

# annual report



**2006**

# RCVS Annual Report 2006

1 April 2005 - 31 March 2006

Patron: Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

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RCVS Council and Staff

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THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

# From 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 we...

Carried out a **full visitation** at Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies

see page 7

Emailed **7,000 subscribers** our free e-newsletter see page 24

Received **637 complaints** in the Professional Conduct Department see page 11

Made or received **5,523 calls** advising the public and veterinary surgeons see page 9

Agreed that CPD should be **mandatory** see page 15

Offered advice and guidance on the **new medicines legislation** see page 10

**Publicly launched the Practice Standards Scheme**, reaching a potential audience of up to 11.6 million see page 23

Commissioned a **Survey of the Profession** - nearly one in two members replied see page 25

Approved **116 new veterinary nurse training practices** to provide a total of 1,464 see page 16

Agreed a timetable for implementing a **non-statutory register for veterinary nurses** see page 21

Awarded £450,000 across 51 research projects through the **RCVS Trust's grants programme** see page 16

Registered a total of **1,384 new members**, a 15% increase on last year see page 8

**Welcomed an average of 2,200 visitors to our website every day** see page 23

**Awarded 103 certificates, 11 diplomas and 5 fellowships** see page 15

# president's introduction



This year's Survey of the Profession has highlighted that veterinary careers are not limited to general practice alone. At the start of each section of this Report, we illustrate the diversity of the profession and the wide opportunities available to veterinary surgeons.





## PRESIDENT'S INTRODUCTION



“The College must continue to challenge the profession to decide on the future it wants. The foundations have been laid but the style of house to be built is not yet known.”

**The** future is upon us! A number of years ago, triggered by both RCVS strategy and government initiatives, a number of activities were set in motion, including the work of the Education Strategy Steering Group (the Professional Development Phase (PDP) and modular certificates), progress towards a new Veterinary Surgeons Act and the Practice Standards Scheme. During my year of guardianship, many of these have reached completion - at least of their first phase.

Not by accident, these initiatives are linked and have demonstrated that through joined-up thinking and forward planning, much can be achieved.

- PDP will be mandatory for all new graduates from 2007 and from the evidence so far, the support this scheme offers helps graduates to settle and stay in their first practices longer - a win-win situation.
- Modular certificates will start shortly and these aim to make further qualifications more accessible to all.
- The new Veterinary Medicines Regulations have been brought in this year alongside the Competition Commission's recommendations. The College has worked tirelessly with government bodies to make these work realistically for the profession. The Regulations have changed practice for many but also bring a challenge: to build new business models for sustainable farm animal practice.

- Consultations have continued on new veterinary legislation and we must now recommend possible structures to Defra and explain why these changes are needed.
- The Practice Standards Scheme was launched to the public this year, with nearly 50% of practice premises now under the Scheme's ambit. This is a major achievement and I have been delighted to hear positive stories from practices about the experience of joining the Scheme and the team-building effect it has had. Regulation of veterinary services would be a vital part of a new Act and this is the first step.

As a regulator, we are proactive in what we do, aiming to anticipate rather than simply react. This philosophy will continue and indeed gain pace. Many of the areas with which the College has been involved this year will have profound effects on the future of today's new graduates. This year I have challenged new members of the profession to mould their future rather than have it thrust upon them, encouraging them to engage with the profession and value the range of career options conferred by their highly marketable degrees.

No presidency can bring huge changes by itself. Each President plays a part in carrying forward the long-term strategy of the College. I have aimed to continue the work started by others, in particular by stressing that the

College is here to offer advice to veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and the public. This has been the message during our dialogue with the profession, government officials, members of both Houses and other audiences via articles, mailings and meetings. I have been encouraged by the positive response from the majority we have met, and although it is impossible to please everyone, I hope all have recognised that we are actively engaged in matters that affect public confidence in the profession.

This *Annual Report* reviews all of the College's activities - and they are numerous. I urge you to read the following pages to further understand the quantity and scope of work we cover every day. The College has extremely hard-working staff, Council and Committee members and I would like to commend and thank them for their input, which makes the job of President so much easier.

The College must continue to challenge the profession to decide on the future it wants. The foundations have been laid but the style of house to be built is not yet known. I call upon each member, and particularly the younger ones, to get involved. This is the only way to ensure that the future they hoped for turns into the present they always wanted.

Lynne V Hill  
President

# registrar's review



## teaching

There are 620 veterinary surgeons employed by universities in the UK. With roles ranging from teaching through research to management, there are huge opportunities for veterinary surgeons who continue in, or return to, academic life.



## REGISTRAR'S REVIEW



“It is good to know that some things in the veterinary world appear more stable than many commentators might think.”

**This** year's *Annual Report* follows the same format as the last couple of years but it may be worth reiterating how the different sections try to present the broad range of activities that are undertaken by the RCVS. Maintaining standards is not just about the activities of the Disciplinary Committee but covers the educational requirements for getting on the *Register* and advice about how to stay on it, as well as maintaining the *Register* itself: essentially the College's statutory functions.

Our Charter functions and the activities of the Trust represent ways of advancing and supporting the profession, such as awarding certificates, diplomas and fellowships; educating and regulating veterinary nurses and giving grants to support developments in both veterinary science and practice. A particular highlight this year was a seminar looking at the relationship between practice and research.

In building for the future we have given further consideration to what a new statutory framework for regulating the veterinary profession might look like. A second consultation paper was issued and the outcome agreed upon by Council and submitted to DEFRA. It will be circulated to the profession in an *RCVS News Extra* in May 2006. Council also decided on a timetable and framework for introducing non-statutory regulation for veterinary nurses which, hopefully, will be a precursor to legislation.


Without needing to read the 'Listening and Communicating' section of our report, I hope it will be evident that we have been communicating a lot more of late. It is only too easy to be so busy that you don't make the time to tell people what you are doing. But if no one knows what you are doing, you might as well not bother! We are also very conscious that communication is a two-way process.

During the past year we have conducted the 2006 Survey of the Profession and although the results will not be reported until June they are remarkably consistent with those from earlier surveys. Indeed, anecdotal reports of the demise of mixed practice or of a significant increase in part-time work are not borne out by the survey - and 9,671 respondents can't be wrong! Now that change is a perpetual state of affairs, and certainly a recurrent feature of these introductions, it is good to know that some things in the veterinary world appear more stable than many commentators might think.

A very particular exercise in communication will be the 'Gateways to the Profession' project. This follows a review undertaken by DfES and is an exercise in trying to address problems of recruitment into the professions by attracting a broader spectrum of applicants. Although the veterinary profession has long been blessed with many more high-calibre applicants than the schools could accommodate, there are signs that this is changing and, in any event, this is an

excellent opportunity for the profession to try and shape its future generations.

If we are successful in our tender for funding we will be highlighting the range of different careers which are open to someone with a veterinary qualification. Although our 2006 Survey said that 91% of respondents spend at least some time in practice this can encompass anything from first opinion to specialist, and any permutation of species and disciplines. It is also important not to overlook work in research, industry, education, government service, public health, food standards and the armed forces. In selecting the photographs for this report we have taken the opportunity to show something of the diversity in the profession.

The remaining sections of the report represent the hard core, comprising statistics about the profession and a summary of the College accounts. Inevitably, there is a lot more information available than we can fit in this *Report*, so please follow the link to RCVSonline wherever  this symbol appears:

As ever, I would like to record my thanks to the staff of the College and the Trust, whose hard work and commitment is very much appreciated.

Jane C. Hern  
Registrar



# 1

## maintaining standards



### small animal

Up to 72% of our 2006 Survey respondents work with small animals. They believe that veterinary time spent on dogs is likely to decrease over the next five years, whilst more hours will be devoted to cats and rabbits.





“ We must continue to play an active international role in defining the standards for veterinary education. Collaboration between veterinary schools and with our international partners is essential to ensure the optimum use of veterinary resources. ”



Barry Johnson, Chairman, Education 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 through advice, guidance and regulation.

### UNDERGRADUATE STANDARDS

A key part of our statutory role is the monitoring of standards in veterinary undergraduate education.

We aim to conduct full visitations to each of the UK's veterinary schools every seven to eight years, and this year saw the first full visitation to Edinburgh's Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies since 1997. The ensuing report, which was jointly produced by the RCVS and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE), congratulated the University on the high international standing of the School and particularly noted its excellent clinical facilities at Easter Bush. The School's plans to build a new school and relocate all veterinary teaching to Easter Bush from Summerhall and for a review of the curriculum were also supported.

2007 will bring a full visitation team to Bristol. It will be the first visitation to be led by a practitioner for some time and also the first visitation to be carried out using updated guidance developed this year, which includes new procedures for appointing visitors in an open and fair manner. 

Mini-visitations were also carried out this year at the Universities of Queensland and Sydney, to follow up concerns from the 2004 visits. These concerns, which focused largely on the areas of veterinary public health teaching and staff resources, were allayed by the visit and we are happy to continue to accredit these degree courses as part of our mutual recognition agreement with the Australasian Veterinary Boards Council (AVBC). This enables graduates of approved UK, Australian and New Zealand veterinary schools to register in any of the three countries and is just one example of the wealth of opportunities that a veterinary degree offers graduates - a message we are keen to convey to potential students.

#### Statutory Membership Examination

Mutual agreements such as the one with AVBC are only one route for international graduates to work in the UK. Those from countries outwith the EU and the European Economic Area are also eligible to register if they pass the Statutory Membership Examination. This year, Privy Council agreed to new byelaws for the examination, which now mean that it is mandatory for candidates to hold an English Language qualification

(IELTS at Level 7). The objective is to ensure successful candidates are able to communicate at levels that might be expected of them by the public and colleagues. The examination has also been restructured. Instead of papers being discipline-specific - ie medicine, surgery, animal health and reproduction - they now focus on broader practice areas, ie small animal practice, production animal practice, equine practice and veterinary public health. This better reflects the type of work registrants will undertake in the UK.

In 2005, we accepted 68 veterinary surgeons as candidates for the examination, but due to withdrawals and other reasons only 43 candidates sat all or part of the examination. Ultimately, 16 were successful in the clinical, oral, practical and written examinations and were formally admitted to the RCVS in July.

#### Extra-mural studies

The key role that extra-mural studies (EMS) plays in the veterinary undergraduate curriculum can not be in doubt. It is a vital opportunity to gain real work experience of as many aspects of the veterinary profession as possible. But feedback from veterinary schools to our Education Committee



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

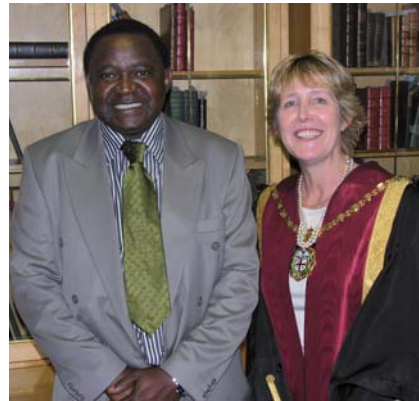


“Our new EMS search parameter on ‘Find a Vet’ has been well used by students, peaking at 210 online searches a day in autumn.”

suggested that more flexibility would be welcomed in terms of EMS requirements and greater clarity on the different types of EMS that can be undertaken.

The Education Committee therefore published new guidelines in the autumn. Amongst the changes was the requirement that all students keep a log of their learning and experience throughout their EMS, which will prepare them for the Professional Development Phase on graduation (see page 20).

With many thousands of placements being organised each year, some variability in the experiences of both students and the practices providing the EMS is unavoidable. So the new guidelines stipulate that universities must gather feedback from EMS practices on the performance of students and take this into account when assessments are made. To minimise paperwork for practices, common documentation has been developed by the UK veterinary schools. Some are also developing online feedback systems to ease the process.



