organisations/ individuals during the year under review**

**Veterinary Organisations**

Assoc of Vet. Surgeons Practising in N. Ireland  
 British Veterinary Association (BVA)  
 BVA Animal Welfare Foundation  
 BVA divisions: AVT&RW, BEVA, BSAVA,  
 Scottish Metropolitan, SPVS  
 Veterinary Defence Society (VDS)  
 Veterinary Marketing Association  
 Veterinary Medicines Directorate

**Conferences/Congresses**

British Veterinary Association  
 BVA divisions: AGV, AVT&RW, BCVA,  
 BSAVA, SPVS  
 British Veterinary Nursing Association  
 DEFRA Open Day, Science Forum, Workshop  
 DTI Workshop  
 SPVS Student Seminar  
 VDS Seminars for Recent Graduates  
 Vet Trust CPD Conference  
 Veterinary Practice Management Association

**Government**

DEFRA (Secretary of State; CVO; stakeholders)  
 DEFRA England Implementation Group  
 DEFRA National Swine Fever Exercise  
 Dept. for Education and Skills  
 EFRA Select Committee  
 Home Office  
 Sir David King  
 MPs and Peers forums  
 Parliamentary and Scientific Committee  
 Scottish Parliament (ERD Committee;  
 CVO Scotland)  
 State Veterinary Service  
 Welsh Assembly (EPC Committee; CVO Wales)

**Overseas**

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe  
 Veterinary Council of Ireland

**Professional Bodies**

General Osteopathic Council  
 LANTRA  
 Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors  
 Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain  
 Royal Society of Medicine  
 Secretaries of Professional Bodies  
 UK Inter-Professional Group

**Charities**

Animal Health Trust  
 Kennel Club  
 RSPCA

In terms of our own networking, we have attended and hosted a range of meetings with external organisations this year, to ensure that any policy decisions take into account the views of relevant stakeholders. The Registrar has also continued to chair the UK Inter-Professional Group, an association of some 30 professional regulators that meets to share information, ideas and good practice in regulation, accountability and governance.

**Liaising with the press**

We continue to deal with many enquiries from the veterinary and veterinary nursing, national and regional media. We also receive an increasing number of calls from television production companies researching veterinary and animal-related programmes – it seems the public’s appetite for seeing the profession in action shows no signs of abating! Enquiries relating to disciplinary cases account for a large portion of incoming calls and this year we started to issue press releases about cases on a newswire service to see that the public interest is served.

**POLICY DEVELOPMENT**

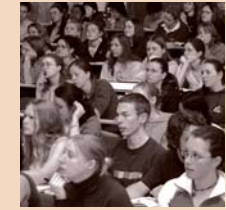
The College is not a representative body and it is not our role to act on behalf of individual veterinary surgeons. However, we do seek to influence policy to ensure the needs of animals, their owners and the veterinary profession are taken into account. We do this by responding to relevant consultation papers from Government departments and other bodies (see table 6).



read more online  
[www.rcvs.org.uk/consultations](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/consultations)

“The President’s talk was very informative about what the RCVS does. The part about the Disciplinary Committee was very useful and reassuring to know that the RCVS is also there to help us.”

Claire Challinor, Final-year Student, Glasgow Vet School



**Table 6. Principal responses to Government consultations: 01/04/06 - 31/03/07**

•	Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2006 and Guidance Notes
•	Veterinary supervision arrangements within the Meat Hygiene Service
•	Artificial insemination of cattle
•	Mutilation of animals (England, Scotland and Wales)
•	Docking of working dogs’ tails (England and Wales)
•	Replacement of the Farmed Animals (England) Regulations 2000

after five years to take stock of scientific evidence of any change in the incidence of tail injuries in dogs. When MPs voted for an exception for working dogs we were bound to accept this. However, the detailed terms of the exception would have required any veterinary surgeon who docked a puppy’s tail to certify that it was likely to become a working dog. That would have meant a breach of the principles of certification. We discussed this point at length with DEFRA officials, and the Government finally amended the Bill after Lord Soulsby of Swaffham Prior FRCVS drew attention to the problem in the House of Lords.

After the Animal Welfare Act had become law the Secretary of State and the Welsh Assembly had to make regulations specifying which kinds of working dog may have their

**Animal Welfare**

This year saw a major updating of animal welfare legislation in Great Britain. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 brought up to date almost a century’s accumulation of piecemeal legislation. The new law requires people to take steps to ensure the welfare of animals for which they are responsible.

A good deal of the parliamentary debate concerned the docking of dogs’ tails. Both Acts prohibit the mutilation of animals, apart from procedures specifically permitted by regulations. The Scottish Ministers made it clear that they did not propose to make any such exception to allow the docking of dogs’ tails, and it is now unlawful to dock any dog’s tail in Scotland or to take it outside Scotland for this purpose.

In the Westminster Parliament the Government introduced amendments to the Animal Welfare Bill so that MPs could decide what the policy should be. The outcome was a ban on docking, but with an exception for working dogs. Cosmetic docking is now banned in England and Wales, but puppies of certain types which are likely to become working dogs may still have their tails docked in those two countries. The law is unchanged in Northern Ireland.

When the Government amendments were tabled in the House of Commons, RCVS Council made a statement recommending an outright ban on docking, subject to a review

“As all professions come under increasing scrutiny, the importance of external relations continues to grow. I wholeheartedly support the College’s increasingly proactive dealings with Government, media and the public.”



Martyn Jones MP, Chairman, Public Affairs Committee

tails docked and what kind of the evidence the client must produce. The detailed rules differ between England and Wales. When DEFRA and the Assembly consulted on draft regulations we commented on both their drafting and their content, but to no avail.

#### Veterinary medicines

The law on veterinary medicines is now contained in regulations that the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) amends each year. The Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMRs) which came into force on 1 October 2006 helpfully spelled out that a veterinary surgeon supplying a veterinary medicinal product need not be present when it is handed over, so long as he or she authorises each transaction individually and is satisfied that the person handing the medicine over is competent to do so.

In March, VMD invited comments on draft 2007 VMRs. The proposals included one which would affect most practising veterinary surgeons: they would only be allowed to supply medicines from premises registered with the Secretary of State as premises at which veterinary medicinal products are stored. The VMD has suggested that we might maintain the register of premises on the Secretary of State’s behalf. Council is to consider its response to this proposal at its June 2007 meeting.

