

Summary	
Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	10 February 2020
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee held on Monday, 10 February 2020 at 10am at Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF
Decisions required	n/a
Attachments	Classified appendix
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Classifications		
Document	Classification <sup>1</sup>	Rationales <sup>2</sup>
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	<b>Confidential</b>	1, 2 and 3

**<sup>1</sup>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.

**<sup>2</sup>Classification rationales**

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

## Minutes of the Standards Committee held on Monday, 10 February 2020 at 10 am at Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF

**Members:** Prof D Argyle  
Mr M Castle  
Mrs L Cox  
Dr M A Donald Chair  
Mr D Leicester  
Ms C-L McLaughlan  
Mr M Peaty  
Ms B Andrews-Jones  
Miss L Belton  
Dr C Allen

**In attendance:** Ms E C Ferguson Registrar  
Mrs G Kingswell Head of Standards  
Mr N Oldham Standards and Advisory Manager  
Ms B Jinks Senior Standards and Advisory Officer  
Ms K Bowles Standards and Advisory Officer  
Mr N Connell President (observer from RCVS Officer Team)  
Ms L Lockett CEO  
Ms L Lipman PSS Manager  
Mr A Roberts (Present for AI 3(c) and AI 3(d))  
Director of Leadership and Innovation  
(Present for AI 3(a) and AI 3(b))  
Dr Celia Marr BCVSp (Present for AI 3(c) only)  
Mr Terry Emmerson BCVSp (Present for AI 3(c) only)

### AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1. The Chair welcomed the President to the meeting as an observer.
2. Apologies were received from Prof Argyle. Mrs Cox was delayed and arrived at 10:58am.
3. A declaration of interest was received from Martin Peaty, who stated his practice is part of the Practice Standards Scheme.

### AI 1 Minutes of last meetings held on 11 November 2019

4. The Minutes from the last meeting were noted and agreed as accurate.

### AI 2 Standards and Advice Report 2019

5. The Standards and Advice Manager introduced the report and advised that a draft Recognised Veterinary Practice ('RVP') framework had been prepared by a small group of the RVP Working Group, set up in 2019. The framework is nearing completion, and will be reviewed further by a

small group active in the field of clinical research, prior to the Working Group and a final proposal to the Committee. It is anticipated the framework will replace the existing Chapter (25) in the supporting guidance covering 'Recognised Veterinary Practice'.

6. The Chair congratulated the team on their work in 2019. The Committee suggested that more could be done to publicise the unsolicited compliments the team receives. The Head of Standards stated that such matters were under review.

## Matters for decision

### AI 3(a) UCOOH – Confidential (oral update/revised proposal)

7. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 1 – 9.

### AI 3(b) National Rep Survey Results – Confidential

8. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 10 – 13.

### AI 3(c) BCVSp proposal – Confidential

9. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 14 – 20.

### AI 3(d) PSS Standards edits – Core, farm, equine, awards

10. The paper was introduced by the Practice Standards Scheme Senior Manager. The Committee were advised that the Practice Standards have been reviewed and updated in line with the five yearly quality cycle, for projected rollout in 2020. In order to achieve this, Practice Standards Group (PSG) working groups edited all modules for each of the three species groups.
11. The Committee were reminded that it considered the Small Animal modules at its meeting in November 2019. The Committee generally approved the proposed edits, with minimal changes however the awards points had yet to be determined for small animal and so these were presented as part of this paper.
12. Although the Committee has already approved the Small Animal edits, the material changes to Core standards were not specifically highlighted and the Committee was asked to reconsider these, together with those for Farm and Equine which had now been approved by PSG.
13. Subject to some minor amendments, the Committee approved wide ranging edits to the PSS modules as proposed by the Practice Standards Group. The edits relate to all aspects of the scheme, i.e. small animal/farm/equine and awards.