To make the planning of EMS easier for students, we added a search parameter to our online search engine ‘Find a Vet’ in October. It allows students to seek practices willing to take students for EMS and has been well used, peaking at 210 searches per day in the autumn, accounting for nearly 7% of daily Find a Vet usage ([www.findavet.org.uk](http://www.findavet.org.uk)).

#### MANAGING THE PROFESSION

We are obliged by law to maintain a *Register of Members*, which sets out details of those veterinary surgeons who work in the UK, non-practising members (who may be taking a career break or retired) and veterinary surgeons who are RCVS members but work overseas. We publish the *Register* once a year but we update it every day to ensure that all members’ details are as up-to-date as possible. This is uploaded to RCVSonline once a week under ‘Check the Register’.



In the year under review we registered a total of 1,384 new members, a 15% increase on the previous year and the second highest number ever registered after the record

number in 2001 for the foot and mouth disease outbreak. We have also restored 162 previous members to the *Register* this year, and removed 935, leaving a net increase of 611 members. A more detailed breakdown of the different categories of members, and the areas in which they work, is provided in the table on page 27.

During the first part of the year, there was a steady increase in new registrants from the ten countries that acceded to the EU in May 2004. We understand that many veterinary surgeons from these countries find employment in the UK in a meat hygiene and public health capacity, and it was interesting to note that this number rose significantly (over 40%) from the beginning of November, coinciding with the end of the Government’s Over Thirty Months Scheme for cattle.

The new membership categories introduced last year have continued to prove useful for those requiring their membership to reflect their more flexible working arrangements. We have made 1,603 membership changes to the *Register* over the past 12 months - a similar number to last year.

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

“ We work with the profession to deliver practical advice, to improve animal welfare, public safety and veterinary services. ”

Neil Gorman, Chairman, Advisory Committee



In June, we introduced for the first time free membership for non-practising members over the age of 70. Of the 2,662 non-practising members registered, some 1,242 are now able to maintain their MRCVS status, and vote in RCVS Council elections, without having to meet the cost of the normal annual retention fee (see table 1). The Privy Council also approved our decision to increase the restoration fee to encourage members to pay their retention fee promptly and avoid practising illegally.

**UPHOLDING PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS**

Regulation of professional conduct is one of our key activities and responsibilities under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, which serves not only to ensure the welfare of animals committed to veterinary care and the interests of their owners, but also to maintain the high standards that exist within the UK veterinary profession.

We approach this responsibility in two ways: providing advice and guidance both to veterinary surgeons and to members of the public, and investigating complaints.

**Table 1. RCVS fees effective from 1 April 2006 (2005 fees)**

REGISTRATION FEE	£66 <sup>1</sup>	(£61)
<b>ANNUAL RETENTION FEES</b>		
Home-practising	£264	(£244)
Postgraduate	£132	(£115)
Overseas practising	£132	(£122)
Non-practising	£43	(£40)
Non-practising (70+)	Free	(£40)
SVR (1948)	£27	(£27)
SVR (1966)	£13	(£13)
SVR Retired	£15	(£15)
<b>RESTORATION FEE</b>		
After voluntary removal	£132 <sup>2</sup>	(£122)
After non-payment removal	£264 <sup>3</sup>	(£122)

SVR = Supplementary Veterinary Register  
<sup>1</sup> Plus proportion of home-practising retention fee expressed in quarters of the year  
<sup>2</sup> Plus relevant retention fee for the whole year  
<sup>3</sup> Plus full retention fee

**Advising and guiding**

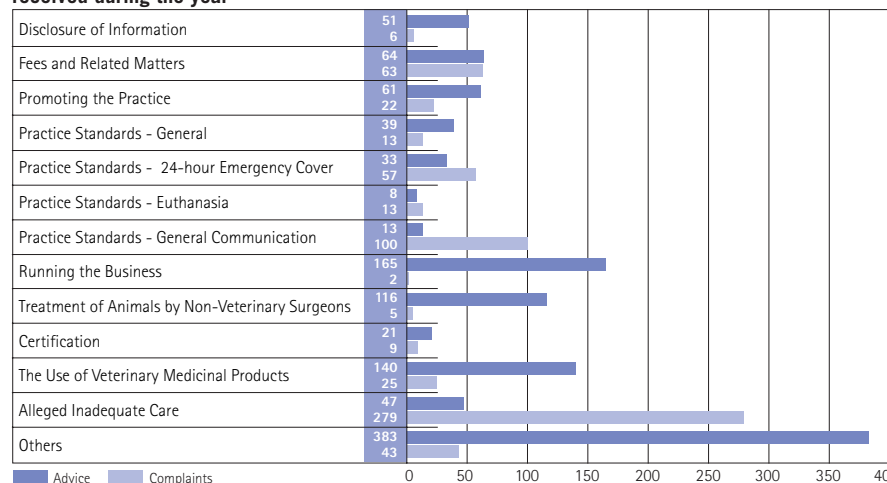
Our main reason for providing advice is to try to prevent problems arising in the first place. We would far rather commit time and resources in this way, to the benefit of the animal, owner and veterinary surgeon, than have to investigate complaints that could have been avoided.

We have continued to provide advice in a variety of ways. On an individual level, we spend a lot of time on the telephone advising members of the public and veterinary surgeons and have made or received 5,523 calls this year (including 1,218 calls about existing complaints or cases) - a 64% increase on last year. More formally, we

received 1,141 individual written requests for advice - up 26% - which included 436 requests from veterinary surgeons and 705 from non-veterinary surgeons on a broad variety of subjects (see figure 1).

On a wider level, we increasingly use our website, RCVSonline, and electronic newsletter, *RCVS e-News*, to disseminate advice to all interested parties, and our traditional paper newsletter, *RCVS News*, to circulate advice to the profession. Our formal guidance is available in the *RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct*, which, this year, has seen a number of important additions and amendments, not least in relation to veterinary medicines.

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





“The Preliminary Investigation Committee considers all complaints fully and fairly, and with absolute probity.”


Susan Pyper, Lay Observer, PI Committee

### Veterinary medicines

There were significant changes in the autumn to national legislation governing the retail supply, prescription and storage of veterinary medicines (see *RCVS News* editions of November 2005 and March 2006). The Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) implemented new regulations in October which replaced the Medicines Act 1966 for veterinary medicines. We were able to address the confusion that subsequently arose over the meaning of the terms ‘prescribing’, ‘supplying’ and ‘dispensing’ of POM-V medicines, and we published advice on this.

We agreed with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) that the majority of the Competition Commission’s recommendations for the profession (from the 2003 Inquiry) should be implemented through the *Guide* rather than through legislation, meaning that the requirements are easier to follow, and enforced by the profession. These recommendations included providing clients with information on POM-V prices and the availability of prescriptions.



We also provided advice to the profession on the new Supply of Relevant Veterinary Medicinal Products Order, which implemented, amongst others, the Competition Commission’s recommendation for zero prescription fees for at least three years, one which the RCVS had no desire or authority to implement in the *Guide*. 

### RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct

Other additions to the *Guide* this year have included Council’s decision to promote continuing professional development (CPD) as a mandatory requirement of practising veterinary surgeons. Owner access to client records was improved by Council’s decision that, at a client’s request, veterinary surgeons must provide copies of relevant clinical records (although a charge to cover any significant expense is permitted); and we agreed that practices should have written complaints handling procedures. Council also addressed issues of food safety and public health with an updated annex to the *Guide* on the safe use of Immobilon in farmed or wild deer, to guard against such animals entering the human food chain; and it issued new guidance on the continuity of care for animals

that may be transferred between a primary practice and an out-of-hours provider of 24-hour emergency cover.

### Lay representation

Non-veterinary surgeons can play an important role in monitoring, handling or deciding about complaints against professionals. We are actively preparing for lay involvement in any new Veterinary Surgeons Act (see Section 3) but already involve a high proportion of lay members in our investigative and disciplinary processes. For example, Tony Butler, Diane Mark and Susan Pyper, all non-veterinary surgeons, are Lay Observers with our Preliminary Investigation (PI) Committee of six veterinary members; Lay Observers have sat with the Committee since 1999 and provided a report to Council each year on its work.

In their sixth annual report to Council in June, the Lay Observers highlighted, amongst other things, an increasing number of complaints that concerned the continuity of care for animals transferred between practices. By the time of their report advice had been issued to the profession that the Lay Observers



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



“Paradoxically, the number of complaints is going down, but PI Committee’s workload is increasing. It is gratifying to realise that this is because each complaint is subjected to a greater level of scrutiny and transparency than ever before.”

Jerry Davies, Chairman, PI Committee



hoped would address the problems arising. However, later, in March, the Chairman of the PI Committee, who provides a report of the Committee’s work to each Council meeting, issued a reminder of the advice because of ongoing complaints. This provides an example of how our guidance and complaints-handling activities interrelate.

The Lay Observers also noticed a large number of complaints concerning inadequate levels of communication between veterinary surgeons and their clients. Responding, the PI Committee indicated the profession would be reminded of the relevant part of the *Guide*, and advice was published in *RCVS News* in November.

A further aspect of communication that the Lay Observers considered could be improved upon was that of informed consent. The Lay Observers commented that both the specific procedure and an estimate of the cost should be included on consent forms signed by clients, to confirm informed consent.



In response, the PI Committee indicated that it would encourage the use of consent forms covering both aspects, like the RCVS specimen consent form annexed to the *Guide*. Subsequently, the profession’s main indemnity insurer, the Veterinary Defence Society (VDS), indicated it would direct its members to the RCVS forms.

Our Lay Observers are also invited to attend formal and informal interviews with respondents, and participate in practice visits, which, in their words, “check the quality, appropriateness, health and safety of the service provided as well as give advice on a wide variety of issues and concerns”.

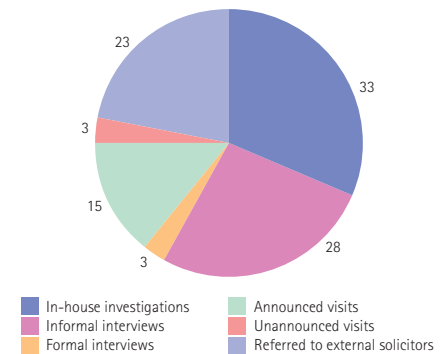
Like the PI Committee, our 12-strong Disciplinary Committee benefits from significant lay representation from four non-veterinary members, including the chairman, Brian Jennings, a Privy Council appointee to Council. Without exception, these non-veterinary members, as well as the Lay Observers on the PI Committee, contribute

to our complaints and disciplinary system objectivity and independence, to help ensure that our regulatory activities are, and are perceived as, fair.

### Handling complaints

We continue to receive complaints from both the public and the profession and we continue to assess each one, investigating where necessary. We received 637 complaints this year which, although 5% higher than last year, remains 12% lower than the average number of complaints received in the five years before that. In recent years, there has been an increase in the number of cases coming before the PI Committee, which has both increased the number of times that the Committee

Figure 2. Number and type of investigations requested by PI Committee

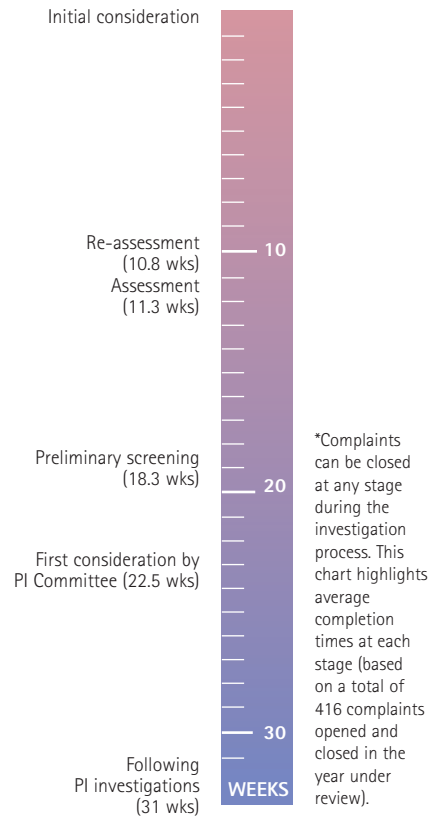




“Consent forms should clearly and fully identify not only the relevant procedures undertaken, but also a realistic estimate of the likely cost.”