#### In Europe

In partnership with the BVA and its divisions, we continue to be active members of the

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) – an umbrella organisation of veterinary associations and statutory bodies from 35 European countries. Increasingly, many issues that involve the veterinary profession in the UK are being affected by decisions made in Brussels – the availability of veterinary medicines, the implementation of the Community Animal Health Policy, the recognition of professional qualifications throughout the EU, the provision of services on the internal market, and the role of the veterinary practitioner in public health, to name but a few areas with which the FVE wrestles.

In addition during the year, we have been particularly involved in the FVE’s development of a European Code of Conduct, the establishment of a new FVE Statutory Bodies Working Party, the evaluation of establishments for veterinary education and the FVE’s Network Secretariat Group – a new group that aims to help implement and communicate decisions made by the FVE’s General Assembly.

#### WHERE NEXT?

##### Survey of the Profession

Our *Survey of the Profession 2006*, to which approximately 50% of members responded, gave a useful snapshot of where and how veterinary surgeons are working. We also asked about continuing professional development, support for new graduates and veterinary surgeons’ aspirations for the future. An August issue of *RCVS News Extra* summarised the key findings.

 [read more online  
www.rcvs.org.uk/surveys](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/surveys)

We aim to carry out a survey of members every four years and comparing figures allows us to build up a picture of trends, for example, the hours worked in specific areas of practice. We also asked veterinary surgeons to anticipate where they will be spending their time in the next five years. Perhaps unsurprisingly, respondents felt that time spent working with farm animals was likely to decrease, whereas that on small animals, with the exception of dogs, was likely to go up. Practice management was also predicted to account for more time in the future.

##### Postcards from the Future

The survey findings formed the basis of a more far-reaching consideration of the future of veterinary practice, in the shape of a one-day seminar in June: ‘Postcards from the Future.’

A range of speakers, representing large and small animal practice, the views of animal owners, veterinary nursing, academia, industry and the state, was challenged to send us a postcard from the year 2020. The views of other professions were also shared, including dentistry, pharmacy and the optical sector.

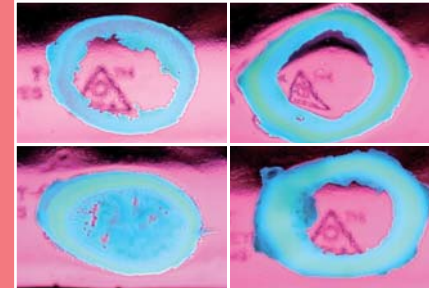
With the CVOs from the UK, Scotland and Wales in attendance, together with senior representatives of many professional bodies, it is hoped that issues raised by the event will help inform the future development of the profession. The event will certainly influence our ongoing review of the RCVS Strategy Plan.

 [read more online  
www.rcvs.org.uk/postcards](http://www.rcvs.org.uk/postcards)





