

Summary	
Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	15 May 2023
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee meeting held remotely on Monday, 15 May 2023, at 10am The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 1-37 of the classified appendix.
Attachments	Classified appendix
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Classifications		
Document	Classification¹	Rationales²
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	Confidential	1, 2 and 3

1 Classifications explained

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

2 Classification rationales

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

Minutes of the Standards Committee held remotely on Monday, 15 May 2023, at 10 am

Members: Linda Belton (Chair)
Louise Allum
Belinda Andrews-Jones
Mark Castle
Danny Chambers
Olivia Cook
Matshidiso Gardiner
Claire-Louise McLaughlan
Claire Roberts
Will Wilkinson

In attendance:

RCVS

Melissa Donald	President
Eleanor Ferguson	Registrar
Lizzie Lockett	CEO
Gemma Kingswell	Head of Legal Services (Standards)
Beth Jinks	Standards and Advisory Lead
Ky Richardson	Senior Standards and Advice Officer/Solicitor
Victoria Price	Senior Standards and Advice Officer
Matthew Rendle	Chair of VN Council

Food Standards Agency (FSA)

Jane Clark
Natalie Sampson
Anjali Juneja
Junior Johnson

Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs (Defra)

Anthony Ridge
Emma Robertson
Scott Reaney

AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1. Apologies were received from Danny Chambers and Claire Roberts.
2. The minutes of the last meeting of this Committee were approved with no comments.

Matters for decision

AI 2 (a) TRNOV scheme – Confidential

3. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 1.

AI 2 (b) Defra update vet visit attestations – Confidential

4. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 9.

AI 2 (c) Under care – Confidential

5. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 17.

AI 2 (d) Referral practices - is current guidance sufficient – Confidential

6. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 28.

AI 2 (e) PSS – Confidential

7. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 31.

AI 2 (f) Canine AI

[Note that this item was originally confidential but has been declassified post-meeting]

8. The Committee was provided with a brief background in relation to canine AI in that it has been previously agreed that intravaginal insemination is a minor act of veterinary surgery that is suitable for an exemption order. The RCVS made this recommendation to Defra four years ago and no exemption order has been made, nor is one likely to be made soon.
9. The Committee is therefore tasked with deciding whether to continue to maintain the status quo by advising that lay people may perform this procedure despite there being no exemption available to them, or whether to now advise that it may only be done by veterinary surgeons (or veterinary nurses under the Schedule 3 exemption).
10. During this discussion, it was noted that the Committee was no longer quorate and so a consensus would need to be reached by email. However, the remaining Committee members in attendance felt that the status quo should no longer be maintained given that there is no indication from Defra that an exemption order will be made soon.

Action: Email the Committee for consensus on this AI.

Note: The Committee have since agreed, in summary, that that Canine intravaginal artificial insemination is an act of veterinary surgery which should only be undertaken by a veterinary surgeon or a professional with a relevant exemption, such as a registered veterinary nurse under direction. As there is no specific exemption order allowing lay people to undertake this procedure, they are currently legally prohibited from doing so regardless of training or qualifications. (Note further that canine transcervical artificial insemination and canine surgical artificial insemination are also acts of veterinary surgery subject to the same restrictions, although the invasive nature of these procedures means that they should not be delegated to registered veterinary nurses).

AI 2 (g) Review SC terms of reference

11. The Committee will be invited to comment by email.

Action: Email the Committee for comment on this AI.

Matters for note

AI 3 Defra – update on remote inspections for AI – Confidential

12. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 36.

Matters for report

AI 4(a) DC report

13. The report was noted.

AI 4 (b) PSS report

14. The report was noted.

AI 4 (c) RESC report

15. The report was noted.

Confidential matters for report

AI 5 (a) RVP Subcommittee report – Confidential

16. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 37.

AI 5 (b) ERP report – Confidential

17. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 38.

AI 5 (c) Certification subcommittee report – Confidential

18. Please see confidential appendix from paragraph 39.

AI 6 Risk and equality

19. Nothing added.

AI 7 Any other business and date of next meeting

20. The Committee noted that further thought might be given to how much time is provided to discuss the items on the agenda to ensure that there is ample time to work through the issues effectively.

21. The Committee were asked to consider whether meetings should occur more regularly from 2024, to be discussed further at the next meeting.

Table of actions – Confidential

22. Please see confidential appendix.