Diane Mark, Lay Observer, PI Committee

**Figure 3. Average time taken to close complaints\***



has met and generated more requests for investigations (see figure 2). The figures are similar to last year, as are the average times taken to close complaints. (see figure 3).

The most common category of complaint (see figure 1) continues to be of alleged inadequate care (although the number of such complaints fell markedly last year), which may be made if a veterinary surgeon makes a mistake. There may have been no mistake, but if there has been, unless it questions a veterinary surgeon's fitness to practise or work, we have no power to deal with it under the Veterinary Surgeons Act. We may, however, give advice to the veterinary surgeon, as appropriate. Such complaints may be of alleged negligence but we do not adjudicate on such allegations and they must be resolved between the client and the veterinary surgeon (who may be represented or defended by the VDS, or another indemnity insurer). Following a meeting last year with VDS representatives, the Lay Observers received their assurances that "all reasonable claims were dealt with sympathetically and with compassion, without the need for a complainant to pursue court action". The importance of adequate professional indemnity insurance cover for practising

veterinary surgeons cannot be overstated, and is a requirement in the *Guide*.

The Disciplinary Committee has sat six times over the last 12 months to hear four new Inquiries and two applications for restoration to the Register. A summary of these hearings is provided in table 2 and full details are available on RCVSonline. The Privy Council has not heard any appeals against RCVS decisions during this period.

**MAINTAINING PRACTICE STANDARDS**

Last year we reported on the launch to the profession of the Practice Standards Scheme, a voluntary accreditation programme designed to encourage and recognise high standards across a range of practice types, including those excluded by previous schemes (for example, farm animal and equine general practices and emergency service clinics). It marks a first move towards a mandatory scheme (as outlined in our proposals for new veterinary legislation - see page 19).

Take-up on the initiative has been very good: one in two practice premises had come under the ambit of the Scheme by the end of March 2006. At this point, the Scheme was launched to the public in order



to build awareness of the 'RCVS Accredited Practice' logo and communicate the positive steps the profession is taking to meet public expectations in terms of quality assurance. See page 23 for more information about our public communications campaign.

The high number of practices joining the Scheme this year has kept the 30-strong team of inspectors busy. Each year they are supported by a training day, with this year's topics including health and safety, medicines legislation updates and best practice in clinical governance.

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

“ We act in the public interest, to ensure veterinary surgeons are fit to practise, but we are not here simply to punish or vilify a clinician, and our judgments must be proportionate. ”

Brian Jennings, Chairman, Disciplinary Committee



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

Date	Name	Complaint concerning	Outcome	Reported	Cost (£) <sup>1</sup>
25/04 - 05/05/2005	Mr Ranes K Sanyal	Failure to provide adequate treatment; dishonesty to clients; false certification; and encouraging fraudulent insurance activity.	Direction to remove from Register on five out of six conduct charges. (Appeal to Privy Council lodged and pursued but withdrawn before the hearing.)	RCVSONline (05/05/05 and 26/01/06) <i>RCVS News</i> (Jun 05)	139,000 <sup>2</sup>
18/07/2005 & 30&31/01/2006	Mr William W Sim	Conviction for drink-driving; practising while under the influence of alcohol; and (on 31/01/06) providing RCVS with inaccurate information about the conviction.	Judgement postponed for two years subject to conditions regarding medical treatment and supervision to which Mr Sim has agreed.	RCVSONline (19/07/05 and 02/02/06) <i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 06)	41,000
21/07/2005	Dr Roy A Earle	Failure to maintain professional indemnity insurance cover and allowing the RCVS to be misled during its enquiries.	Reprimanded and warned as to future conduct for allowing the RCVS to be misled in its enquiries.	RCVSONline (22/07/05) <i>RCVS News</i> (Nov 05)	11,000
05-07/09/2005 & 08/11/2005	Mrs Susie Macleod	Failure to have animals under her care at a veterinary nurse-only vaccination clinic and no out-of-hours emergency cover.	Direction to suspend from Register for eight months. (Appeal to the Privy Council has been lodged and is pending.)	RCVSONline (11/11/05) <i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 06)	38,000
07/11/2005	Mr Maurice J Kirk	Name removed in early 2004 after appeal to the Privy Council was refused.	Second application for restoration to the Register refused. (First application was refused on 06/01/2005.)	RCVSONline (09/11/05) <i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 06)	15,000
01/02/2006	Mr Michael A P Simons	Name removed in late 2001 for charges relating to the storage and maintenance of controlled drugs.	Application for restoration withdrawn (for the second time).	<i>RCVS News</i> (Mar 06)	19,000

<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 2005-31 December 2005) or the *Annual Report* year (1 April 2005-31 March 2006) 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.

<sup>2</sup> Including £52,000 for preparation for the appeal. (By agreement £24,000 was recovered from Mr Sanyal.)

# 2

## advancing and supporting



### large animal

Just 4% of those responding to our 2006 Survey work in farm animal-only practices. But with these veterinary surgeons potentially acting as gatekeepers for zoonotic diseases, this remains a critical area of practice.





“Clinical research is vital for the advancement of veterinary medicine - both within universities and in commercial practice. We must find ways to make it easier for clinicians to undertake research as part of their normal service.”



Quintin McKellar, Chairman, Research Committee


## In this section...

...we describe our Charter functions of promoting continuing professional development and awarding postgraduate qualifications; the RCVS Trust's support for veterinary education; and our veterinary nursing-related activities.

### ENCOURAGING FURTHER EDUCATION

#### Research in practice

According to our recent Survey of the Profession, 91% of veterinary surgeons working within the profession are employed in practices, up from 80% in 2002. So where does that leave research? The important role that clinical research can play in providing valuable data when carried out within the practice context was explored during a one-day seminar organised by the College in September and supported by the RCVS Trust.

Attended by a group of 70 veterinary surgeons, including clinicians, researchers and academics, "Research into Practice ... Practice into Research" considered the interface between clinical research and veterinary practice, urging practitioners to become more involved in clinical research and exploring how findings can be applied in practice - a message our Research Committee is also keen to promote. 

#### Continuing professional development

Many of our education-related activities over the last few years have focused on delivery of the recommendations made by the Education Strategy Steering Group (ESSG) in its plan *Veterinary Education and Training - A framework for 2010 and beyond* (2002). A unifying theme of these proposals is the development of a structure for lifelong learning within the profession, linking continuing professional development (CPD) to the Professional Development Phase for

graduates, followed by more flexible access to formal postgraduate qualifications.

Taking forward ESSG's vision, RCVS Council decided in November that CPD should be promoted as a mandatory requirement for all veterinary surgeons and the *RCVS Guide to Professional Conduct* has been amended accordingly (see page 10).

Although it is likely that the majority of veterinary surgeons already carry out more than the required average of 35 hours of CPD per year, a *CPD Record Card* sampling exercise undertaken in July showed that not enough are recording this activity properly. The record card for 2006 has been improved to make this easier, and more detailed guidance has been added to RCVSONline.

#### Postgraduate qualifications

Many veterinary surgeons choose to formalise their CPD by enrolling for an RCVS certificate or diploma. We have continued to work on the implementation of a new modular certificate (see page 20) but in the meantime, enrolments remain available for our existing set of certificates. At 282 candidates, the enrolments this year are down on last year's figure of 320; however, this may be due to potential candidates waiting for the modular certificate to commence.

Enrolment figures for the diplomas were also down this year (at 12 compared with 31 in 2004), although this reflects the fact that, where subjects are also covered by a European equivalent, the RCVS diploma

is being phased out (enrolments for five subjects were closed this year). Nevertheless, 11 candidates had successfully completed their diploma examinations by the year end (see table 3, overleaf).

Within the RCVS structure for lifelong learning, the highest award that we bestow is the RCVS fellowship. This can be awarded for meritorious contributions to learning (MCL) or by submission of a thesis. This year, one candidate achieved the fellowship by MCL - Professor John (Joe) Brownlie - and four were successful by thesis: Dr Kin-Chow Chang, Professor William (Twink) Allen, Professor Timothy Skerry and Mr Gian Lorenzo D'Alterio. The President awarded several of these fellowships in person on RCVS Day in July.

### SUPPORTING VETERINARY EDUCATION

To assist those members of the profession who wish to undertake formal postgraduate education, embark on research careers, or undertake smaller applied research projects while remaining in practice, the RCVS Trust has continued to provide extensive support and wide-ranging resources throughout the year via its grant-making programme and Library and Information Service.

The Trust Library continues to have two faces: a traditional one of well-stacked book shelves (ie 25,000 books and 270 current journal subscriptions), quiet working spaces, friendly,

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



“Our Small Grant from the RCVS Trust will allow us to provide veterinary training in health-screening and monitoring techniques for critically endangered bird populations.”

Penny Cusdin VN, Manager, Wildlife Vets International

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

<b>Animal Welfare Science, Ethics and Law</b> Siobhan M Mullan
<b>Cattle Health and Production</b> Jonathon N Huxley
<b>Small Animal Medicine</b> Ian A Battersby Jonathan D Wray
<b>Small Animal Medicine (Feline)</b> Andrea M Harvey
<b>Small Animal Surgery (Orthopaedics)</b> Toby J Gemmill
<b>Veterinary Anaesthesia</b> Pamela J Murison
<b>Veterinary Cardiology</b> Brian C Devine
<b>Zoological Medicine (Avian and Mammalian)</b> Michael W Lierz (Avian) Romain Pizzi (Avian) Anna L Meredith (Mammalian)



helpful staff and a continually boiling kettle; complemented by a thoroughly modern one of electronic journals, information searches, online catalogues and casebooks, database partnerships, quarterly subject updates and other online and email services. As one of the world's leading providers of animal health information, the Trust Library has strived to improve the dissemination of veterinary educational information and enhance access for new learning.

To support such learning, the Trust has continued to fund educational projects with a broad programme of grants, scholarships and awards. In March, it awarded a further £450,000 across 51 high-calibre research projects in the UK and overseas, bringing the total disbursed since 2000 to just under £1.5 million. These projects include small grants for UK practice-based applied research, travel scholarships for veterinary students and veterinary nurses, and overseas projects such as the £4,500 given to the organisation Wildlife Vets International towards a health-screening programme of the Seychelles Paradise Flycatcher.

At the other end of the scale, six residencies (at £42,000 each) were funded in production animal medicine, zoo and exotic animal medicine and, unusually for a UK charity, veterinary pathology. The Trust's Blue Sky Research Programme has also continued, with over £50,000 awarded across four

separate projects that will allow veterinary surgeons to explore and test innovative ideas for the advancement of veterinary science and animal care and welfare.

The Trust's overriding objective this year has been to determine more accurately the needs of its grant holders and library users and then aim to meet those needs as effectively and responsively as possible. The results of a survey of library users and grant holders held in the spring will help inform and direct the Trust's activities and services over the next few years. As a smaller charity, the Trust is able to maintain an ongoing dialogue with all of its existing and potential grant holders, and so can constantly adapt to the ever-changing educational needs of the veterinary profession.

