



RCVS News

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

November 1999

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RCVS News

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LOOKING TOWARDS THE NEW MILLENNIUM - The last Council of the century addressed the needs of the new millenium in regulating procedures, delegation, clinical research and the effectiveness of RCVS Day.

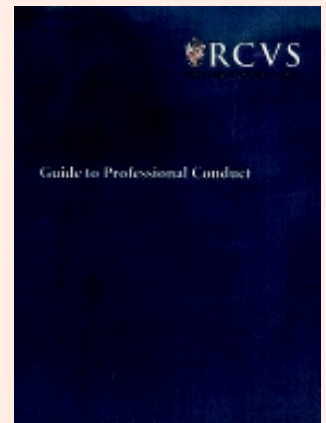
A GUIDE FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Following a wide consultation within the profession, RCVS Council approved the final draft of the Millennium Guide to Professional Conduct, taking the College and the profession into the 21st century!

The format and presentation of the Guide is dramatically different. Its philosophy and drafting style has been brought into line with other bodies regulating health care professions. The new Guide is concise (approximately a quarter of its previous length), and user-friendly. It is designed to be read by two audiences, the profession and the public, and sets out the main responsibilities of veterinary surgeons followed by advice on specific issues. More detailed background information will be in a third section of annexes.

Since the inception of the first Guide in 1951, many amendments and revisions had led to a publication which had become progressively more unwieldy to the point where ethical and legal obligations had become blurred. The new Guide focusses on ethical guidance. A companion on veterinary legislation will be published during the year 2000. Ethical standards, like the law, must adapt to reflect changing attitudes and scientific advances.

The hard copy will be accompanied by an electronic version on a CD-Rom which can be downloaded onto practice computers and regularly updated from the RCVS website. This will allow for the Guide to adapt rapidly to change. The Guide will be circulated to all members at the turn of the millennium.



FREEDOM TO DELEGATE ?

Council discussed proposals which would give veterinary surgeons wider power to delegate acts of veterinary surgery to trained para-professionals. It was accepted that certain procedures currently reserved to veterinary surgeons could be done, with benefits for animal welfare, by para-professionals. Specific areas identified as needing early attention include extending the range of procedures which could be undertaken by veterinary nurses, enabling other para-professionals to carry out ultrasound scanning and artificial insemination and regulating activities such as foot trimming and equine dentistry. Council has approved further consultation within and outside the profession.



The new RCVS Officers: (from left to right) Dr Bertie Ellis, Treasurer, Dr Lydia Brown, Senior Vice-President, Professor Bob Michell, President, Miss Jane Hern, Registrar and Mr Roger Eddy, Junior Vice-President.

BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT...

Council has approved a new venue and format for RCVS Day after it was forced to look at new ideas for the July event because numbers attending have gradually declined over the years. The Conference and Banqueting Centre at Church House, Deans Yard, Westminster, SW1 (behind Westminster Abbey) has been booked for next year. The programme for the 7th July 2000 will be:

10.00 am:	Coffee
10.30 am:	Prayer of Thanksgiving/Short Address
10.45 am:	AGM and Presentation of Awards
12 noon:	Millennium Prize Lecture
12.30 pm:	Drinks and Canapés

Members will be invited to attend by applying for free tickets on a "first come, first served" basis.

Over 12,000 visitors a week at - www.rcvs.org.uk

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please Check Your Address and Post Code!

You may be surprised to know that the RCVS holds almost 40,000 addresses of veterinary surgeons and veterinary practices on its computers. We use these to write to you and to publish the Register and the Directory of Practices. Of these 40,000 addresses, some 30,000 are in the UK. Many of these were becoming out of date, because of recent changes to postcodes and counties. We have therefore carried out a mass check of all our UK addresses against the Post Office list.

