RCVS SETTING VETERINARY STANDARDS

Standards Committee
Agenda for the meeting to be held on 15 November 2021 at 10.00am

1.	Apologies for absence, declarations of interest and minutes of the meetings held on 25 August, 13 September, and 26 October 2021.	Oral, minutes attached
2.	Standards and Advice update	Oral update
3.	Matters for discussion	
	a. QI (RCVSK)	Presentation by Pam Mosedale and Chris Gush
4.	Matters for decision	
	a. Review of Under Care and 24/7 emergency cover – confidential	Paper attached
	b. Review of endorsements – confidential	Paper attached
	c. Adverse events guidance	Paper attached
	d. Support attestations by TRNOVs (Temporary Registered Novice OVs) - This item is not confirmed, Food Standards Agency may ask the Committee to consider this issue at a later date.	To follow
5.	Matters for report	
	a. Disciplinary Committee Report	Oral update
	b. Practice Standards Scheme Report	Oral update
	c. Riding Establishments Subcommittee Report	Paper attached
6.	Confidential matters for report	
	a. Recognised Veterinary Practice Subcommittee Report	Paper attached
	b. Ethics Review Panel Report	Paper attached
	c. Certification Subcommittee Report	Paper attached
7.	Risk and equality	Oral update
8.	Any other business and date of next meeting 22 February 2022 • Alpacas • Ratification of minutes	Oral update

Standards Committee 2021/2022
Chair:

Dr Melissa Donald BVMS MRCVS

Members:

Dr Louise Allum VetMB MRCVS

Ms Belinda Andrews-Jones DipAVN (surgical) RVN

Miss Linda Belton BVSc MRCVS

Mr Mark Castle OBE

Dr Danny Chambers BVSc MRCVS

Dr Matshidiso Gardiner MRCVS

Ms Claire-Louise McLaughlan MA LLB(Hons)

Prof Tim Parkin BVSc FRCVS

Mrs Claire Roberts DipAVN (surgical) RVN

Summary

Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	13 September 2021
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee held remotely on Monday, 13 September 2021, at 10am
Decisions required	None
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Stephanie Bruce-Smith Senior Standards and Advice Officer s.bruce-smith@rcvs.org.uk / 0207 202 0754

Classifications

Document	**Classification**[1]	**Rationales**[2]
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	**Confidential**	1, 2 and 3

1 Classifications explained	
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2 Classification rationales	
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Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held remotely on Monday, 13 September 2021, at 10am

Members:	Dr M A Donald	Chair
	Dr L Allum	
	Ms B Andrews-Jones	
	Miss L Belton	Vice Chair
	Mr M Castle	
	Dr D Chambers	
	Dr M Gardiner	
	Ms C-L McLaughlan	
	Prof T Parkin	
	Mrs C Roberts	

In attendance:	Ms E C Ferguson	Registrar
	Ms L Lockett	CEO
	Ms G Kingswell	Head of Legal Services (Standards)
	Ms B Jinks	Standards and Advisory Lead
	Mx K Richardson	Senior Standards and Advice Officer/Solicitor
	Ms S Bruce-Smith	Senior Standards and Advice Officer
	Mrs L Price	Head of Legal Services (Practice Standards)
		Present for AI 5(b) only

AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1. The Chair welcomed the CEO to the meeting as an observer. Apologies were received from Mandisa Greene.

2. Mr Castle declared an interest in relation to AI 4(d) as he has recently imported a dog. Dr Chambers declared an interest in relation to AI 4(a) as he is associated with brands promoting arthritis prevention.

AI 1 Minutes of the meetings held on 10 May, 16 July and 4 August - Confidential

3. It was agreed that the minutes of the previous meetings are accurate.

4. Confidential information related to the action items is available in the classified appendix at paragraph 1.

AI 2 Standards and Advice Update

5. An update was provided regarding AI 3(c) from the May meeting, where it was raised that if pharmacists are required to follow any written instructions on a prescription, then wording that requires that pharmacists see and scan in the original prescription before dispensing against it could be added by veterinary surgeons to written prescriptions. The RCVS contacted the GPhS and RPS and in summary, there is no explicit obligation for pharmacists to follow any additional instructions provided by a vet on a prescription, but both organisations felt that there would be an implied obligation to comply with written instructions on a prescription.