#### SUPPORTING VETERINARY NURSING

##### Awarding Body

The RCVS Awarding Body for veterinary nursing vocational qualifications is responsible for all activities concerning pre-listing training. These include the development and review of qualifications, enrolment and external examination of candidates and the quality assurance of NVQ centres and college courses, training and assessment.

As at 1 February, there were 48 Veterinary Nursing Approved Centres, one more than 2005 (none withdrew or was removed). There


were 1,464 Training Practices (TPs) at the end of February, with 116 new TPs approved (including five equine practices), 23 withdrawn and 50 changing VNAC affiliation during 2005 - overall an 8% increase on last year. In fact, pleasingly, the total number of TPs continued to climb, with this year's figure over 400 higher than in 2003. This positive trend is in contrast to anecdotal evidence, indicating yet again that the more negative members of the profession tend to be the most vocal!

However, despite the increase in TPs, it seems the demand for qualified VNs continues to outstrip supply, testament to the very valuable contribution they make in practice life. Our recent survey of the veterinary profession shows that, on average, a practice employs a total of 4.6 nursing staff, including Listed, non-Listed and student VNs.

Another trend underlined this year is the increase in VNs qualifying via the higher education route. With 11 universities now providing VN degrees, VN Council agreed in October that the initial standard set by those courses had been so good that, once a university course had been fully approved, their students would no longer also have to sit the RCVS external examinations.

##### Reviewing RCVS VN qualifications

Although the percentage of VNs successfully completing their training continued to rise, it is important not to become complacent. In


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

“ We have been developing a code of professional conduct for VNs in readiness for the introduction of self-regulation, and the new title of Registered Veterinary Nurse, in 2007. ”

Andrea Jeffery, Chairman, VN Council



order to assess where improvements can be made to NVQ training, we commissioned an independent review of the qualification this year. The objective was to assess whether the current documentation, guidance and assessment methods could be revised to reduce time and bureaucratic burdens on veterinary practices.

The research showed that the NVQ has now bedded in very well, to such an extent, in fact, that the time is now right for the Awarding Body to take a step back and allow those involved with delivering the qualification to take a more autonomous role. The report made various recommendations, some of which were actually already underway and others that have been built into the Awarding Body's future plans. For example, the Awarding Body has now amended its TP approval and monitoring policy and is more focused on centre accountability. 

Together with Lantra, we also undertook a robust review of the National Occupational Standards. The new proposals were accredited by the Qualifications and Curriculum Association (QCA) this year and will be implemented later in 2006.

In tandem, a review of the Professional Syllabus that supports training has been a key part of our VN activity during 2005, and has now entered its final stages. The first of its

kind for over 20 years, the review has focused on modernising the syllabus whilst listening to the profession's views. Shaped by three rounds of consultation with TPs, colleges and training centres, the new syllabus should provide qualified VNs who are more able to meet the needs of modern practice.

**Uptake and pass-rates for VN examinations**  
Although the slight drop in Level 3 pass-rate in the year's winter's examination results was disappointing (see table 4), a new electronic marking system for the practical examinations this year meant that improved levels of feedback could be provided to VNACs, colleges and TPs, to enable them to focus on specific areas of practical teaching and thus improve their candidates' performance.

**VETERINARY NURSES COUNCIL**

Under new bye-laws, VN Council was able to draw several new members from a broader experience-base this year, including three non-RCVS council veterinary surgeons and a lay member. One new VN - Sophie Pullen - also joined this year and Andrea Jeffery returned for another term. Mrs Jeffery - the first veterinary nurse to chair the VN Council since its inception - also sits on our Advisory Committee and Finance and General Purposes Committee, in recognition of the importance we place on VN input into RCVS affairs and activities. One of the newly-

expanded Council's driving issues has been the proposal for non-statutory regulation of veterinary nurses - see page 21 for more details.

**VN listing**  
We maintain a database of veterinary nurses from which the *RCVS List of Veterinary Nurses* is formulated. The database contains almost 11,291 entries for qualified VNs, which includes everyone who has achieved the RCVS VN or RANA qualification since 1963, of whom 6,611 (59%) of eligible VNs are currently Listed.

We removed 374 nurses from the List on 1 January, compared with 523 for the previous 12-month period. These VNs may not undertake any delegated work under the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 Schedule 3 and may not act as NVQ assessors for student veterinary nurses.


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



**Table 4. Uptake and pass rates for VN examinations in 2004 and 2005**

	Level 2				Level 3			
	Entries		Pass rate (%)		Entries		Pass rate %	
	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq	SA	Eq
Summer 2004	805	20	74	70	766	-	61	-
Summer 2005	793	23	82	83	713	17	69	71
Winter 2004	353	13	60	46	423	-	62	-
Winter 2005	328	8	65	25	412	9	56	56

SA = Small Animal      EQ = Equine

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



# 3

## building for the future



### research

Research is not only conducted in laboratories. A great deal of valuable veterinary research is carried out in practice, using clinical cases, and much academic research has clinical applications. Research into zoonoses also helps safeguard public health.





“New veterinary legislation is needed to put the regulation of veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and veterinary practices on a new footing and respond to current expectations.”

Roger Eddy, Chairman, VSA Working Party




## In this section...

...we set out our plans for the short and longer-term and describe the work we have undertaken to prepare for new legislation, develop lifelong learning opportunities and regulate veterinary nurses.

We are continually looking ahead to see what changes may be in store for the veterinary profession, and how we need to adapt and prepare for them. Some, like a new Veterinary Surgeons Act and self-regulation for veterinary nurses, are fundamental to the future of the profession as a whole and will have far-reaching consequences; others, such as new modular certificates and structured training for new graduates, will have more of an impact on an individual basis, but are no less important. Here, we set out our key plans for the future and an idea of what's to come.

### VETERINARY SURGEONS ACT

In November 2005 the RCVS Council adopted firm proposals for changes in the veterinary legislation. 

Council's decisions followed extensive discussion and consultation. Veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses were asked in 2003 for their views on how the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 might be brought up to date. In June 2005 we put specific proposals forward in a further consultation paper, and at its November meeting Council took stock of the responses.

In the consultation paper we proposed a new structure for the regulation of veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and other providers of veterinary services. There would be two or more bodies, referred to as "councils", setting standards for the different groups. The RCVS Council would set standards for veterinary surgeons, and a further council or councils would do the same for veterinary nurses and other providers of veterinary services. A separate body, referred to as the "board", would monitor compliance by looking into complaints and, where necessary, referring them to an independent Conduct and Competence Committee. It would also enforce a statutory practice standards scheme.

Some of the responses to the consultation paper raised concerns over the inclusion of groups other than veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses in the new structure. It was suggested that full statutory regulation might be onerous for some of the very small technician groups. There were also reservations about the criteria which might be adopted for recognising new groups as professions and bringing them within the regulatory structure.

In the light of the arguments put forward Council decided to adopt a modified structure for regulation. Separate councils - the RCVS Council and an independent successor to the present Veterinary Nurses Council - are still envisaged to set standards for veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses. For other providers of veterinary services, however, we will consider other options. These could include RCVS recognition of qualifications and endorsement of non-statutory schemes for regulation of conduct.

More flexible powers to supervise professional conduct and competence were mooted in 2003 and provoked lively debate. Council now recommends that the new board should have more effective powers to investigate complaints and be able to dispose of a case by giving a formal warning or advice without reference to the Conduct and Competence Committee. The Committee's jurisdiction should extend to clinical performance and health as well as professional conduct and fitness to practise, and it should be able to conclude a case with a warning, impose conditions or restrictions on continued practice or direct that the member should cease to practise for a period or indefinitely.

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



“ I thought the PDP was a workable and very useful exercise in my first job, as it helped me keep track of the things I'd already done, and those I still needed to cover. ”

Sebastian Daly, Pool Farm Veterinary Surgery


The most controversial proposal was that the Conduct and Competence Committee should have powers to make an interim order in the public interest suspending a respondent or imposing conditions or restrictions pending proceedings. We also proposed that the Committee should be able to suspend or impose conditions or restrictions with immediate effect following proceedings. Council decided that these powers should be available, but subject to safeguards.

We don't yet know when there may be space in the Government's legislative programme for new veterinary legislation. Our first hurdle is to convince Ministers that the changes which Council proposes are right and worth pursuing. The proposals are well-precedented in existing legislation that governs the human health professions. The regulation of those professions has been under review following the Shipman Inquiry, and it may be that any resulting changes will be seen as a model to be applied to veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses. On the other hand, Ministers are committed to lightening the regulatory burden on businesses and will look for strong arguments to justify any extension of regulation. Council decided that we should set out to make the case for the proposed changes.



### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PHASE

The 2006 Survey of the Profession asked those graduating since 2000 if they were given training in their first year of practice. Just over 50% were, which is encouraging, but that left nearly one in two new graduates without any formal training during this crucial formative period of their professional lives.

It is in recognition of this shortfall that, over the last three years, we have developed and piloted the Professional Development Phase (PDP), and this year Council agreed that PDP should be compulsory from 2007 onwards for all first-year graduates. PDP is a web-based system for recording clinical experience that supports new graduates as they attain their Year-one Competencies. It also encourages a more structured approach to in-practice training and appraisals. In order to provide a level playing field, PDP should be completed by all, whether graduating from UK universities or overseas establishments. It can also be used on a voluntary basis by those returning to practise after a career break or those who change careers across species. It will be built into the Practice Standards Scheme and be mandatory for anyone wishing to enrol on the RCVS certificates. 

### MODULAR CERTIFICATES

The way in which veterinary surgeons work is changing and, as with other professions, the desire for an improved work-life balance is much to the fore. Our research suggests that, to some extent, this is being achieved, with average working hours on a downward trend. Flexibility of working is another positive aspiration and something that the veterinary profession can accommodate. In recognition of these changes, our Specialisation and Further Education Committee has been working for sometime to develop a new, modular framework for the RCVS Certificates, to make these sought-after qualifications more accessible for busy practitioners. It is hoped that the change will mean many more enrolled candidates actually go on to achieve the full qualification, a rate that has been dropping in recent years on the old system.

Before we can implement these changes, bye-laws will need to be agreed by Council setting out the rules for candidates and for accredited universities. This is planned for 2006, enabling us to set up accreditation meetings and start registering candidates for modules that may become available through the universities throughout 2007 and beyond.

“Of those VNs who have listed since 2001, only about 1% has since de-listed, a retention rate of which we can be proud.”

### GATEWAYS TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

In April, we submitted our response to the 'Gateways to the Professions' consultation paper, the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) initiative (led by Sir Alan Langlands) to urge government, university, professional bodies and employers to work together to prepare and develop professionals in a way that maximises their contribution to the economic, social and cultural development of the country.

With our recent Survey of the Profession revealing that just 2% of veterinary surgeons describe their ethnic background as other than 'white', the need to encourage applications to veterinary schools from a broader ethnic and social mix is evident. The drop in application rates for places at the UK veterinary schools - in 2003 there were 2.1 applications per place, falling to 1.8 in 2004 - also illustrates the need to stimulate interest in the veterinary degree courses.

October 2006 will see the introduction of increased tuition fees for UK university students, and we have expressed concerns at the possible implications for veterinary graduates of the future. Sir Alan's report to Ministers, published last autumn, included recommendations on how the effects might

be mitigated. In response, DfES is making development money available for collaborative projects, to be led by professional bodies over the next two to three years.