# 5 facts and figures

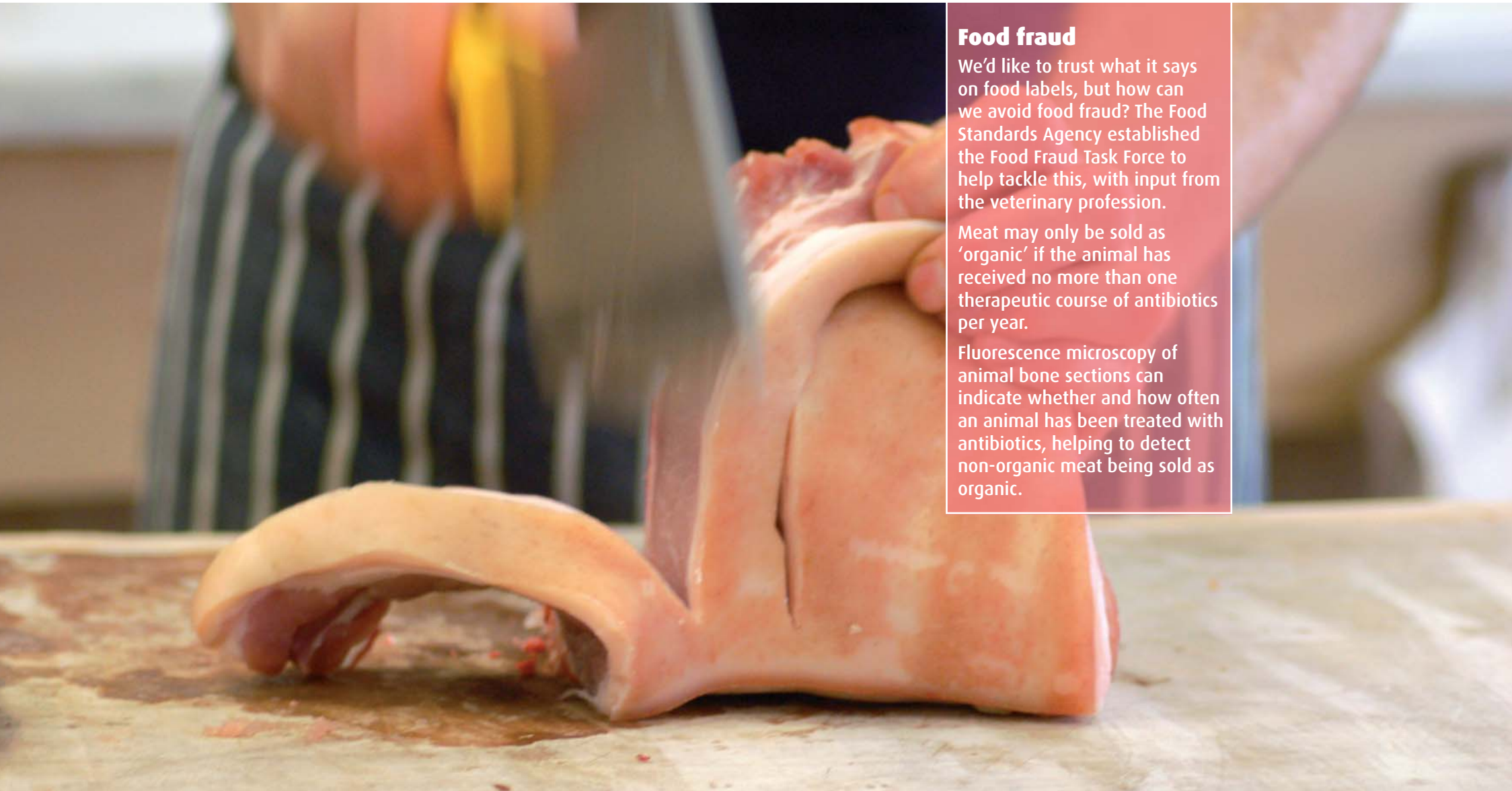


## Food fraud

We'd like to trust what it says on food labels, but how can we avoid food fraud? The Food Standards Agency established the Food Fraud Task Force to help tackle this, with input from the veterinary profession.

Meat may only be sold as 'organic' if the animal has received no more than one therapeutic course of antibiotics per year.

Fluorescence microscopy of animal bone sections can indicate whether and how often an animal has been treated with antibiotics, helping to detect non-organic meat being sold as organic.



## NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION of the profession

### Notes

General list I - members who have a recognised UK qualification

General list II - members who have a scheduled EU qualification

Commonwealth list - members who have an accepted Commonwealth qualification, or who have a Commonwealth qualification and have passed the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination

Foreign list - members who have an accepted overseas qualification, or who have an overseas qualification and have passed the RCVS Statutory Membership Examination

Temporary list - temporary members or visiting European veterinary surgeons

Supplementary Veterinary Register - members who were, or were entitled to be, Registered Veterinary Practitioners prior to the introduction of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966

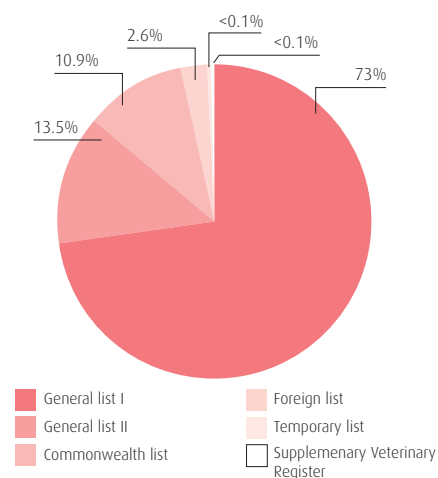
<sup>1</sup> Includes the Scottish Agricultural College

<sup>2</sup> This figure is calculated by subtraction and includes all members of the profession not allocated elsewhere, in addition to those in general practice. Estimates from our *Survey of the Profession 2006* indicated that about 91% of this group (12,173 in 2007) were likely to be in some form of general practice

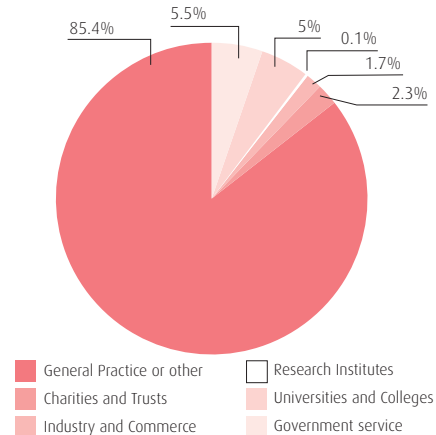
<sup>3</sup> Veterinary surgeons resident in the Republic of Ireland who qualified before 1 June 1988 and remain RCVS members

	31/03/2007	Totals	31/03/2006	Totals
Names entered on				
<b>General List I</b>	16172		15863	
<b>General List II</b>	2983		2741	
<b>Commonwealth List</b>	2417		2586	
<b>Foreign List</b>	568		588	
<b>Temporary List</b>	12		11	
<b>Supplementary Veterinary Register</b>	10		10	
		<b>22162</b>		<b>21799</b>
<b>HOME-PRACTISING</b>				
<b>Government service</b> <sup>1</sup>	856		769	
<b>Universities and Colleges</b>	791		663	
<b>Research Institutes</b>	21		17	
<b>Industry and Commerce</b>	266		299	
<b>Charities and Trusts</b>	357		337	
<b>General practice or other</b> <sup>2</sup>	13380		13155	
		<b>15671</b>		<b>15240</b>
<b>OVERSEAS-PRACTISING</b>		<b>2607</b>		<b>2746</b>
<b>NON-PRACTISING</b>				
<b>United Kingdom</b>	2193		2107	
<b>Overseas</b>	494		480	
		<b>2687</b>		<b>2587</b>
<b>REPUBLIC OF IRELAND</b> <sup>3</sup>		<b>1175</b>		<b>1205</b>
<b>OTHER</b>				
<b>Temporary List</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>11</b>
<b>Supplementary Veterinary Register</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>10</b>
		<b>22162</b>		<b>21799</b>

Breakdown of members by category of registerable qualification



Breakdown of home-practising members





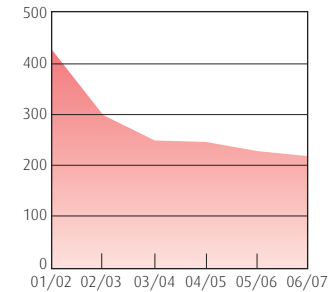
# REGISTRATION OF veterinary surgeons 2001/02 - 2006/07

Annual Report Year	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
<b>Overseas (Non-EU/EEA countries)</b>						
Australia	246	149	131	255	129	121
Canada	32	9	6	5	8	7
New Zealand	71	45	31	37	40	27
South Africa	61	65	59	37	40	46
United States of America	18	31	22	12	11	17
<b>Sub-total (Non-EU/EEA)</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>218</b>