The Post Office list is not 100% accurate - no list is - so although we believe we have most of our addresses right, some will certainly be wrong, or misleading. Can you therefore check the address we used to send this copy of the RCVS News to you, or look in the Register, and let the Membership Department at the College know of any problems. Usually we will need to know only three things:

- **The number of your house or practice (if it has one) and the street or road**
- **Your post town**
- **Your correct post code**

And of course, if your address changes in future, we will be grateful if you can send us the same information. This information can be sent by letter, fax or email to Membership@rcvs.org.uk.

Changing your Membership Status:

To Become a Home Member

Overseas Members: Members returning to the United Kingdom should inform the Membership Department of a change of address and they will automatically be charged the Home Member's Fee with effect from the following 1st April.

Retired Members: Members who wish to change their status back to Home Member should write to the Membership Department enclosing a cheque for the sum of £130 (£135 with effect from 1 April 2000), this being the balance of the Home Member's Fee.

To Become an Overseas Member

Members leaving the United Kingdom to work overseas should inform the Membership Department of a change of address and they will automatically be charged the Overseas Member's Fee with effect from the following 1st April

To Become a Retired Member

Members, both Home and Overseas, who are eligible and wish to transfer to the Retired List for one of the following reasons should request an application form for retired members:

- those who have ceased all gainful employment by reason of ill health, parenthood, family commitments
- those who have reached the age of 60 years and are retired from all gainful employment of a veterinary nature

Voluntary Removal

Members may, provided there are no disciplinary matters outstanding, voluntarily remove themselves from the Register. They should contact the Membership Department and request an 'Application for Removal of a Name From the Register of Veterinary Surgeons' and accompanying declaration. Members who voluntarily remove themselves may subsequently apply for re-registration by applying for and completing a 'Re-registration Form' and returning it with the current Registration Fee (currently £170, but £175 from 1 April 2000). A certificate of good professional standing will also be required in respect of ex-Members who have been practising overseas.

Removal for Non-Payment of Fees

Members who have been removed for non-payment of fees may subsequently apply for Restoration to the Register by applying for and completing a 'Restoration Form' and returning it with the current Registration Fee (currently £170.00). A certificate of good professional standing will also be required in respect of ex-Members who have been practising overseas.

If your bank details change and you pay your retention fee by Direct Debit, a copy of the bank mandate is then required.

STAFF MEMBER RETIRES

Mrs Aly Rhodes (right), Register Administrator at the College, is retiring in December after twenty-five years at the RCVS.

Aly joined the College in May 1974 as a clerk in the Membership Department under the then Assistant Registrar, Mr Shapcott. In October 1976, she took over responsibility for the Registers of Members, which in those days were maintained manually. She witnessed the introduction of the first very basic computerised membership database in 1983, and has since seen three further conversions before the current system was installed in April 1998. She has played a major part in the introduction of new technology in the College and over the years has gained the respect and trust of a large number of the profession when dealing with their requests for advice and assistance.

Aly will be sorely missed by all members of staff.



RCVS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

We are pleased to announce that the Privy Council has approved the terms of a new Council Election Scheme. The essential differences are:

Extended times for nominations - to 31 January in any year;

Candidate's Statement - 500 words together with a photograph of the candidate, for publication to members with the voting papers;

Statement by Candidate's Proposers: the Nomination Form may be accompanied by a statement from each of the candidates proposers of not more than 100 words for publication to members with the voting papers;

Candidates Declaration: candidate must confirm his/her eligibility and willingness to comply with codes of practice or guidance issued by Council governing the conduct of Council Members.

In accordance with the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Council Election Scheme 1967, six persons who must be members of the Royal College resident outside the Republic of Ireland (unless being resident in the Republic of Ireland he/she has retained the right to vote in Council elections, pursuant to the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons (Agreement with the Republic of Ireland) Order 1988) will be elected in 2000 to be members of the Council of the said Royal College, for a period of four years from the Annual General Meeting in July 2000.