We are now working with six out of the seven UK veterinary schools and DEFRA to put together an application for funding. Ours is a two-stage proposal, kicking off with a research project to enable us to understand existing messages being given to students, their parents and careers advisors, and what is currently preventing applications to veterinary school from a broader base of students. The results will then help to define the second stage, the preparation and dissemination of improved and targeted careers information. If successful in our application, it is hoped that the research phase will commence during 2006.

In the meantime, our careers afternoon continued to prove a valuable session, with over 60 parents, teachers and students attending July's event to hear about the rewarding and varied careers that await the veterinary graduate, a breadth of opportunity illustrated by the images featuring in this year's *Report*.



### SELF-REGULATION FOR VNS

The issue of a non-statutory register for veterinary nurses has been debated for some time at VN Council. A timetable for its introduction was discussed and agreed at October's VN Council meeting and subsequently approved at the November RCVS Council meeting.

Joining the non-statutory register will be voluntary for those qualifying before 2003 and compulsory for those qualifying after this date. Registered VNs will need to hold a relevant qualification and abide by a code of conduct. The *Register* will reflect the increasingly professional status of VNs and pave the way for statutory self-regulation, a stage which can only be reached if and when Parliament enacts a new Veterinary Surgeons Act.

The non-statutory register will also have implications in terms of CPD, maintenance of conduct and competence and revalidation following career breaks. The timetable agreed by VN and RCVS Councils, which includes points for review, anticipates that the register, together with a guide to professional conduct for VNs and a framework for mandatory CPD, will be introduced in 2007 and be fully up and running by 2009-10.

Of those VNs who have listed since 2001, only about 1% has since de-listed, a retention rate of which we can be proud. But the veterinary nursing profession is certainly not standing still. The professional accountability that self-regulation will bring should emphasise the vital contribution VNs make to veterinary care and enable the further development of their skills and role as key members of the veterinary team.

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



# 4

# listening and communicating



## exotics

From syringing a snake to anaesthetising an ape, veterinary work with exotic animals is often seen as the exciting end of practice. Opportunities to work overseas and in conservation programmes also make this a sought-after discipline.





“ At the Practice Standards public launch our message was simple: RCVS accreditation means regular inspections for the practice, peace of mind for owners and quality care for their animals. ”

Ted the Vet



## In this section...

...we describe our different methods of communicating, the public launch of the Practice Standards Scheme, our discussions with policy makers and our interactions with the media.

### PRACTICE STANDARDS PUBLIC LAUNCH

During the first quarter of 2006 the number of veterinary practice premises coming under the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme hit 1,800. At around 50% of the premises in the UK, and with a distribution across the country similar to all practices (see maps, page 31), this represented a high enough number to make a meaningful launch to the public. A communications programme was therefore planned to start at the end of March.

Based on the findings of pet owner research we commissioned, the messaging for the launch was simple. We focused on explaining what RCVS accreditation meant and encouraged people to 'look for the logo' to see if a practice had met our stringent standards.

We produced a range of supporting materials including posters, leaflets and window stickers for practices to display or hand to clients, together with additional online information. To help make our promotional information about the Scheme more accessible, a cartoon veterinary inspector named (Accredi)Ted the Vet was born. He acted as an easily-recognisable and friendly face for the Scheme and helped to explain the benefits of using an RCVS Accredited Practice.

The high number of practices requesting further materials suggested these were well received by pet owners. We also designed additional material for organisations such

as charities, rehoming centres and animal-owner associations to give to their clients and members.

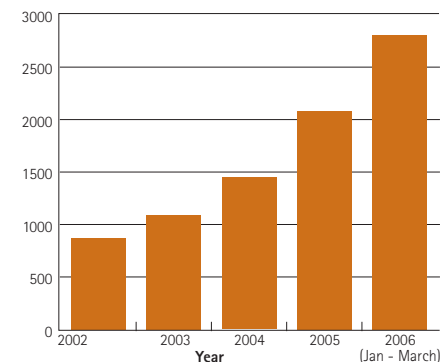
To help practices communicate their hard-won accreditation to their clients and the public at large we produced a communications pack. This included advice on dealing with the local media which, as evidenced by the cuttings generated, was well used. Press releases and promotional material were also sent directly to the national, local and professional media.

An early start on launch day itself saw the President and Junior Vice-President interviewed on 22 radio stations across the UK, reaching a potential audience of some 2.3 million. Presentations were then made at Belgravia House to an audience comprising the media, leading members of the profession and representatives from animal-owning organisations. The afternoon saw a new departure for the RCVS - an online chat! The President was filmed answering questions about the Scheme submitted by pet owners, which was streamed live on the internet and viewed by a potential online audience of 9.3 million.

### WEBSITE AND PUBLICATIONS

RCVSONline continues to play a key role in our communications with members and the public. With an average of over

Figure 4. Average number of visits to RCVSONline per day



2,200 visitors every day, the website is an efficient and cost-effective communications mechanism. Our 'Find a Vet' service has proved particularly popular with an average of 620 searches performed daily, a figure that rose dramatically in October when our EMS practice search facility was added. Although we are delighted that visitor numbers continue to climb (see figure 4), we plan to carry out usability research on the site to ensure it remains as accessible as possible.

Feedback will also be sought next year on our hard copy newsletter *RCVS News*. This year we produced three issues and informal feedback has been positive, particularly

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

**Table 5. Meetings with external organisations during the year under review****Veterinary Organisations**

Assoc. of Vet. Surgeons Practising in N. Ireland  
 British Equine Veterinary Association  
 British Small Animal Veterinary Association  
 British Veterinary Association  
 British Veterinary Hospitals Association  
 Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons  
 Veterinary Defence Society  
 Veterinary Marketing Association  
 Veterinary Public Health Association

**Congresses/Conferences**

Animal Welfare, Science Ethics & Law  
 Assoc. of Vet. Teachers & Research Workers  
 Better Regulation/National Audit Office  
 British Small Animal Veterinary Association  
 British Veterinary Association  
 British Veterinary Nurses Association  
 Government Veterinary Surgeons (DEFRA)  
 North American Veterinary Conference  
 Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons  
 SPVS student seminar  
 VDS seminars for recent graduates  
 Veterinary Practice Management Association  
*Veterinary Review*

**Government**

DEFRA (Secretary of State; CVO; stakeholders)  
 DEFRA Animal Health & Welfare Strategy Grp  
 DEFRA England Implementation Group  
 Department of Trade and Industry  
 EFRA Select Committee  
 MPs forum  
 Peers forum  
 Veterinary Medicines Directorate

**Overseas**

Federation of Veterinarians of Europe  
 Veterinary Council of Ireland

**Professional Bodies**

Secretaries of Professional Bodies  
 UK-Inter Professional Group

**Public Sector**

Peoples Dispensary for Sick Animals  
 Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
 World Society for the Protection of Animals

**Higher Education**

Heads of Veterinary Schools



regarding our provision of advice on the new medicines legislation. Next year we will review the frequency and size of the publication to ensure it best meets members' needs.

In addition, increasing numbers of veterinary surgeons, veterinary nurses and members of the public seem to appreciate the speedy access to our latest news made possible by *RCVS e-News*, our regular email bulletin. Now with over 7,000 subscribers, including around 1,000 VNs, the continuing exponential increase in circulation is very encouraging.

Last year's *Annual Report* was well received, with readers commenting positively on its clarity, design and readability. We hope that it continues to provide a clear, concise and constructive summary of our year's activities, together with our plans for the future.

**PUBLIC, PROFESSION AND PRESS****Engaging the profession**

One of the best ways for Council to understand members' views and concerns is to meet them on their home ground. This year saw a continuation of our programme of regional meetings, with sessions in Aberdeen and Newcastle in May, and Belfast in November. The format changed slightly, in response to feedback from previous meetings, and BBC Question Time-style events provided both a lively forum for debate and a higher turnout than usual, with over 50 attending the Belfast meeting. Our Question Time session was also popular at April's BSAVA Congress, with over 80 attendees gathering to pose their questions to the panel of Officers.

'Meet the RCVS' days have also continued to prove successful, where small groups of veterinary surgeons, VNs and others with an interest in the profession visit our offices at Belgravia House to find out more about our activities and meet the team. "I hadn't realised how much work went on behind the scenes," being a typical comment from visitors.

Continuing the theme of giving a human face to the RCVS and helping to break down the myth that our sole activity is 'striking off' veterinary surgeons, we started a new initiative this year. Officers visited final-year

students in each of the veterinary schools to explain our role and responsibilities, and impress upon them that the best way to avoid coming into contact with our disciplinary process is to seek our advice at the earliest possible opportunity. These sessions were well received, with students gaining a more useful impression of the RCVS than perhaps they had heard elsewhere.

Communications has been the watchword for veterinary nursing this year also, with dialogue between centres, training practices and candidates improving greatly throughout 2005 and into 2006. More proactively, we have also contributed regular columns and articles to the veterinary nursing media to keep VNs up to date with our activities that affect them.

**Liaising with the press**

On a wider level, our press office continues to take a wide variety of calls from the national, local and professional media. In order to meet journalists' often short deadlines, we started this year to build a library of RCVS position statements on a range of topical issues, to supplement our regular press releases.

One of the ways in which we can both assist with media enquiries and help influence external policies is through being a reliable source of information about the profession. It is with this aim in mind, and to meet our own objectives of planning for change within

“ In March, RCVS Council supported an amendment to the Animal Welfare Bill to ban tail-docking in dogs except for therapeutic purposes. ”



the profession, that we carry out our regular Surveys of the Profession. Our latest survey was sent to members in January 2006 and results indicate that, despite anecdotal evidence, the profession is relatively stable. A selection of results is to be found throughout this *Report* and a detailed analysis will be available on RCVSonline from mid-June 2006. The findings of the survey will also provide the starting point for a one-day symposium - *Postcards from the Future* - which will consider the future direction of the profession.

To maintain our network of stakeholders and to understand the views from all corners of the profession we have hosted and attended a broad range of meetings this year (see table 5). Such meetings help ensure that veterinary and animal health and welfare matters are to the fore during the development of any relevant external policies

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT

#### At home...

We make a direct input into public policy by responding to relevant consultation papers from Government departments and other bodies and submitting memoranda to Parliamentary bodies (see table 6).

Medicines were a particular subject of discussion during 2005. The Veterinary Medicines Directorate brought in new regulations to supersede the Medicines

**Table 6. Principal responses to Government consultations: 01/04/05 - 31/03/06**

- Artificial insemination in cattle
- Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2005 and guidance notes
- Prescription-only veterinary medicines: DT1 order
- Misuse of Drugs Act 1971: ketamine
- Exotic animal disease contingency plan
- Changes to instructions to Meat Hygiene Service authorised officers
- Rabies disease import control policy
- Aquaculture and Fisheries Bill
- Bovine TB and badger culling

#### Other submissions

- Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill: memorandum to Scottish Parliament
- Bovine TB and badger culling: note to EFRA Select Committee of House of Commons

Act 1968 and the Department for Trade and Industry (DTI) made an order under the Fair Trading Act 1973 to implement the recommendations of the Competition Commission on the supply of prescription-only medicines. The profession thus had to cope with new legislation, including a

new classification system and new rules on the responsibilities of veterinary surgeons supplying or prescribing medicines, at the same time as putting in place the measures required by the DTI. We were heavily involved both in consultations on the draft regulations and order, and in advising veterinary surgeons on implementation (see page 10).

The Animal Welfare Bill, applying to England and Wales, and the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Bill were introduced into Parliament and the Scottish Parliament, respectively, in October 2005. We warmly welcomed the updating of the law in this area.