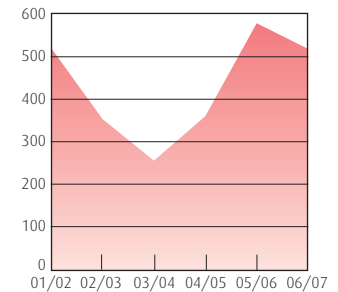
Annual Report Year	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
<b>Overseas (EU/EEA List)</b>						
Austria	22	8	10	8	7	6
Belgium	22	23	18	18	27	34
Cyprus <sup>1</sup>				0	0	0
Czech Republic <sup>1</sup>				5	12	11
Denmark	11	8	6	6	4	4
Estonia <sup>1</sup>				0	8	1
Finland	0	0	3	0	2	1
France	8	5	4	10	13	19
Germany	46	27	19	29	34	36
Greece	11	6	8	10	9	8
Hungary <sup>1</sup>				12	29	22
Iceland [EEA]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	64	44	54	51	45	34
Italy	30	17	21	27	56	48
Latvia <sup>1</sup>				0	3	9
Liechtenstein [EEA]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania <sup>1</sup>				0	14	17
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta <sup>1</sup>				0	0	0
Netherlands	14	9	11	20	15	22
Norway [EEA]	1	2	3	0	3	0
Poland <sup>1</sup>				28	104	103
Portugal	10	8	20	16	30	20
Slovakia <sup>1</sup>				21	51	43
Slovenia <sup>1</sup>				1	0	1
Spain	274	186	76	91	102	69
Sweden	8	6	3	3	2	1
Switzerland [EEA] <sup>2</sup>		6	2	6	9	10
<b>Sub-total (EU/EEA)</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>579</b>	<b>519</b>

<b>Overseas (RCVS Statutory Membership Examination)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Total overseas</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>819</b>	<b>755</b>
<b>UK graduates</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>569</b>
<b>Total number of registrations</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>1011</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>1384</b>	<b>1325</b>

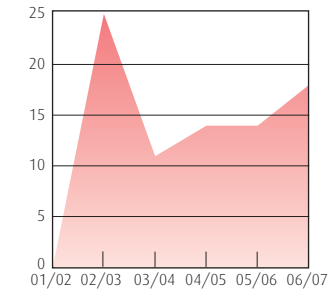
Overseas (Non-EU/EEA)



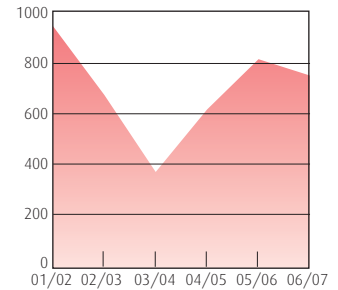
Overseas (EU/EEA)



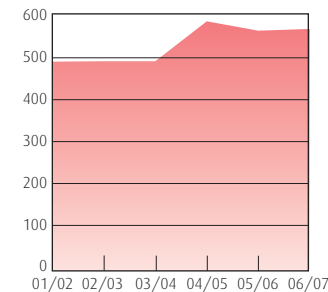
Overseas (RCVS Statutory Membership Examination)



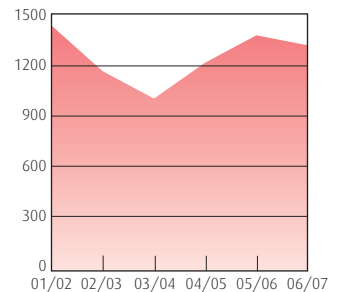
Total Overseas



UK Graduates



Total Registrations



<sup>1</sup> Not eligible for registration until 01/05/2004

<sup>2</sup> Not eligible for registration until 01/06/2002

These statistics are based on the country in which a registrant graduated and not their nationality at the time of their registration.

# UNDERGRADUATE student numbers 2006 to 2007

UK veterinary school students	Admissions to the first year of the veterinary course in 2006/2007			Admissions to the second or later year of the veterinary course in 2006/2007			Students admitted with a degree			Total numbers attending the veterinary degree course <sup>2</sup>			Veterinary students taking an intercalated science course in 2006/2007 <sup>3</sup>			Numbers of intercalated degree holders <sup>3</sup>			Numbers of students obtaining a veterinary degree in 2006							
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total					
Bristol	UK	22	87	113	0	0	0	0	10	12	132	412	557	3	9	14	9	22	31	27	60	92				
	EU	0	2		0	0		0	0		0	1		4	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	1
	Overseas	0	2		0	0		0	2		3	5		0	2		0	0		0	0		0	1	3	
Cambridge	UK	18	46	68	0	0	0	0	4	4	106	272	386	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	44	59				
	EU	0	2		0	0		0	0		0	5		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		
	Overseas	0	2		0	0		0	0		0	3		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		
Edinburgh	UK	19	61	100	5	17	73	6	20	76	98	362	611	1	5	6	3	19	23	26	61	101				
	EU	0	3		0	3		0	2		7	21		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	3	1	
	Overseas	1	16		2	46		2	46		12	111		0	0		0	1		0	10					
Glasgow	UK	28	50	114	0	3	8	3	1	38	127	256	532	1	2	3	2	2	4	23	60	86				
	EU	1	0		0	1		1	1		1	0		0	0		0	0		0						
	Overseas	10	25		0	4		9	24		45	102		0	0		0	0		1	2					
Liverpool	UK	13	79	98	1	12	14	2	14	18	125	394	534	6	15	21	10	24	34	21	68	94				
	EU	2	2		0	1		1	1		3	5		0	0		0	0		0	0					
	Overseas	0	2		0	0		0	0		2	5		0	0		0	0		0	2		3			
London	UK	36	153	219	5	23	29	5	28	55	147	800	1055	2	11	13	17	52	72	26	109	155				
	EU	1	5		0	1		0	1		4	18		0	0		0	0		2	0		2			
	Overseas	4	20		0	0		2	19		14	72		0	0		0	1		7	11					
Nottingham <sup>1</sup>	UK	19	68	95	n/a	n/a	n/a	5	15	22	19	68	95	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a				
	EU	1	6		n/a	n/a		0	2		1	6		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a		n/a						
	Overseas	0	1		n/a	n/a		0	0		0	1		n/a	n/a		n/a	n/a								
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>175</b>	<b>632</b>	<b>807</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>2923</b>	<b>3770</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>435</b>	<b>587</b>				

<sup>1</sup>Nottingham University's School of Veterinary Medicine and Science opened in 2006, hence only first-year student figures are available. The RCVS is currently working with Nottingham to ensure that its degree meets RCVS requirements; it will consider Nottingham's veterinary degree for approval in 2011 when the first cohort of students will be in their final year.