The current members of Council will retire at the Annual General Meeting in 2000 and are eligible for re-election, namely:

**Dr C J Chesney DVetMed
DVD MRCVS
Beaumont House
Broadclyst
Exeter
Devon EX5 3JH**

**Dr R N W Ellis BVSc PhD MRCVS
Llwynderw
Abergwesyn
Llanwrtyd Wells
Powys LD5 4TW**

**Dr J N Lucke BVSc PhD DVA
MRCVS
The White House
Havyatt Green
Langford
Bristol BS40 5DB**

**Professor A R Michell BVetMed
BSc PhD DSc MRCVS
Mill Barn, Mill Lane
Exning
Suffolk CB8 7JW**

**Mr D J Thompson OBE BA MVB
MRCVS
Earlswood Veterinary Hospital
193 Belmont Road
Belfast BT4 2AE**

**Mr J S Ware BVM&S MRCVS
25 Oxford Road
Woodstock
Oxford
OX20 1UN**

Nominations of persons for election to the Council must be submitted in writing on the prescribed form which may be obtained from, and which must be returned to her, the undersigned, duly completed on or before **31 January 2000**.

The Nomination Form may be accompanied by a Statement from each of the candidate's proposers of **not more than 100 words** for publication to members with the voting papers.

Candidates may submit a Statement of **not more than 500 words**, together with a photograph, for publication with the voting papers. This should be received by the **Registrar no later than 31 January 2000**.

Voting papers will subsequently be distributed to all members of the College, other than those who are resident in the Republic of Ireland who have not retained their right to vote in Council elections (see above) on or before 6 March 1999.

Each nomination form must bear the signatures and registered addresses of two proposers. **NO** proposer may:

- nominate more than one candidate; or
- be a member of Council; or
- reside in the Republic of Ireland, unless he/she has retained his/her right to vote in Council elections. (see above)

It should be noted that the term "proposer" includes not only the person who would normally be so described but also the person who may often be described as the "second". The nomination form must also bear the signature of the candidate, including his/her willingness to accept nomination.

J C Hern
Registrar

EUROPEAN NEWS

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE)

Two important positions in European veterinary politics were taken up by UK practitioners at the last General Assembly of the FVE at the end of May. Mr Fred Nind and Mr Stephen Ware were elected President and Secretary General respectively of the European Union of Veterinary Practitioners (UEVP). Their positions will help ensure that the interests of UK practitioners are fully represented in Europe.

The issues highlighted at the last General Assembly of the FVE were the availability of medicines, the prudent use of antibiotics, food safety in the light of the Belgian dioxin crisis, veterinary education and the Advisory Committee on Veterinary Training.

The next General Assembly, which will be held on 26 & 27 November 1999 in Brussels, will see veterinary education and European food safety examined in greater detail. Two workshops are planned for an entire afternoon to focus on these two issues. important issues. RCVS interests will be fully represented at both sessions.



Dr Orozco, Dr Anguera and President Borregon of the Consejo General de Colegios Veterinarios de Espana with Professor Bob Michell, RCVS President and Dr Lydia Brown, RCVS Senior Vice-President after a meeting to discuss Spanish vets working in meat hygiene.

SHARE JONES LECTURE IN VETERINARY ANATOMY

The Share-Jones Lecture in Veterinary Anatomy took place on Friday 22 October 1999 at University of Glasgow Veterinary School. The speaker, Jack Boyd, Professor of Clinical Veterinary Anatomy at Glasgow University, had entitled his lecture *Standing on the Outside Looking in: New Imaging Techniques: a New Anatomy*. The rapid expansion of the use of diagnostic equipment, especially in ultrasound, has led to an increased desire to understand more about the anatomical detail which is dramatically revealed and displayed by these new imaging techniques. Professor Boyd focussed on what imaging technologies are available in the clinical anatomist and demonstrated how they could be used to assist in the vitality of the teaching of veterinary anatomy.