### **Action: PSS team to make the suggested amendments**

14. It was noted that changes to the Core standards of PSS have a universal effect as all practices are required to comply with them whether or not they are part of PSS. It was discussed that some

of the proposed changes to Core were more prescriptive than would usually be the case (given that the Code is principles based) and the Committee were asked for its views on these changes in particular. The Committee felt that more clarity was a good thing and the more guidance we can give practices, the better. However, it was noted that the supporting guidance and Core requirements are currently in different parts of the website and so it is possible that vets and practices may look at the supporting guidance and consider that they are compliant with their Code obligations without realising that they also need to check PSS Core. As such, the Committee stressed that where the Core requirements contain essential information for practices, this should be clearly reflected in the supporting guidance and/or signposted as appropriate.

**Action: PSS team/Standards and Advice team**

### AI 3(e) Microchipping of equines

15. The Chair advised that in view of further information received from BEVA on the eve of the meeting, the paper would not be considered and would be brought back to the Committee in April. The Committee were content with this.

### AI 3(f) Social media and online networking forums

16. The Standards and Advice Manager introduced the paper, which set out proposed amendments to the supporting guidance. The paper was prepared in order to address concerns raised by the Committee in November 2019, regarding the use of online platforms and forums by veterinary surgeons and nurses. The Committee had requested that proposed amendments specifically addressed the anonymous posting of offensive content that can amount to a hate crime.
17. Two case studies were also prepared for the Committee's consideration, addressing the same issues.
18. The Standards and Advice Manager advised that the case studies had already received positive feedback and requests to be shared. The Registrar advised that further thought would be given as to the appropriate channels to disseminate these case studies.
19. The Committee approved the proposed amendments to the supporting guidance and the two case studies prepared to support this additional guidance. The Committee also requested that a further case study, highlighting the positive uses of social media, be prepared.

**Action: Standards and Advice Team**

### AI 3(g) Ownership of wildlife

20. The Head of Standards introduced the paper which set out the College's current position on the ownership of wildlife and proposed wording for additional guidance within Chapter 11 ('communication and consent') within the supporting guidance.
21. The Committee noted the paper and suggested minor amendments to the proposed guidance and Chapter 11, including;

- A clear wildlife cross reference at the top of the page.
  - Signposting to Chapter 3 of the supporting guidance so veterinary surgeons are clear as to their obligations regarding first aid and pain relief for wildlife.
  - Signposting to Chapter 14 of the supporting guidance 'client confidentiality' so veterinary surgeons know who to report clients to where wildlife is taken away that should be euthanised.
  - A link to relevant legislation advising on the release of invasive species.
  - Acknowledgement that members of the public who find injured animals may be emotionally affected.
22. Subject to these minor amendments, to be circulated by email, the Committee approved the draft guidance on the ownership of wildlife to be included in Chapter 11 ('communication and consent') of the supporting guidance.

**Action: Head of Standards**

### Matters for report

#### AI 4(a) DC report

23. The Committee noted the report. No comments.

#### AI 4(b) Riding Establishments Sub-committee Report

24. The Committee noted the report.

#### AI 4(c) Practice Standards Scheme Report

25. The Committee noted the report.

### Confidential matters for report

#### AI 5(a) Recognised Veterinary Practice Sub-committee Report

26. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix paragraphs 21 – 23.

#### AI 5(b) Ethics Review Panel (ERP) Report

27. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix paragraph 24.

### AI 6 Risk and equality

28. The Head of Standards and the Standards and Advice Manager advised the Committee that they would be attending the College's Audit and Risk Committee on 13 February 2020 to present a paper outlining the risks faced by the Standards and Advice team and the measures implemented to mitigate those risks.

29. The Committee were advised that a further update on this paper would be provided in April.

**Action: Head of Standards/Standards and Advice Manager**

Any other business and date of next meeting

AI 7(a) ATT Pilot Scheme update **CONFIDENTIAL**

30. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix paragraph 24.

Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting is 27 April 2020 at 10am.