Much of the detail that concerns the profession will be in later regulations rather than the main legislation, but one subject - the docking of dogs' tails - aroused considerable interest in both Parliaments. Following a debate on this subject in the Commons Committee Stage of the Animal Welfare Bill, the Government undertook to bring forward amendments offering the options of the status quo, an outright ban and a ban with an exception for working dogs. In March, RCVS Council decided to support an amendment to the Animal Welfare Bill to ban docking except for therapeutic purposes. This would be subject to a review after five years to see whether there was evidence of a higher incidence of tail injuries in working dogs.

In the event, a free vote in the House of Commons at Report Stage amended the Bill

to ban docking, but with an exception for working dogs. We welcomed the vote, even though it did not go as far as Council would have wished. There were, however, concerns over the detailed wording of the Bill as amended, and we urged DEFRA to clarify the proposed role of the veterinary surgeon.

#### ...and abroad

We have continued to play a role on the international stage, particularly in liaison with the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), and the European Association of Establishments for Veterinary Education (EAEVE). Alongside delegates from the BVA and its divisions, we represent the UK twice a year at FVE General Assembly meetings and liaise with the FVE office throughout the year, ensuring that we keep abreast of developments in Europe that may impact on the profession at home. 

We also joined the FVE/EAEVE conference on the future of veterinary education in Europe in March, where one of the issues on the agenda was developing standard operating procedures for visitations to veterinary schools across Europe. The UK's Day-one Competencies, originally developed in 1997 by Professor David Noakes, look likely to form the basis of the European standard.

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

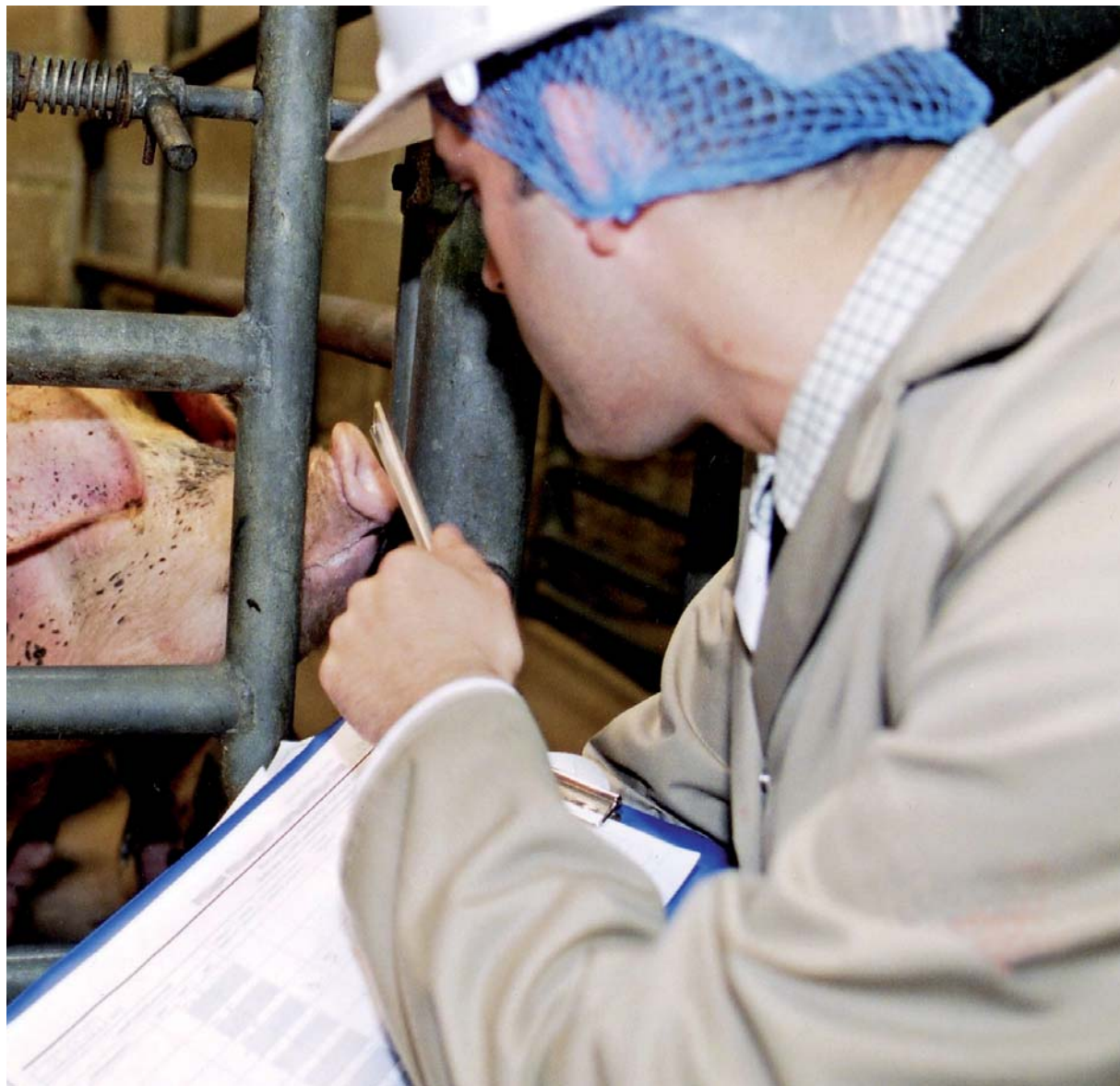


# 5

## facts and figures

### public health

The government and other public sector organisations are major employers of veterinary surgeons, with 769 currently working for the State Veterinary Service, Meat Hygiene Service and the Scottish Agricultural College, amongst others.





## NUMBERS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROFESSION

Names entered on		31/03/2006	Totals	31/03/2005	Totals
<b>General List I</b>		15683		15576	
<b>General List II</b>		2741		2395	
<b>Commonwealth List</b>		2586		2586	
<b>Foreign List</b>		588		608	
<b>Temporary List</b>		11		14	
<b>Supplementary Veterinary Register</b>		10		11	
			<b>21619</b>		<b>21190</b>
<b>UNITED KINGDOM (in General Practice or Other)<sup>1</sup></b>			<b>12975</b>		<b>12506</b>
<b>GOVERNMENT SERVICE</b>	Department for International Development	0		1	
	Home Office <sup>2</sup>	na		na	
<b>Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs</b>					
	Veterinary Field Service	319		306	
	Research Service <sup>3</sup>	102		111	
<b>Food Standards Agency</b>		14		14	
<b>Meat Hygiene Service</b>		58		60	
<b>Ministry of Defence</b>	Army Veterinary Remount Services (including RAVC)	38		39	
<b>Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (Northern Ireland)</b>					
	Veterinary Service	166		149	
	Veterinary Science Division	3		15	
<b>Scottish Agricultural College</b>		58		60	
<b>Others</b>	Manx Board of Agriculture	4		4	
	Municipal Veterinary Services	5		6	
	Jersey Department of Agriculture and Fisheries	0		1	
	European Medicines Evaluation Agency	1		2	
	Health Protection Scotland	1		1	
			<b>769</b>		<b>769</b>
<b>UNIVERSITIES</b>	Bristol: School of Veterinary Science	100		117	
	Cambridge: Dept. of Veterinary Science	49		55	
	Edinburgh: Royal (Dick) School	107		118	
	Glasgow: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	106		106	
	Liverpool: Faculty of Veterinary Science	113		128	
	London: Royal Veterinary College	117		128	
	Dublin: Faculty of Veterinary Medicine	43		47	
	Other	28		33	
			<b>663</b>		<b>732</b>
<b>RESEARCH COUNCILS</b>	UK Research Institutes		<b>17</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE</b>			<b>299</b>		<b>291</b>
<b>CHARITIES AND TRUSTS</b>			<b>337</b>		<b>364</b>
<b>NON-PRACTISING</b>	United Kingdom	2107		2006	
	Overseas	480		431	
			<b>2587</b>		<b>2437</b>
<b>OTHER</b>					
<b>The Republic of Ireland: Membership</b>			<b>1205</b>		<b>1264</b>
<b>Overseas-practising</b>		2746		2778	
<b>Food and Agriculture Organisation (UN)</b>		na		na	
			<b>2746</b>		<b>2778</b>
<b>Temporary List</b>			<b>11</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>The Supplementary Veterinary Register</b>			<b>10</b>		<b>11</b>
			<b>21619</b>		<b>21190</b>

<sup>1</sup> This figure is calculated by subtraction and includes all members of the profession not allocated elsewhere in addition to those in practice.

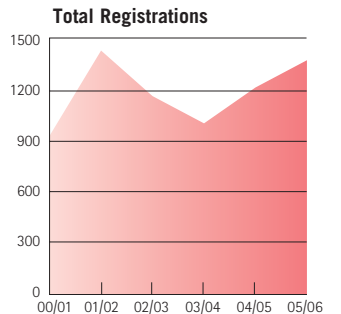
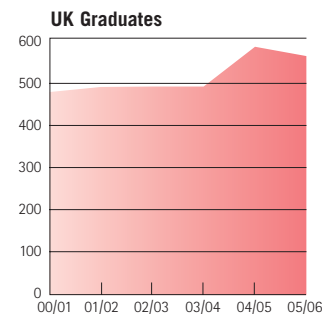
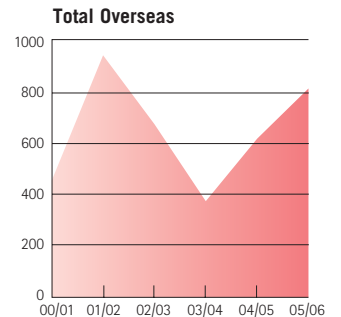
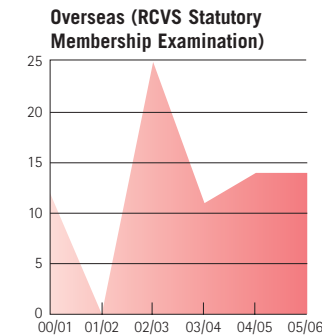
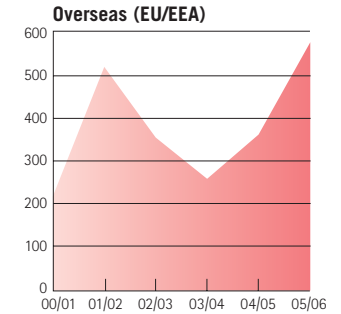
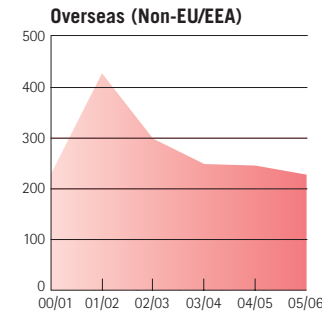
Estimates from our Survey of the Profession 2006 indicate that about 91% of this group, (about 11,807 in 2006) are likely to be in some form of practice.

<sup>2</sup> The Home Office no longer provides details of their employees.

<sup>3</sup> Includes VMD, VLA and other research institutions.