CLOSING DATES FOR CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA EXAMINATIONS

All those interested in continuing with or embarking on a course of study for a Certificate or Diploma are asked to take careful note of the dates given below.

There are three stages to be completed prior to sitting a Certificate or Diploma examination. Fees are required at stages 1 and 3.

- 1. ENROLMENT AND INITIAL APPROVAL OF EXPERIENCE.**
- 2. FINAL APPROVAL OF EXPERIENCE** which includes submission of photocopies of CPD record cards for the period of experience since 1 July 1997 and, for some subjects, also includes submission of evidence of experience.
- 3. EXAMINATION ENTRY.** Submitted work, which forms Part (a) of the examination, is required either with the examination entry or by a specified date shortly afterwards; candidates must check the requirement for their subject.

Information packs on all subjects are updated each year after the annual Subject Board meeting. It is very important that enrolled and potential candidates ensure, before submitting any application forms, that the information they hold is up to date.

Deadlines for Enrolment and Initial Approval of Experience and Final Approval of Experience:

1 May 2000 or
1 November 2000 Equine Medicine, Equine Practice, Equine Surgery, Fish Health and Production, Pig Medicine, and Production, Poultry Medicine, State Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Ophthalmology, Zoological Medicine.

1 November 2000 Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, Cattle Health and Production, Laboratory Animal Science, Sheep Health and Production, Small Animal Medicine, Small Animal Surgery, Veterinary Anaesthesia, Veterinary Cardiology, Veterinary Dermatology, Veterinary Public Health, Veterinary Radiology, Veterinary Reproduction.

Examination Entry: for those candidates who have been granted Final Approval of Experience.

1 March 2000 * Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, Cattle Health and Production, Laboratory Animal Science, Sheep Health and Production, Small Animal Medicine, Small Animal Surgery, Veterinary Anaesthesia, Veterinary Cardiology, Veterinary Dermatology, Veterinary Public Health, Veterinary Radiology, Veterinary Reproduction.

1 March 2001*
ALL SUBJECTS Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law, Cattle Health and Production, Equine Medicine, Equine Practice, Equine Surgery, Fish Health and Production, Laboratory Animal Science, Pig Medicine, Poultry Medicine and Production, Sheep Health and Production, Small Animal Medicine, Small Animal Surgery, State Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Anaesthesia, Veterinary Cardiology, Veterinary Dermatology, Veterinary Ophthalmology, Veterinary Public Health, Veterinary Radiology, Veterinary Reproduction, Zoological Medicine.

*Submitted work for **Diploma candidates** is also required by these dates.

Candidates for RCVS examinations are reminded that it is their responsibility to ensure that the correct application form and fee and their submitted work for Part (a) of the examination reaches the RCVS by the relevant closing dates. Incomplete entry forms or late work will not be accepted. When a closing date falls over the weekend or Bank Holiday, the deadline is taken as midday on the next working day.

Application forms and information on Certificates and Diplomas are available from the Education Department at RCVS. Information packs are not issued for some six months following the enrolment closing date for each subject. This is to allow the Subject Board, at its annual meeting, to consider amendments to information contained in the packs and to give the Board Secretary time to update the packs. It also ensures that veterinary surgeons who may wish to enrol the following year receive information that is up-to-date.

STUDENT VN EXAM SUCCESS

The first student veterinary nurses (VNs) eligible to train under the new Scottish/National Vocational Qualification (S/NVQ) were celebrating their success over the Summer in the Level 2 (part 1) examinations. The pass rate was 72% compared with 50-55% which was usual for those taking the old Part 1 examination. Libby Earle, Head of Veterinary Nursing at the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) said that: "the first set of examination results are very encouraging, especially as this is the first year of the new training scheme. The Portfolios so far submitted have also been of a high standard. It seems that the ongoing work required to complete Portfolio modules is being reflected in examination success".