<sup>2</sup>Total numbers of students in the six-year degree course at Cambridge, both the five-year and six-year degree courses at London, and the five-year degree courses at the other veterinary schools.

<sup>3</sup>Prior to 2005, third-year students at Cambridge were shown as taking an intercalated degree and students in fourth, fifth and sixth years were shown as intercalated degree holders.

All data supplied to the RCVS by the veterinary schools, as required by Section 5(5) of the Veterinary Surgeons Act.

## NUMBER OF ENROLLED CANDIDATES

# and those who have obtained certificate and diploma qualifications as at 31 December 2006

Certificate subject	Total number of enrolled candidates	Enrolled candidates who have obtained approval to sit the examination	Total certificates awarded since inception of subject
Animal Welfare Science, Ethics & Law	20	3	40
<i>Bovine Reproduction</i> •	-	-	17
Cattle Health & Production	49	14	105
Equine Medicine (Int. Med.)	39	14	44
Equine Medicine (Stud Med.)	25	9	13
<i>Equine Orthopaedics</i> •	-	-	21
Equine Practice	89	29	98
<i>Equine Stud Medicine</i> •	-	-	22
Equine Surgery (Orth.)	42	17	41
Equine Surgery (Soft Tissue)	17	3	21
Fish Health & Production	-	-	2
Laboratory Animal Science	14	10	79
Pig Medicine	7	4	39
Poultry Medicine & Production	6	0	10
Sheep Health & Production	12	5	62
<i>Small Animal Cardiology</i> •	-	-	29
<i>Small Animal Dermatology</i> •	-	-	71
<i>Small Animal Orthopaedics</i> •	-	-	96
Small Animal Medicine	250	54	167
Small Animal Surgery	277	81	178
State Veterinary Medicine	1	-	6
Veterinary Anaesthesia	58	21	171
Veterinary Cardiology	71	15	65
Veterinary Dermatology	48	11	81
Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	65	17	18
Veterinary Ophthalmology	84	37	152
Veterinary Public Health (Meat Hygiene)	2	1	18
Veterinary Public Health (Food Hygiene)	2	2	3
<i>Veterinary Radiology</i> •	-	-	269
Veterinary Reproduction	-	-	2
Zoological Medicine	38	11	47
<b>Total (Certificates)</b>	<b>1216</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>1987</b>

Diploma subject	Total number of enrolled candidates	Enrolled candidates who have obtained approval to sit the examination	Total diplomas awarded* since inception of subject
Animal Welfare Science, Ethics & Law	6	1	6
Cattle Health & Production	9	4	14
Equine Internal Medicine	3	0	5
Equine Orthopaedics	3	1	11
Equine Soft Tissue Surgery	2	-	5
Equine Stud Medicine	0	-	6
Fish Health & Production	-	-	-
Laboratory Animal Science	3	0	23
Pig Medicine	1	-	12
Poultry Medicine & Production	2	-	6
Sheep Health & Production	0	0	10
Small Animal Medicine	17	9	28
Small Animal Medicine (Feline)	3	2	5
<i>Small Animal Orthopaedics</i> •	-	-	11
Small Animal Surgery (Orth.)	14	6	16
Small Animal Surgery (Soft Tissue)	8	2	14
State Veterinary Medicine	0	0	1
Veterinary Anaesthesia	7	5	70
Veterinary Cardiology	4	2	16
Veterinary Dermatology	4	1	19
Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	4	3	5
Veterinary Ophthalmology	8	4	21
Veterinary Public Health (Meat Hygiene)	1	-	5
<i>Veterinary Radiology</i> •	-	-	101
Veterinary Reproduction	-	-	3
Zoological Medicine	9	4	11
<b>Total (Diplomas)</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>424</b>

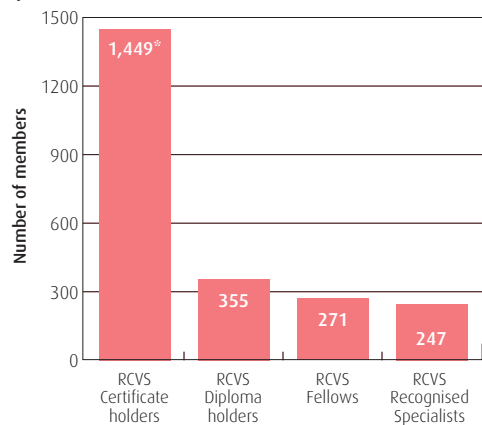
\*These figures **include** the following numbers of Foundation Diplomates: Equine Orthopaedics - 2; Equine Stud Medicine - 3; Laboratory Animal Science - 5; Pig Medicine - 5; Poultry Medicine & Production - 5; Small Animal Orthopaedics - 4; Veterinary Anaesthesia - 3; Veterinary Cardiology - 2; Veterinary Dermatology - 5; Veterinary Ophthalmology - 4; Veterinary Radiology - 5.

•These subjects have been superseded by new qualifications and are no longer available.



# PROFILE OF THE PROFESSION IN THE UK as at 31 March 2007

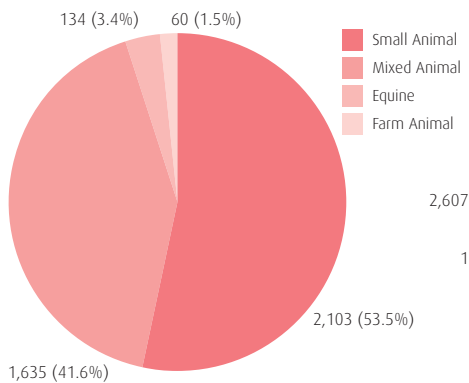
**Current holders of RCVS postgraduate qualifications and awards**



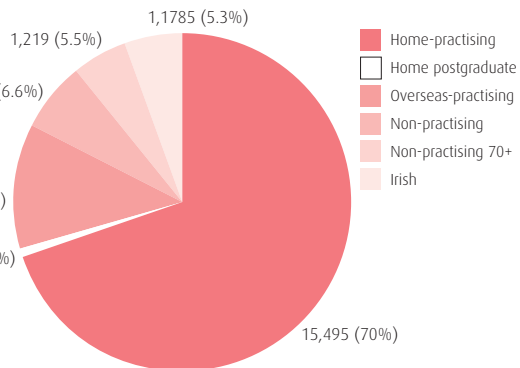
NB. Members may also possess a certificate, diploma or specialism in a different subject area.