# REGISTRATION OF VETERINARY SURGEONS 2000/01 - 2005/06

Annual Report Year	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
<b>Overseas (Non-EU/EEA countries)</b>						
Australia	108	246	149	131	255	129
Canada	7	32	9	6	5	8
New Zealand	41	71	45	31	37	40
South Africa	73	61	65	59	37	40
United States of America <sup>1</sup>		18	31	22	12	11
<b>Sub-total (Non EU/EEA)</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>228</b>
<b>Overseas (EU/EEA List)</b>						
Austria	11	22	8	10	8	7
Belgium	13	22	23	18	18	27
Cyprus <sup>2</sup>					0	0
Czech Republic <sup>2</sup>					5	12
Denmark	7	11	8	6	6	4
Estonia <sup>2</sup>					0	8
Finland	1	0	0	3	0	2
France	3	8	5	4	10	13
Germany	31	46	27	19	29	34
Greece	5	11	6	8	10	9
Hungary <sup>2</sup>					12	29
Iceland [EEA]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ireland	32	64	44	54	51	45
Italy	21	30	17	21	27	56
Latvia <sup>2</sup>					0	3
Liechtenstein [EEA]	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lithuania <sup>2</sup>					0	14
Luxembourg	0	0	0	0	0	0
Malta <sup>2</sup>					0	0
Netherlands	14	14	9	11	20	15
Norway [EEA]	2	1	2	3	0	3
Poland <sup>2</sup>					28	104
Portugal	2	10	8	20	16	30
Slovakia <sup>2</sup>					21	51
Slovenia <sup>2</sup>					1	0
Spain	74	274	186	76	91	102
Sweden	1	8	6	3	3	2
Switzerland [EEA] <sup>3</sup>			6	2	6	9
<b>Sub-total (EU/EEA)</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>521</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>362</b>	<b>579</b>
<b>Overseas (RCVS Statutory Membership Examination)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Total overseas</b>	<b>458</b>	<b>949</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>819</b>
<b>UK graduates</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>492</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>493</b>	<b>587</b>	<b>565</b>
<b>Total number of registrations</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>1441</b>	<b>1172</b>	<b>1011</b>	<b>1223</b>	<b>1384</b>



<sup>1</sup> Not eligible for registration until 01/03/2001

<sup>2</sup> Not eligible for registration until 01/05/2004

<sup>3</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 2005 TO 2006

Veterinary school students		Admissions to the first year of the veterinary course in 2005/2006			Admissions to the second or later year of the veterinary course in 2005/2006 <sup>1</sup>			Students admitted with a degree			Total numbers attending the veterinary degree course <sup>2</sup>			Veterinary students taking an intercalated science course in 2005/2006 <sup>3</sup>			Numbers of intercalated degree holders <sup>3</sup>			Numbers of students obtaining a veterinary degree in 2005								
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total						
Bristol	UK	24	90	116	0	3	3		18	18	137	382	529	1	9	10	12	20	32	36	45	84						
	EU	0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	1		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	
	Overseas	2	0		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	5		4	5		0	0		0	0	0	0	2	1
Cambridge	UK	18	49	69	0	0	0	1	4	5	105	283	392	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	45	61						
	EU	0	1		0	0		0	0		0	0		3	0		3	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
	Overseas	0	1		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	1		0	1		0	0		0	0	0	0	0	0
Edinburgh	UK	18	73	112	3	7	19	4	17	32	101	370	547	0	4	4	9	16	25	20	61	90						
	EU	1	2		1	1		2	2		9	9		9	9		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	1	0	
	Overseas	3	15		0	7		0	7		7	51		7	51		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	8	
Glasgow	UK	27	51	117	1	4	7	2	2	36	124	297	530	2	2	4	3	0	3	19	67	94						
	EU	0	0		0	0		0	0		1	0		1	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	1	1	
	Overseas	15	24		0	2		10	22		36	72		0	0		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	1	5	
Liverpool	UK	19	82	102	3	15	19	6	20	27	136	387	536	5	10	15	7	18	25	28	55	93						
	EU	0	1		0	1		0	1		1	2		1	2		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	0	3	
	Overseas	0			0	0		0	0		4	6		4	6		0	0		0	0		0	0	0	3	4	
London	UK	31	174	223	4	17	22	4	18	38	143	764	994	7	26	36	16	47	64	22	96	144						
	EU	0	2		0	1		0	1		1	12		1	12		0	2		0	0		0	0	0	0	1	
	Overseas	4	12		0	0		3	12		15	59		15	59		0	1		0	1		0	1	0	1	6	19
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>162</b>	<b>577</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>824</b>	<b>2704</b>	<b>3528</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>566</b>						

<sup>1</sup> London - students admitted to Accelerated Programme Year 1.

<sup>2</sup> Total numbers of students in years 1 to 6 inclusive at Cambridge, years 0 to 5 and Accelerated Programme Year 1 at London and years 1 to 5 at the other four 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 2005

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	25	8	35
<i>Bovine Reproduction</i> •	–	–	17
Cattle Health & Production	45	15	100
Equine Medicine (Int. Med.)	38	13	41
Equine Medicine (Stud Med.)	20	6	12
<i>Equine Orthopaedics</i> •	–	–	21
Equine Practice	80	25	92
<i>Equine Stud Medicine</i> •	–	–	22
Equine Surgery (Orth.)	38	16	36
Equine Surgery (Soft Tissue)	13	5	19
Fish Health & Production	–	–	2
Laboratory Animal Science	13	9	76
Pig Medicine	6	3	39
Poultry Medicine & Production	6	0	10
Sheep Health & Production	7	2	61
<i>Small Animal Cardiology</i> •	–	–	29
<i>Small Animal Dermatology</i> •	–	–	71
<i>Small Animal Orthopaedics</i> •	–	–	96
Small Animal Medicine	267	50	160
Small Animal Surgery	270	78	162
State Veterinary Medicine	1	–	6
Veterinary Anaesthesia	44	17	164
Veterinary Cardiology	60	14	60
Veterinary Dermatology	51	15	76
Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	73	16	14
Veterinary Ophthalmology	74	31	150
Veterinary Public Health (Meat Hygiene)	11	3	18
Veterinary Public Health (Food Hygiene)	4	2	2
<i>Veterinary Radiology</i> •	–	–	269
Veterinary Reproduction	–	–	2
Zoological Medicine	38	12	42
<b>Total (Certificates)</b>	<b>1184</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>1904</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	5	0	6
Cattle Health & Production	5	4	14
Equine Internal Medicine	4	1	4
Equine Orthopaedics	3	2	11
Equine Soft Tissue Surgery	2	–	5
Equine Stud Medicine	0	–	6
Fish Health & Production	–	–	–
Laboratory Animal Science	6	3	21
Pig Medicine	1	–	12
Poultry Medicine & Production	2	–	6
Sheep Health & Production	2	2	9
Small Animal Medicine	22	13	28
Small Animal Medicine (Feline)	4	2	4
<i>Small Animal Orthopaedics</i> •	–	–	11
Small Animal Surgery (Orth.)	19	7	15
Small Animal Surgery (Soft Tissue)	6	2	9
State Veterinary Medicine	1	1	–
Veterinary Anaesthesia	10	6	69
Veterinary Cardiology	3	2	16
Veterinary Dermatology	5	1	19
Veterinary Diagnostic Imaging	10	6	2
Veterinary Ophthalmology	7	5	20
Veterinary Public Health (Meat Hygiene)	1	–	5
<i>Veterinary Radiology</i> •	–	–	101
Veterinary Reproduction	–	–	3
Zoological Medicine	11	4	8
<b>Total (Diplomas)</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>404</b>

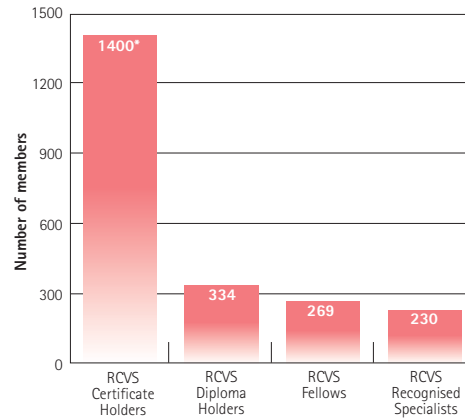
\*These figures include the following numbers of Foundation Diplomates: Equine Orthopaedics - 2; Equine Stud Medicine - 3; Laboratory Animal Science - 5; Pig Medicine - 5; Poultry Medicine & Production - 5; Small Animal Orthopaedics - 4; Veterinary Anaesthesia - 3; Veterinary Cardiology - 2; Veterinary 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 2006

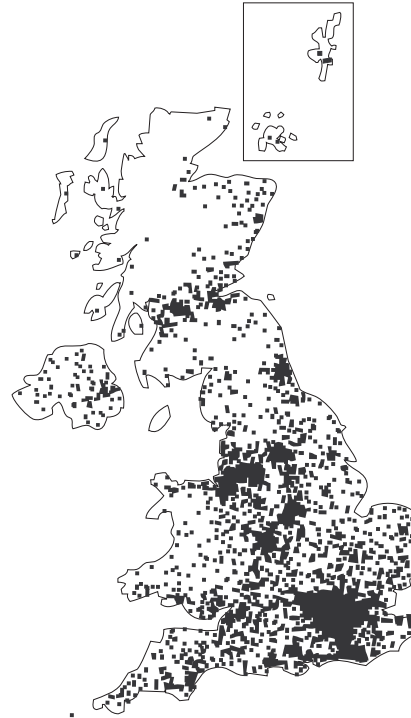
## Current holders of RCVS postgraduate qualifications and awards



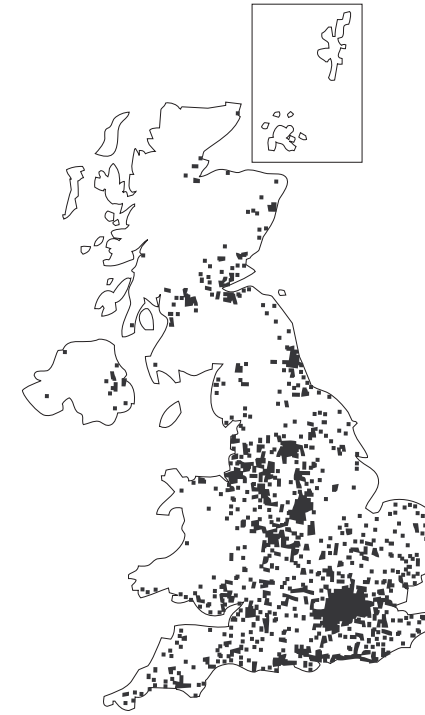
NB. Members may also possess a certificate, diploma or specialism in a different subject area.

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

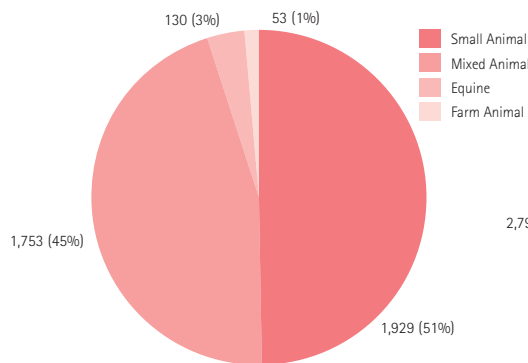
## Distribution of veterinary practices and premises throughout the UK



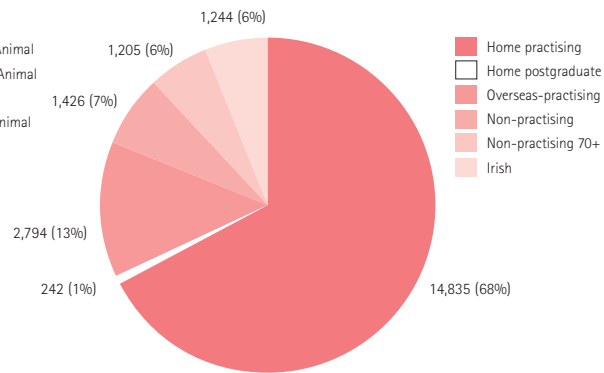
## Distribution of veterinary practices under the ambit of the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme



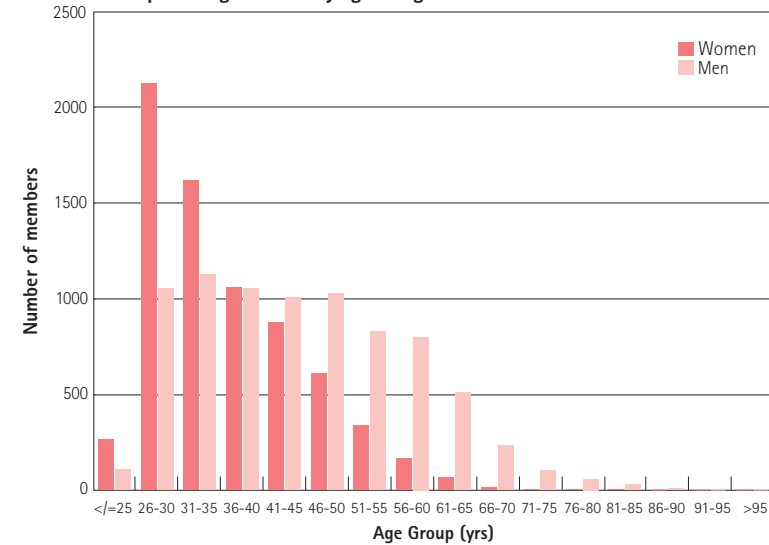
## Breakdown of UK veterinary practice categories



## Breakdown of principal RCVS membership categories



## Home practising members by age and gender



# 6

# finance and accounts



## industry

Our 2006 Survey found that 6% of RCVS members work in commerce and industry. Employers include developers and manufacturers of animal medicines and nutrition.