6. It was noted that the VMD advise that in order to prevent prescription fraud, vets should use only the prescription template offered by the BVA to their members or other reputable organisations. Additionally, if suppliers dispense against faxed or emailed prescriptions, they should ask for the original prescription.

7. It was suggested that the RCVS could work with the BVA to draft an agreed template prescription that would be available to all MRCVS (i.e. not just those registered with the BVA), with the support of the GPhS and RPS. It was agreed that the Standards and Advice team would explore this with the BVA.

Action: Standards and Advice Team

8. It was further advised that while the GPhS and RPS link to the VMD guidance, the organisations have limited guidance for their members regarding fraudulent veterinary prescriptions. It was suggested that the RCVS should explore working with them to strengthen this guidance, and that a joint statement about this project should go out to the profession.

Action: Standards and Advice Team

9. It was suggested that as most prescriptions are emailed rather than written, a discretionary funding project could be set up to create an online database for prescription tracking. It was noted that this would be a significant task and will be revisited at a later date.

10. It was noted that the Standards and Advice team had taken a total of 1710 emails and 1756 phone calls so far in 2021, which was a 29% increase in emails from the same timeframe in 2019 (2020 was an anomaly due to Covid-19). It was explained that the majority of queries no longer relate to Covid-19.

11. An update was provided on the rewrite of Chapter 25 of the supporting guidance relating to Recognised Veterinary Practice. The FAQ and new chapter have been drafted and have been reviewed by external vets whose comments will be considered before bringing the new drafts back to the wider working group. The Standards and Advisory Lead reminded the Committee that the review will focus on:

    a) when a vet can develop/improve/push a procedure for an animal (i.e. for one animal in front of them)

b) when this becomes clinical veterinary research, and the additional considerations – for example RVP becomes CVR when the intention is to compare results/research design instead of treating one animal.

12. It was noted that the Standards and Advice team have worked with other departments in the College to produce remote content for the Introduction to UK Veterinary Professions course, with Mx Richardson filming a webinar for the course in 2020 and both Mx Richardson and Ms Bruce-Smith participating in the evening course Q&A sessions.

13. It was advised that Standards and Advice team would be returning to the office on Tuesdays going forward and that further resourcing for the team was being discussed.

Matters for discussion

AI 3(a) Under care - Confidential

14. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 2 - 8.

AI 3(b) GEFS review update

15. The Registrar reminded the Committee of the Groupage Export Facilitation Scheme (GEFS), which was presented to this Committee and RCVS Council in 2020. At that time, Council had agreed to support GEFS on a pragmatic basis but requested a review within 12 months at the end of 2021.

16. The review is now underway and the APHA are conducting interviews with relevant stakeholders to get feedback on their experiences with the scheme to date. The RCVS has also provided feedback. Further information will be provided to the Committee at its next meeting.

Matters for decision

AI 4(a) Endorsements - Confidential

17. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 9 - 12.

AI 4(b) PSS appeals - Confidential

18. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 13 – 17.

AI 4 (c) Conscientious objection - Confidential

19. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 18 – 21.

AI 4(d) Pet importation consultation

20. The Committee were advised that the government has recently introduced the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) bill in Parliament. This Bill intends to give powers to Defra to create regulations which would restrict the commercial and non-commercial importation of an animal in order to preserve and promote welfare. These regulations would apply to a dog, cat or ferret that is below a certain age, had been mutilated, or is more than a specific number of days pregnant.

21. It was agreed that the Committee members would give their views on the consultation via email.

AI 4(e) Vet-AI proposal – Confidential

22. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 22 – 27.

AI 5(a) Disciplinary Committee report

23. The report was noted.

AI 5(b) Practice Standards Scheme report

24. The report was noted.

AI 6(a) Recognised Veterinary practice Subcommittee report - Confidential

25. The report was noted.

AI 6(b) Ethics Review Panel report - Confidential

26. The report was noted.

AI 6(c) Certification Subcommittee report - Confidential

27. The report was noted.

AI 6(d) Riding Establishments Subcommittee report

28. The report was noted and it was decided that the 'Confidential' classification of the report should be removed and future reports be 'unclassified' unless confidential information is included.