It has been almost nine months since the trials in practice of the new S/NVQ scheme began. The introduction of the Portfolios, replacing the Practical Book, has been the most noticeable difference between the old VN scheme and the new and student VNs find that they have to take a more active role in the practice because of what is required in their Portfolios. A qualified VN who works with and trains student VNs claimed that although the Practical Book was easier, the new Portfolio "will make better nurses at the end of the day". Veterinary surgeons have also commented that the new scheme is a great improvement; it provides much clearer guidance as to what student VNs should be achieving in the practice.



Helen Francis, one of this Summer's successful VN students, at work.

CHANGE IN CPD POLICY

RCVS Council has approved a few amendments to the 1999/2000 Policy Document as suggested by the CPD Sub-Committee. The entire Policy can be viewed on the RCVS website at <http://www.rcvs.org.uk/>

This Policy is reviewed annually, and the CPD Committee would welcome comments from members or interested parties either by e-mail (j.waterfall@rcvs.org.uk) or letter.

The RCVS Website will be developed as a reference point to link to other Websites which provide specialist veterinary information. There are excellent veterinary websites available both in the UK and overseas, and it is anticipated that the RCVS site will provide a link to these.

DO YOU NEED A LICENCE?

A new accord with the Home Office over teaching and clinical research.

The College has been in discussions with the Home Office and other interested parties and formulated guidelines on the interface between the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. These were approved by RCVS Council.

Veterinary surgeons involved in the use of animals in clinical teaching, investigation, diagnostic tests and the application of new therapies need to know whether they are involved in recognised veterinary practice or whether they need a Home Office licence and the Guide should help to resolve uncertainties. If in any doubt please contact the RCVS.

REGULATION FOR VETERINARY NURSES?

The Veterinary Nurses Committee recommended to Council that a system of voluntary regulation for VNs be investigated. This was seen to be important in view of the additional responsibilities that veterinary nurses might take on if veterinary surgeons are given wider powers to delegate acts of veterinary surgery. Voluntary regulation is seen to be a stage towards the eventual statutory registration of VNs

VETS EAGER FOR EASY ACCESS TO ONLINE FACILITIES

Preliminary results from a survey of veterinary information use and provision show a huge demand for full text information online. A sample of practising veterinary surgeons shared their experiences on computers, the Internet, email and libraries with City University researcher Tim Wales via surveys and interviews.

Main findings include:

- despite the growing numbers of veterinary surgeons going online, journal articles, textbooks and conferences are considered to be the three most important information sources
- there is an overwhelming demand for easy access to full-text information (especially journal articles) via the Internet
- nearly two-thirds of those surveyed use email for their work, mainly to exchange information with other veterinary surgeons in the UK
- e-mail is also cited as being the preferred means of communicating information, followed by paper documents
- credibility of source, personal experience and discussion with colleagues are the three main criteria used for evaluating information
- time is seen as the biggest barrier to information use, followed by cost
- the two most frequently cited problems are out-of-date or unavailable information sources
- veterinary surgeons believe the RCVS Wellcome Library should be much more proactive in promoting its services and online catalogue to practitioners and should consider providing information and internet skills workshops as well as quality online resources. Provision of the latter would be one means of providing the 'easier access' to the library's information demanded by those veterinary surgeons in remote areas

Tom Roper, Head of Library and Information Services said " The RCVS Wellcome Library has a lot to offer the profession and our catalogue and services are already available online through the RCVS web site (<http://www.rcvs.org.uk>). We will be taking on board the suggestions from the survey: we have held a successful first Internet skills course, an experiment we hope to repeat. We see important roles for the library in encouraging publishers to develop electronic content and in negotiating access arrangements to that content on behalf of the profession." Full survey results will be published on the RCVS web pages in due course.



Mr Richard Smith is the lucky winner of a bottle of bubbly in the Survey Prize Draw. 'Easy access to information via the Internet is the key to a bright future', he believes



RCVS TRUST AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Q: What is the connection between the names William Russell Horwood, John Lord Perry, Alison Alston, Keith Anderson Walker, Robert Daubney and Muriel Doreen Sparrow?