\* Does not include those who have subsequently gained a diploma in the same subject.

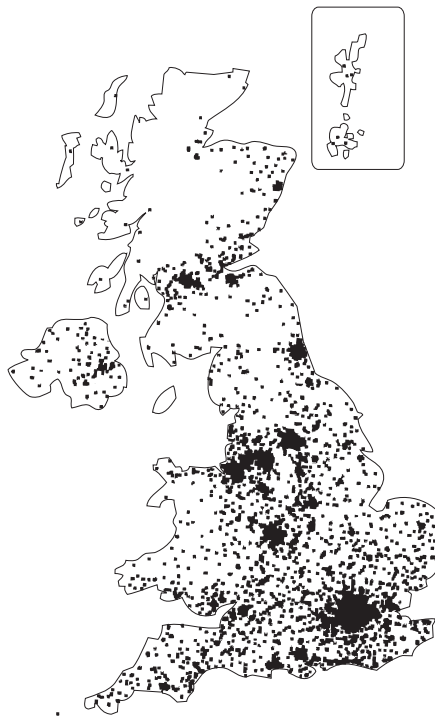
**Breakdown of UK veterinary practice categories**



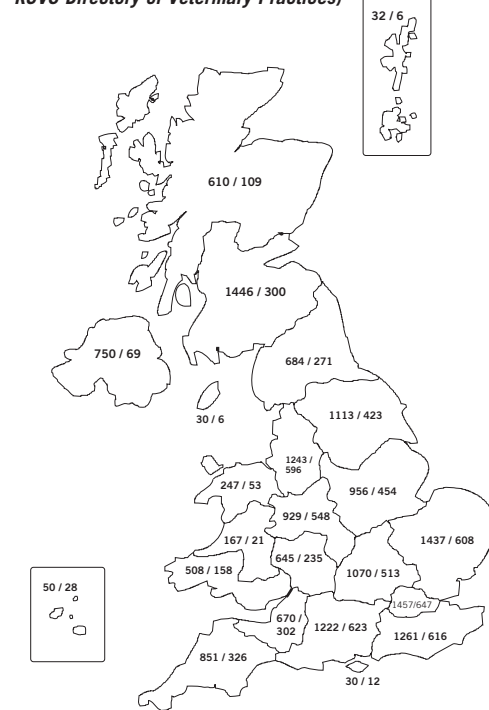
**Breakdown of principal RCVS membership categories**



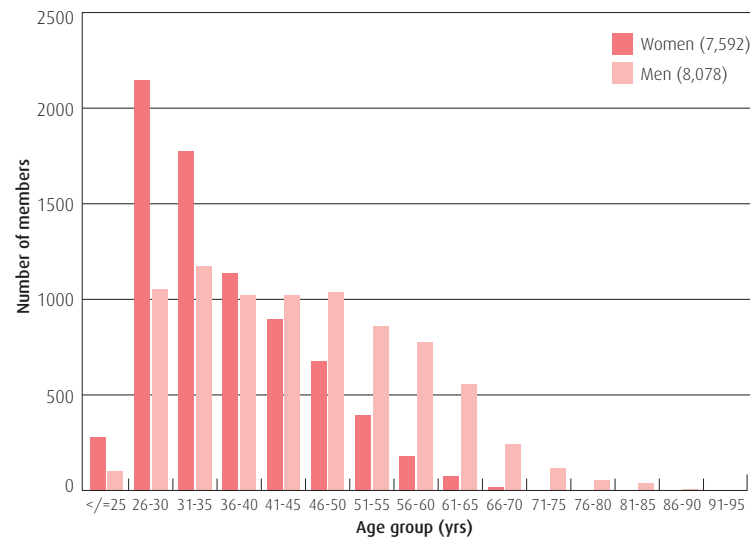
**Distribution of veterinary premises throughout the UK**



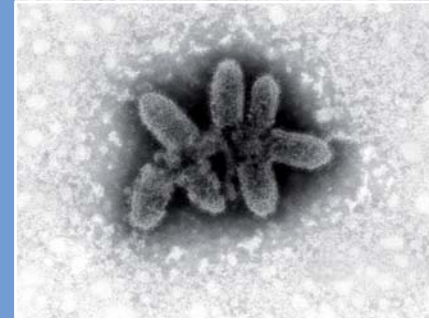
**Numbers of veterinary surgeons/veterinary nurses in the UK (regions based on those used in the RCVS Directory of Veterinary Practices)**



**Home-practising members by age and gender**



# 6 finance and accounts



## Have dog, will travel

All warm-blooded animals are susceptible to infection with rabies virus and rabies remains a highly fatal zoonosis. It is usually transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected animal with rabies virus in its saliva. The ubiquitous nature of rabies has always posed a threat to domestic pets, as well as humans, travelling overseas.

Now, under the Pet Travel Scheme, taking a pet abroad is more straightforward, thanks to the microchipping, vaccination and blood sampling available in most veterinary practices, and the serological testing performed by the Veterinary Laboratories Agency.



## FINANCIAL Statements

“ It is important for members to realise that registration and retention fees finance our statutory (regulatory) functions. Other (Charter) activities are self-financing. Any surplus can be used in many ways, including providing for a prudent contingency reserve. ”

Jerry Davies, RCVS Treasurer



### Introduction

The summarised Income and Expenditure account on page 35 shows a net surplus of £662,780 for the year.

### Income

- Total income for the year was £6,391,942 compared with £5,596,993, in 2005, an overall increase of 15%. The largest source of income is the Statutory Annual Retention Fee paid by members of the Royal College. A new category of membership for non-practising members over the age of 70 was introduced with effect from 1 April 2006. They no longer have to pay a fee to remain on the *RCVS Register of Members* but do not receive all RCVS mailings.
- The Practice Standards Scheme was introduced in January 2005. The income shown in the 2005 accounts was for new applications only; annual fees became payable in January 2006.