7(a) Risk and equality

29. The report was noted.

AI 8 Any other business

E-certification for exports - Confidential

30. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraph 28.

Vet-Techs - Confidential

31. Confidential information is available in the classified appendix at paragraphs 29 – 30.

Date of next meeting

32. The date of the next meeting is 26 October 2021 and the meeting will be held remotely.

Table of actions

Paragraph(s)	Action	Assigned to
7	Work with the BVA to draft an agreed template prescription that would be available to all MRCVS, with the support of the GPhS and RPS.	**Standards and Advice Team**
8	Work with the GPhS and RPS to strengthen their guidance, and draft a joint statement about the project to go out to the profession.	**Standards and Advice Team**

Summary

Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	25 August 2021
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee held remotely on Wednesday, 25 August 2021, at 10am
Decisions required	None
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Beth Jinks Standards and Advice Lead b.jinks@rcvs.org.uk

Classifications

Document	**Classification[1]**	**Rationales[2]**
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	**Confidential**	1, 2 and 3

1Classifications explained	
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Minutes of the Standards Committee held remotely on Wednesday, 25 August 2021, at 10 am

Members:	Dr L Allum	
	Ms B Andrews-Jones	
	Miss L Belton	
	Mr M Castle	
	Dr D Chambers	
	Dr M A Donald	Chair
	Dr M Gardiner	
	Ms C-L McLaughlan	
	Prof T Parkin	
	Mrs C Roberts	

In attendance:	Ms E C Ferguson	Registrar
	Ms G Kingswell	Head of Legal Services (Standards)
	Ms B Jinks	Standards and Advisory Lead
	Mx K Richardson	Senior Standards and Advice Officer

AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1. The Chair welcomed the Senior Vice President and the CEO to the meeting as observers. No apologies were received.

2. There were no new conflicts of interests declared.

AI 2 Under Care/OOH preliminary discussion – Confidential

3. The minutes of this agenda item can be found at paragraphs 1-4 of the classified appendix.

AI 3 Any other business

4. The minutes of this agenda item can be found at paragraphs 5-7 of the classified appendix.

Date of next meeting

5. The next meeting of the Standards Committee will be 13 September 2021.

Table of actions

Paragraph(s)	Action	Assigned to
	See classified appendix.	

Summary

Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	26 October 2021
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of Standards Committee held remotely on Tuesday, 26 October 2021, at 10am
Decisions required	None
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Beth Jinks Standards and Advisory Lead b.jinks@rcvs.org.uk

Classifications

Document	**Classification**[1]	**Rationales**[2]
Paper	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	**Confidential**	1, 2 and 3

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Minutes of the Standards Committee Meeting held remotely on Tuesday, 26 October 2021, at 10am

Members:	Dr M A Donald	Chair
	Dr L Allum	
	Ms B Andrews-Jones	
	Miss L Belton	Vice Chair
	Mr M Castle	
	Dr D Chambers	
	Dr M Gardiner	
	Ms C-L McLaughlan	
	Prof T Parkin	
	Mrs C Roberts	
In attendance:	Ms E C Ferguson	Registrar
	D M Greene	Senior Vice President
	Ms L Lockett	CEO
	Ms G Kingswell	Head of Legal Services (Standards)
	Ms B Jinks	Standards and Advisory Lead
	Ms S Bruce-Smith	Senior Standards and Advice Officer
	Agenda item 2(c):	
	Mr B Myring	Policy and Public Affairs Manager
	Mr A Day	GEFS Policy lead, Defra
	Dr A Ridge	Veterinary advisor, Defra
	Agenda item 2(d)	
	Mrs S Hampson	Director, LLM Vets
	Miss S Wilson	BCVA board member
	Mr J Reader	Director, Synergy Farm Health
	Ms L Ford	RCVS Council/Chair Vet Tech Working Party
	Miss H Batty	Director, LLM Vets
	Mr M Hosegood	VDS
	Ms N Parker	Vet Tech, LLM Vets

AI 1 Apologies for absence and declarations of interest

1. The Chair welcomed the CEO and Senior Vice President to the meeting as observers. Apologies were received from Miss L Belton, and Mrs C Roberts.