A: These are the names of those who, among others, left generous bequests to the RCVS Trust – names of those who shared a desire to benefit present and future generations of veterinarians – names found in the titles of several of the Trust's grants and awards.

Last month the **RCVS Trust's Awards Programme** for postgraduate educational and research projects starting in 2000 was announced - 17 awards are available, totalling over £430,000 in the next 3 years. **The application closing date is 14 January 2000**, and complete details and application forms may be obtained from: Virginia Caldwell-McNay, RCVS Trust, Belgravia House, 62 - 64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF. Tel: 020 - 7222 2001. Fax: 020 - 7222 2004. Email: trust@rcvs.org.uk.

EARLY SUCCESS

The new RCVS Credit Card was successfully launched in September. Early reports indicate that RCVS Members and listed VNs have achieved an impressive take-up rate for the Card, with over 120 accounts opened within just 4 weeks of the card being launched. A hearty "thank you" to those who have already become card-carrying members!

The RCVS Trust receives royalty payments from the issuing bank for every card account which is opened, every time cards are used for retail purchases, and on the anniversary of all active cards. The more Members take up the RCVS Credit Card - and use it - the more the Trust's funds for veterinary education and research will grow.

With this issue of *RCVS News* is an application leaflet for the RCVS Credit Card – in case you failed to receive the initial announcement and application. Why not apply to become a card-carrying member today?



RCVS TRUST AWARDS PROGRAMME 2000-2003

Tenure of awards is up to 3 years, unless otherwise noted

CANINE STUDIES

Alison Alston Canine Award £12,000 p.a.

FELINE STUDIES

West Scholarship for Feline Research £8,000 p.a.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, PUBLIC HEALTH & FOOD HYGIENE or EPIDEMIOLOGY

John Lord Perry Research Scholarship £12,000 p.a.

VIROLOGY & HELMINTHOLOGY

Robert Daubney Fellowship £10,000 p.a.

CLINICAL TRAINING (POSTGRADUATE)

Clarke & Sparrow Residencies 4 @£10,000 p.a.

PRODUCTION ANIMAL MEDICINE

Millennium Residencies 5 @ £12,000 p.a.

RCVS DIPLOMA (DCHP or SCHP)

Walker Memorial Award £1500 - 1 yr only

TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP

Wright Memorial Award £1000 - 1 yr only

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS' PROJECTS

MacKellar Award 2 @ £800 - 1 yr only

Full details of each award & applications from: RCVS Trust, Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF
Tel 020-7222 2001 Fax 020-7222 2004 E-mail: trust@rcvs.org.uk

Closing date for applications: 14 January 2000

MEET THE RCVS OFFICER TEAM!!

Come and meet the RCVS Officer team in an informal atmosphere at Regional Meetings to find out more about the College and raise issues which concern you.

The RCVS Wellcome Library and RCVS Trust are also present at the meetings to provide information about what they offer.

Personalised invitations are sent out to members within reasonable travelling distance of the venue prior to the Meetings, although all members are invited to attend.

The next Regional Meetings will be:

17 November 1999: The Angel Hotel, Cardiff
18 November 1999: The Falcon, Stratford on Avon

Future dates for 2000 are:

22 March 2000: The Russell, Maidstone, Kent
23 March 2000: The Dunadry, Belfast

MILLENNIUM MESSAGE

From the President: Professor A R Michell DSc MRCVS

At the Millennium it seems appropriate to reaffirm the constancies which we must preserve and the changes which we must seek. The answer to the question "Why do we have the RCVS?" is simple and is a matter of history and legislation. The real question is "Why should we have the RCVS?" The answer is:

- * To safeguard, enhance and develop the welfare of animals through veterinary care, specifically through standards of education and professional conduct
- * To be an impartial and authoritative source of qualified opinion on appropriate issues relating to animal health and its interaction with human health

RCVS therefore has three roles, combining what it must and what it should do:

1. Statutory - as a regulatory body
2. Influential - as a 'Royal College'
3. Opinion Former - on appropriate issues and with due consultation with other bodies such as the BVA or other organisations or specialist societies.