“We have reviewed a range of external service providers to the College, to ensure that we continue to receive best value for money.”

Bob Moore, RCVS Treasurer



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Introduction

The summarised Income and Expenditure account on page 35 shows a net surplus of £527,857 for the year.

### Income

- Total income for the year was £5,596,993 compared with £5,000,940 in 2004, an overall increase of 12%. The largest source of income is the Statutory Annual Retention Fee paid by members of the Royal College. The fee regulations introduced in 2004, allowing for smaller registration fees plus a proportion of the annual fee in the first year of membership and payments/refunds for members changing category, are now well established and the system appears

to be working well. 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 Register of Members but do not receive all the College mailings.

- The Practice Standards Scheme was introduced in January 2005. The income shown in the accounts is for new applications only. Annual fees only became payable with effect from January 2006.
- The income from Awarding Body and Veterinary Nursing activities continues to increase.
- An analysis of all the sources of income is shown below: -

### Expenditure

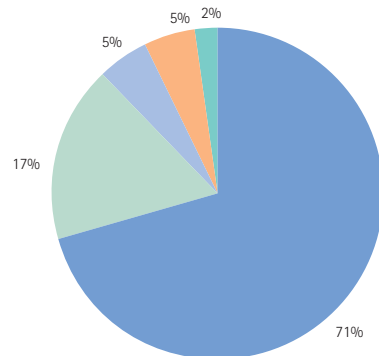
Total expenditure for the year before depreciation was £4,831,775 compared with £4,295,868 in 2004, an increase of 13%. Disciplinary costs were 33% higher than in 2004 due to an increase in the number of cases investigated and also one very long disciplinary case. The Awarding Body expenditure includes direct costs only and no reallocation of overheads - cost of the building, support services etc. Establishment costs include expenditure incurred maintaining the lift and ensuring it complies with statutory regulation.

A flat was purchased in 2005 by the College. It is being held partly for investment purposes in order to diversify the range of investments held by the RCVS, and also to provide overnight accommodation and meeting room for Officers, thus freeing up space at Belgravia House for staff and storage. During the year ownership of Belgravia House was transferred from Circleglide Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of RCVS, to the College.

FRS 17 Pension disclosure was by way of note only in previous years, this year it has been disclosed in full with appropriate reinstatement of prior years comparatives.

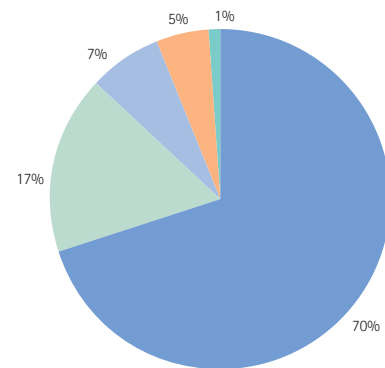
An analysis of expenditure is shown below: -

Breakdown of Income 2005 (%)



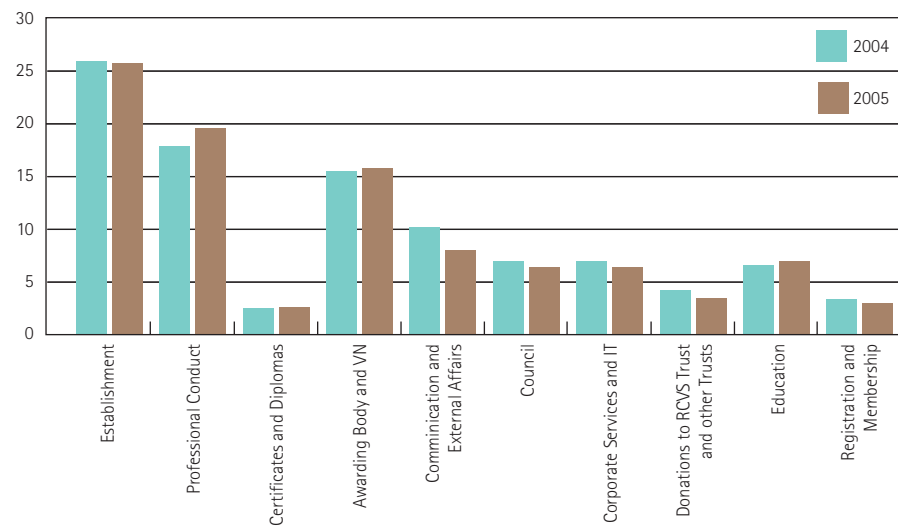
Income from members - fees  
 Veterinary Nursing and Awarding Body income  
 Examination fees

Breakdown of Income 2004 (%)



Interest and Investment income  
 Other income

Expenditure 2004 and 2005 (%)



## FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

### Summarised accounts

These summarised accounts inevitably contain only some of the information about the affairs of the College and its 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 1 June 2006 and received an unqualified report from Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP.

## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

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; sub-committees, Boards and working parties deal with detail, referring to Council strategic and important decisions.

### 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 1 June 2006

### 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 2005.

Horwath Clark Whitehill LLP  
Chartered Accountants and  
Registered Auditors  
1 June 2006



SUMMARISED  
ACCOUNTS

ACTIVITIES YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2005	2005		2004
	£	£	Restated £
<b>Income</b>			
Income from Members (including Recognised Specialists)	3,971,747		3,483,721
VN Awarding Body Income	539,925		555,649
Veterinary Nursing	384,671		323,337
Examination Fees	295,918		307,526
Approval Fees	35,848		21,747
Interest and Investment Income	286,315		239,785
Publications and Other Income	82,569		69,175
		5,596,993	5,000,940
<b>Expenditure</b>			
Statutory Functions	849,417		664,736
VN Awarding Body Expenses	517,463		501,730
Examination and Related Costs	170,676		159,549
Establishment	545,075		418,270
Administration Costs	2,544,375		2,348,737
Support for RCVS Trust and Other Trusts	172,525		182,525
Subscriptions and European Activity	32,244		20,321
	4,831,775		4,295,868
Depreciation	197,109		212,211
		5,028,884	(4,508,079)
Surplus before taxation		568,109	492,861
Taxation		20,340	(25,187)
<b>Surplus after Taxation</b>		588,449	467,674
Surplus on sale of investments		28,408	3,971
Pension scheme actuarial loss (FRS 17)		(89,000)	(34,000)
<b>Surplus for the Year</b>		527,857	437,645
Accumulated Fund at 1 January 2005 as previously stated		5,977,049	5,576,404
Prior Year Pension Restatement		1,000	(36,000)
Accumulated Fund at 1 January 2005 restated		5,978,049	5,540,404
Accumulated Fund at 31 December 2005		6,505,906	5,978,049

## SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS

	GROUP	COLLEGE	GROUP	COLLEGE
	31/12/05	31/12/05	31/12/04	31/12/04
	£	£	£	£
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>				
Tangible Assets	3,411,875	3,411,869	2,847,296	437,064
Investments at cost				
- Listed Securities	1,165,791	1,165,791	1,137,312	1,137,312
- Subsidiary	–	2,000,002	–	2,000,002
	4,577,666	6,577,662	3,984,608	3,574,378
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>				
Debtors and prepayments	143,014	143,014	300,927	627,954
Cash at bank and Short term deposits	3,985,891	3,984,199	3,669,081	3,668,578
	4,128,905	4,127,213	3,970,008	4,296,532
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>				
Creditors and accruals incl annual retention fees in advance	1,416,930	3,475,702	1,258,300	1,248,919
Taxation	20,743	20,743	20,630	14,278
	1,437,673	3,496,445	1,278,930	1,263,197
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>	2,691,232	630,768	2,691,078	3,033,335
Deferrred Taxation	–	–	42,007	–
Pension Liability	332,992	332,992	225,630	225,630
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	6,935,906	6,875,438	6,408,049	6,382,083
<b>RESERVES</b>				
Accumulated Fund 31 December 2005 excluding Pension Liability	6,838,898	6,778,430	6,203,679	6,177,713
Pension reserve	(332,992)	(332,992)	(225,630)	(225,630)
Accumulated Fund after Pension Reserve	6,505,906	6,445,438	5,978,049	5,952,083
Disciplinary reserve	430,000	430,000	430,000	430,000
	6,935,906	6,875,438	6,408,049	6,382,083

RCVS COUNCIL  
8 JULY 2005 – 7 JULY 2006

RCVS STAFF  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2006

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

**Elected Members**

John Bailey	3/3
Lydia Brown	1/3
Christopher Chesney	3/3
Sheila Crispin	3/3
Jerry Davies	2/3
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	2/2
Barry Johnson	3/3
Judy MacArthur Clark	3/3
David McDowell	2/3
Robert Moore	3/3
Jill Nute	2/3
John Parker	3/3
Christine Shield	3/3
Geoffrey Skerritt	3/3
Neil Smith	2/3
Nigel Swayne	3/3
Bradley Viner	2/2
Stephen Ware	2/3

**University Appointees**

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

**Privy Council Appointees**

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

**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. 01/04/05 - 31/03/06 (denominator indicates total number of possible  
meetings for each Council Member).

Annette Amato	Rowena Lamb
Freda Andrews	Lizzie Lockett
Edward Attwood	Elizabeth Marshall
Colin Bell	Clyde Matthew
Deborah Boakye	Simone Mauger
Dorothy Brereton	Suzanne May
Graeme Broster	Corrie McCann
Melanie Brown	Brendan McDonagh
Mike Byrne	Gerri McHugh
Viv Carbines	Sonia Morais
Nicholas Clarke	Tom Morgan
John Collins	Susan Newham
Daniel de Cruz	Jordan Nicholls
Julie Dugmore	Fred Nind
Libby Earle	Jennifer Orme
Janet Etheridge	Marilyn Pablo
Lesley Evans	Nicola Page
Rebecca Fennessey	Vivienne Pankhurst
Eleanor Ferguson	Virginia Pott
Natalie Fisher	Thelma Rees
Jeff Gill	Michael Sibley
Pamela Greening	Charlotte Stewart
Jenny Harris	Alitse Stovicek
Helen Heathcote	Joanne Till
Victoria Hedges	Danielle van den Berg
Mike Hepper	Martyn Webster
Jane Hern	Sue Whall
Gordon Hockey	Dawn Wiggins
Ian Holloway	Tom Winters
Anne Jerney	

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