AI 2(a) Remote prescribing – confidential

2. Please see paragraphs 1-3 in the classified appendix.

AI 2(b) Homeopathy – confidential

3. Please see paragraphs 4-6 in the classified appendix.

AI 2(c) GEFS – confidential

4. Please see paragraphs 7-11 in the classified appendix.

AI 2(d) Veterinary Technicians ('vet techs') – confidential

5. Please see paragraphs 12-16 in the classified appendix.

AI 3 Any other business

6. None.

Table of actions

Paragraph(s)	Action	Assigned to
	See classified appendix	

Summary

Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	15 November 2021
Title	Adverse events guidance
Summary	The VMD's pharmacovigilance team requested that Chapter 4 of the supporting guidance to the Code of Professional Conduct, specifically paragraph 4.53, be amended to clarify the difference between an adverse event and an adverse reaction. The proposed guidance is available at Annex A.
Decisions required	a) To consider and approve the draft guidance.
Attachments	Annex A – proposed guidance
Author	Beth Jinks Standards and Advisory Lead b.jinks@rcvs.org.uk Stephanie Bruce-Smith Senior Standards and Advice Officer s.bruce-smith@rcvs.org.uk

Classifications

Document	Classification[1]	Rationales[2]
Paper	Unclassified	N/A
Annex	Unclassified	N/A

[1]Classifications explained	
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[2]Classification rationales	
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Background

1. During a conversation with the pharmacovigilance team at the Veterinary Medicines Directorate ('VMD') it was raised that the current guidance regarding the reporting of adverse events was not accurate. The current guidance is as follows:

   4.53 The VMD's Pharmacovigilance Unit closely monitors all reports of suspected adverse reactions (in animals or humans) and lack of efficacy following use of veterinary medicines. All suspected adverse events should be reported to either the VMD or the company who market the product, who are legally obliged to forward these to the VMD. Reports can be submitted online to the VMD. Alternatively, paper copies of the yellow form can be downloaded from the same page and returned using the freepost address or fax number provided on the form. Further information is available from the VMD's Pharmacovigilance Unit on 01932 338427.

2. It was raised that in the above paragraph the terms 'adverse event' and 'adverse reaction' are used interchangeably, when from a pharmacovigilance perspective the terms mean different things. For example:
   a. an adverse event is any untoward event that happens after administration of a drug whether that drug is thought to be responsible or not
   b. the term adverse reaction implies a causative link between the drug and event

3. The VMD record adverse events, however there is no requirement for an adverse event to be a suspected adverse drug reaction to make it a worthwhile report.

4. It is therefore proposed that the draft guidance (Annex A) replace the current paragraph in Chapter 4. Note that the new guidance has been approved by the Head of Pharmacovigilance at the VMD.

Decision on new guidance

5. The Committee is asked to consider and approve the draft guidance.

Proposed guidance:

Reporting adverse events (including suspected adverse reactions) following use of veterinary medicines

4.53 The VMD's Pharmacovigilance Unit closely monitors all reports of adverse events, including suspected adverse reactions (in animals or humans), lack of efficacy following use of veterinary medicines, environmental reports and residues cases.

4.54 An **adverse event** is defined by the VMD as any observation in animals, whether or not considered to be product-related, that is unfavourable and unintended and that occurs after any use of a veterinary medicine (off-label and on-label uses). Included are events related to a lack of expected efficacy, noxious reactions in humans after being exposed to a veterinary medicine, environmental reports and residue cases.

4.55 An **adverse reaction** is defined by the VMD as a reaction to a veterinary medicine which is harmful and unintended when products are used in animals for the prophylaxis, diagnosis or treatment of disease or to restore, correct or modify a physiological function.

4.56 If, following administration of an authorised medicine in the UK, you become aware of any adverse events including adverse reactions involving an animal, you should record what happened in as much detail as possible and make a report to the VMD or the company who market the product, who are legally obliged to forward such reports to the VMD. Further information is available by searching for VMD on gov.uk or you can phone the VMD's Pharmacovigilance Unit on 01932 338427.