In particular, where the public or politicians seek a veterinary opinion, it is a duty for the RCVS and the BVA to provide, insofar as is feasible, precisely that - not the differing slants of the two houses. The two houses legitimately and constructively have different perspectives and objectives, but it is their overriding duty to seek and emphasise the common ground.

The key areas in which we must seek change are:

- * Education - the need for differentiation of expertise rather than omnicompetence of the new graduate
- * Research - a body for the co-ordination and funding of veterinary research especially clinical research in the light of the Selborne Report
- * Regulation - a new Veterinary Surgeons Act to strengthen our intermediate sanctions for misconduct i.e. those between a reprimand and a striking off
- * More flexible and permanent arrangements for defining how we delegate to para-professionals and safeguard the clinical welfare of animals; further development of the VN scheme

Above all, while our College Plan maps out our detailed commitments over the next three years, our planning horizon must be for the next 10 or 20 years. If we are responsible for education and continuing education it cannot be otherwise: the graduates of 2010 are already committed to their chosen career.

There are some daunting challenges ahead, but we are strengthened as never before by the youthfulness of our profession and the brilliance of those who join us as colleagues.



INCREASED OPENNESS IN COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Council heard that the intention to have Disciplinary Committee chaired by a non veterinarian had been delayed by a change in the Privy Council representative on Council. Preliminary Investigation (PI) Committee however, now work with two lay observers Mr Paul Marland and Mrs Susan Pyper and in outlining his first report from the PI Committee, the Chairman, Mr Stephen Ware commented on the way in which both were making a valuable contribution to the work of the Committee. Initial indications from the two lay observers were that PI Committee was more, rather than less stringent than they would have expected. The lay observers will report regularly to Council.

The Chairman further reported that since June the PI Committee had considered 33 new cases and 9 had been referred to solicitors for formal statements and possible drafting of charges. 3 cases had been referred to the Disciplinary Committee.

Two matters examined by the Committee were of particular significance. The first concerned five veterinary surgeons convicted for importing veterinary medicines not authorised for use in the UK; each had received a conditional discharge. One person, an accountant appeared to be pivotal in the unlawful imports in each case and with only limited evidence available to the Committee no further action was taken on this occasion. The Chairman warned the profession that there could be more formal action in future cases.

The second case concerned the destruction of a large vicious dog at the request of the owner and the police, after it had attacked the owner's partner necessitating emergency hospital treatment. The destruction had been carried out using a .22 rifle in the confines of a small kitchen with the owner in close proximity. The Procurator Fiscal had decided not to prosecute and the veterinary surgeon was strongly advised by the Committee that whilst a client's wishes must always be considered no veterinary surgeon should never be persuaded to choose an unsuitable or inappropriate method of euthanasia against better judgement.

CPD ACROSS THE PROFESSIONS



"Measuring **inputs**, usually in time spent on CPD, is common for ease of recording and monitoring. However, in recent years many professional bodies have chosen to focus on **outputs**, where professionals plan CPD according to their own needs or pre-determined occupational standards, recording what they have learnt. This cyclical process encourages people to use CPD strategically to help them develop their careers. Many schemes encourage people to think more broadly than their specific area of professional knowledge and include management and other skills they may need. Views have also widened on the types of CPD activities professionals can do: as well as formal courses, distance learning, private study, mentoring and teaching are valuable forms of learning. Taking this further, some schemes require the professional to reflect on their learning and record how they have learnt through every day practice, and how this has improved their work. As the

RCVS CPD record card states "The most important aspect of CPD is the use to which it is put".

Extract from a Report by Gill Winfield, Research Fellow Centre for Education Development, Appraisal and Research University of Warwick