- The income from RCVS Awarding Body activities, responsible for the Veterinary Nurse Training Scheme, continues to increase.
- An analysis of all the sources of income is shown in figures 3 and 4.

Figure 3. Breakdown of income 2006 (%)

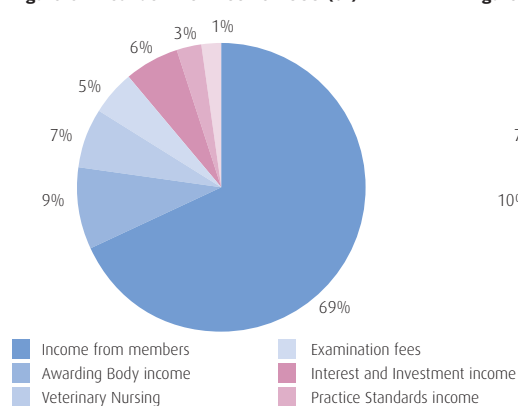
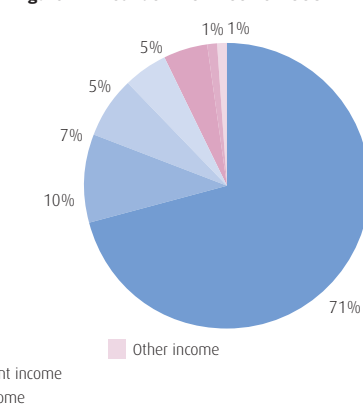


Figure 4. Breakdown of income 2005



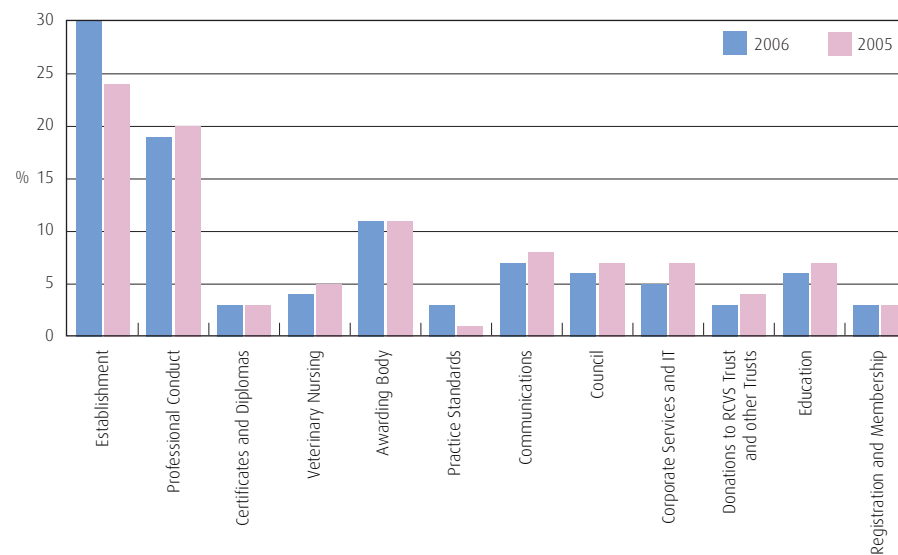
### Expenditure

- Total expenditure for the year before depreciation was £5,491,133 compared with £4,831,775 in 2005, an increase of 14%.
- Disciplinary costs were 35% higher than 2005 due to an increase in the number of cases investigated and one very long Disciplinary Committee Inquiry (see page 11 for further details).
- The RCVS Awarding Body expenditure includes direct costs only with no reallocation of overheads – building costs, support services etc.

- Practice Standards costs have increased reflecting the additional inspections carried out
- Extensive work was undertaken on our air conditioning system (replacing all the equipment on the roof) and the roofing felt on Belgravia House was renewed.
- Our database software underwent a major re-write.

An analysis of expenditure is shown in figure 5.

Figure 5. Expenditure 2006 and 2005 (%)





## FINANCIAL Statements

## CORPORATE Governance

### Summarised accounts

These summarised accounts inevitably contain only some of the information about our affairs and those of our subsidiary. The full annual accounts and the auditors' report on those accounts should be consulted for further information. Copies of these can be obtained from the Finance Department, Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF. The full accounts were approved on behalf of the Council on 7 June 2007 and received an unqualified report from Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP.

The governing documents of the RCVS are the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and a Royal Charter. The Charter establishes the College as an incorporated body able to own its own property, sue and be sued, affix a seal, etc. It provides for the management of the College through general meetings, Council and Committees and enables the College to employ staff. The Act deals with the composition of Council and election of Officers. Investment and financial responsibilities are set out in the Charter although the main source of income, the statutory levy (registration and retention fees), is provided for in the Act.

Council has established a framework within which committees, subcommittees, boards and working parties deal with detail, referring strategic and important decisions to Council.

### Auditors statement to the members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons

We have examined the summarised accounts set out on pages 35 to 36.

### Respective responsibilities of the Treasurer and Auditors

The Treasurer is responsible for the preparation of the summarised accounts. We have agreed to report our opinion on the summarised accounts' consistency with the full accounts, on which we reported to you on 7 June 2007.

### Basis of opinion

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the summarised accounts are consistent with the full accounts from which they have been prepared.

### Opinion

In our opinion the summarised accounts are consistent with the full accounts for the year ended 31 December 2006.

Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP  
Chartered Accountants and  
Registered Auditors  
7 June 2007

## SUMMARISED Accounts

ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2006	2006		2005	
	£	£	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>				
Income from members (including Recognised Specialists)	4,442,360		3,971,747	
RCVS Awarding Body income	586,378		539,925	
Veterinary Nursing	435,433		384,671	
RCVS examination fees	290,688		295,918	
Practice Standards income	180,069		35,848	
Interest and investment income	360,829		286,315	
Publications and other income	96,185		82,569	
		6,391,942		5,596,993
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Statutory and regulatory functions	1,129,975		835,245	
RCVS Awarding Body expenditure	613,375		517,463	
Veterinary Nursing expenditure	232,070		262,573	
RCVS examination costs	149,011		157,783	
Establishment running costs	394,458		545,075	
Administration	2,753,576		2,308,867	
Support for RCVS Trust and other Trusts	180,000		172,525	
Subscriptions and European activity	38,668		32,244	
	5,491,133		4,831,775	
Depreciation	234,063		197,109	
		5,725,196		5,028,884
Surplus before taxation		666,746		568,109
Taxation		20,164		(20,340)
Surplus after taxation		646,582		588,449
(Loss) / Surplus on sale of investments		(37,802)		28,408
Pension scheme actuarial gain / (loss) (FRS 17)		54,000		(89,000)
Surplus transferred to accumulated fund		662,780		527,857
Accumulated fund at 1 January 2006		6,505,906		5,977,049
Surplus transferred to accumulated fund		662,780		527,857
Prior year pension restatement		-		1,000
Provision for non-recurring activities		(160,000)		-
Accumulated fund at 31 December 2006		7,008,686		6,505,906

## SUMMARISED Accounts

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER 2006	GROUP	COLLEGE	GROUP	COLLEGE
	31/12/06	31/12/06	31/12/05	31/12/05
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	£	£	£	£
Tangible assets	3,655,974	3,655,974	3,411,875	3,411,869
Investments at cost				
- Listed Securities	1,154,830	1,154,830	1,165,791	1,165,791
- Subsidiary	-	2,000,002	-	2,000,002
	4,810,804	6,810,806	4,577,666	6,577,662
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
RCVS Trust Fund	204,044	204,044	20,086	20,086
Debtors and prepayments	114,586	114,586	122,928	122,928
Short term deposits	4,674,377	4,672,690	3,985,891	3,984,199
	4,993,007	4,991,320	4,128,905	4,127,213
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Annual fees received in advance	1,103,928	1,103,928	990,081	990,081
Creditors and accruals	536,780	536,778	426,849	423,560
Subsidiary company	-	2,058,705	-	2,062,061
Taxation	20,164	20,164	20,743	20,743
	1,660,872	3,719,575	1,437,673	3,496,445
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS - excluding pension liability</b>	3,332,135	1,271,745	2,691,232	630,768
Pension liability	544,253	554,253	332,992	332,992
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	7,598,686	7,528,298	6,935,906	6,875,438
<b>RESERVES</b>				
Accumulated fund excluding pension liability	7,562,939	7,492,551	6,838,898	6,778,430
Pension reserve	(554,253)	(554,253)	(332,992)	(332,992)
Accumulated fund after pension reserve	7,008,686	6,938,298	6,505,906	6,445,438
Disciplinary reserve	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000
Contingency reserve	160,000	160,000	-	-
	7,598,686	7,528,298	6,935,906	6,875,438



## COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP

### 7 July 2006 - 6 July 2007

## STAFF LIST

### as at 31 March 2007

RCVS Council comprises 24 elected Members, two appointees from each of six UK veterinary schools and four persons appointed by the Privy Council - as specified in the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966.

#### Elected Members

Lydia Brown	2/3
Christopher Chesney	2/3
Sheila Crispin	3/3
Jerry Davies	3/3
Roger Eddy	3/3
Bertie Ellis	3/3
Neil Gorman	3/3
David Harding	2/3
Wendy Harrison	2/3
Lynne Hill	3/3
Peter Jinman	3/3
Barry Johnson	2/3
David McDowell	3/3
Jacqui Molyneux	2/2
Bob Moore	3/3
Jill Nute	3/3
Bob Partridge	2/2
Christine Shield	3/3
Geoffrey Skerritt	2/3
Neil Smith	3/3
Nigel Swayne	3/3
Clare Tapsfield-Wright	2/2
Bradley Viner	3/3
Stephen Ware	3/3

#### University-appointed Members

Alistair Barr (B)	2/2
Alison Bruce (G)	1/3
Caroline Freedman (E)	2/3
Chris Gaskell (Lv)	1/3
Michael Herrtage (C)	3/3
Quintin McKellar (Ln)	3/3
Duncan Maskell (C)	2/3
Stephen May (Ln)	3/3
Stuart Reid (G)	1/3
Frank Taylor (B)	2/3
Sandy Trees (Lv)	2/3
Elaine Watson (E)	2/3

#### Privy Council-appointed Members

Brian Jennings	3/3
Martyn Jones	3/3
Debby Reynolds	3/3
Barbara Saunders	2/3

#### Annette Amato

Freda Andrews
Elizabeth Barter
Colin Bell
Dorothy Brereton
Graeme Broster
Melanie Brown
Danielle Burn
Mike Byrne
Viv Carbines
Fiona Clark
Nicholas Clarke
John Collins
Daniel de Cruz
Kathryn Dent
Ashley Doorly
Myai Du
Julie Dugmore
Libby Earle
Janet Etheridge
Lesley Evans
Lucy Evans
Rebecca Fennessy
Eleanor Ferguson
Bonnie Fernley
Christine Fraser
Jeff Gill
Janet Gordon-Jones
Andrew Grainger
Pam Greening
Jenny Harris

#### Helen Heathcote

Vicky Hedges
Michael Hepper
Jane Hern
Gordon Hockey
Ian Holloway
Jon Jarvis
Anne Jermey
Lizzie Lockett
Corrie McCann
Gerri McHugh
Simone Mauger
Christopher Murdoch
Ben Myring
Susan Newham
Jordan Nicholls
Jennifer Orme
Martin Osborne
Marilyn Pablo
Nicola Page
Vivienne Pankhurst
Thelma Rees
Charlotte Stewart
Joanne Till
Liz Troman
Danielle van den Berg
Martyn Webster
Sue Whall
Dawn Wiggins
Tom Winters

#### Acknowledgements:

Special thanks to all veterinary staff, their clients and patients who are pictured in this *Report* and to those who allowed us to take photographs on their premises.

Photography (unless stated):  
Ian Holloway, RCVS

Design and print:  
David Backhurst, Elanders (UK) Ltd

#### Note:

Universities: B = Bristol; C = Cambridge; E = Edinburgh; G = Glasgow;  
Lv = Liverpool; Ln=London.

3/3 = attendance at Council Meetings during the year under review,  
ie. 01/04/06 - 31/03/07 (denominator indicates total number of possible  
meetings for each Council Member).



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