Summary	
Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	15 November 2021
Title	Riding Establishments Sub-Committee report
Summary	Standards Committee is asked to note this brief update on the work and considerations of the Riding Establishments Sub-Committee. The topics discussed are as follows: • Annual Meeting; • Interim Report Form (England); • Inspector Application Form; • 2022 Inspector Training and Induction Course; • Annual Q&A sessions; • *REIN* 2022; and • Advice queries.
Decisions required	None
Attachments	None
Author	Stephanie Bruce-Smith Senior Standards and Advice Officer s.bruce-smith@rcvs.org.uk

Classifications		
Document	**Classification[1]**	**Rationales[2]**
Paper	Unclassified	1

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Annual Meeting

1. The Subcommittee Annual Meeting was held on 19 October. In line with previous years, the day was split into two sessions. The morning session was for the Subcommittee and staff only, and the afternoon session was with external stakeholders in attendance.

2. Matters for decision in the morning session included the Interim Report Form (England) and updates to the Inspector Application Form.

3. Matters for discussion included the 2022 Inspector Training and Induction Course, Annual Q&A sessions, the 2021 audit, shadowing of new applicants and the annual newsletter *REIN*.

4. During the afternoon session the Subcommittee met with representatives from stakeholder organisations such as the British Horse Society (BHS), DEFRA, the Donkey Sanctuary, KBIS British Equestrian Insurance, the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA), Riding for the Disabled Association (RDA) and the City of London Corporation.

Interim Report Form (England)

5. A temporary Interim Report Form (England) has been finalised and uploaded to the Riding Establishments webpage. The Form addresses feedback from Inspectors that the full Inspector's Form (England) is excessive for the purposes of interim inspections. As further clarification is received about what interim inspections should involve, the Form can be updated.

Inspector Application Form

6. Amendments have been made to the Inspector Application Form in response to new applicants stating '100% equine general practice' in the work experience section without further explanation. The proposed amendments clarify the requirements for work experience.

7. The amendments were as follows:
    a. Type, range and hours per average week of equine related work in clinical practice requested
    b. Requirement for 30% of equine related work replaced with a minimum of 10 hours per week requirements for all inspectors (regardless of whether in full time or part time employment).

2022 Inspector Training and Induction Course

8. The Subcommittee have agreed that the 2022 Inspector Training and Induction Course will consist of a hybrid approach, with both remote and in-person aspects. The 2021 webinars will be available to all delegates remotely and will need to be completed within a one-month deadline. Following completion of the webinars, new applicants will attend a shadowing at an agricultural college in the UK. Refreshers who wish to attend can do so on a first come first served basis.

9. The shadowing will be followed by a Q&A session and refreshers will be invited to attend this session via Zoom. The Q&A sessions will be a compulsory part of the Course for all refreshers, and additional remote Q&A sessions will be offered to delegates unable to join the in-person Q&A session in-person or via Zoom.

10. A flat rate will be charged to all delegates regardless of whether they attend in-person or remotely, and the cost of the newly introduced Annual Q&A session (details below) will be incorporated into the Course fee.

Annual Q&A sessions

11. The Subcommittee will hold annual Q&A sessions for all Inspectors on a voluntary basis following the publication of REIN. This will provide a further opportunity for Inspectors to ask questions and engage with the Subcommittee members. Inspectors will be invited to pre-submit questions in advance of the sessions and will also be given the opportunity to ask questions on the day.

REIN 2022

12. The Subcommittee have delegated articles for the 2022 edition of the newsletter *REIN*. The following articles will be included:

    a. Introduction of Subcommittee members and explanation of the function of the Subcommittee. This article will also include a call for interest in joining the Subcommittee
    b. Update on the Temporary Interim Report Form (England) and the amended Inspector Application Form
    c. Inspectorate Survey
    d. Feedback from the 2020 audit of inspector's reports
    e. Requirements for qualifications
    f. FAQs
    g. Update on Annual Q&A sessions
    h. Update on the 2022 Course format
    i. Update on amendments to the Guidelines (England)

13. The newsletter will be published and circulated to the Inspectorate in Spring.

Advice queries

14. The Standards and Advice Team continue to receive a steady number of enquiries from local authorities, veterinary surgeon inspectors and the owners of riding establishments.

15. Recent queries have related to the following topics:

a. Polo establishments
b. Interim Report Form
c. Concerns from members of the public about riding establishments
d. Local authority queries about finding Inspectors.