A black and white photograph of a veterinarian in full surgical attire, including a cap, mask, and gloves, performing a procedure in an operating room. The veterinarian is focused on the task, with surgical instruments visible in the foreground. The background shows a sterile clinical environment with various pieces of equipment.

# Summary of findings from 2019 Survey of the Veterinary Profession

## RESPONSE RATE

**31.8%** of profession completed survey



**42.6%**  
including partial completes

## GENDER



**42%**  
MALE



## AVERAGE AGE

**51**  
MALE



**40**  
FEMALE

## SEXUAL ORIENTATION

**89.4% heterosexual/straight**

**2.6% bisexual**

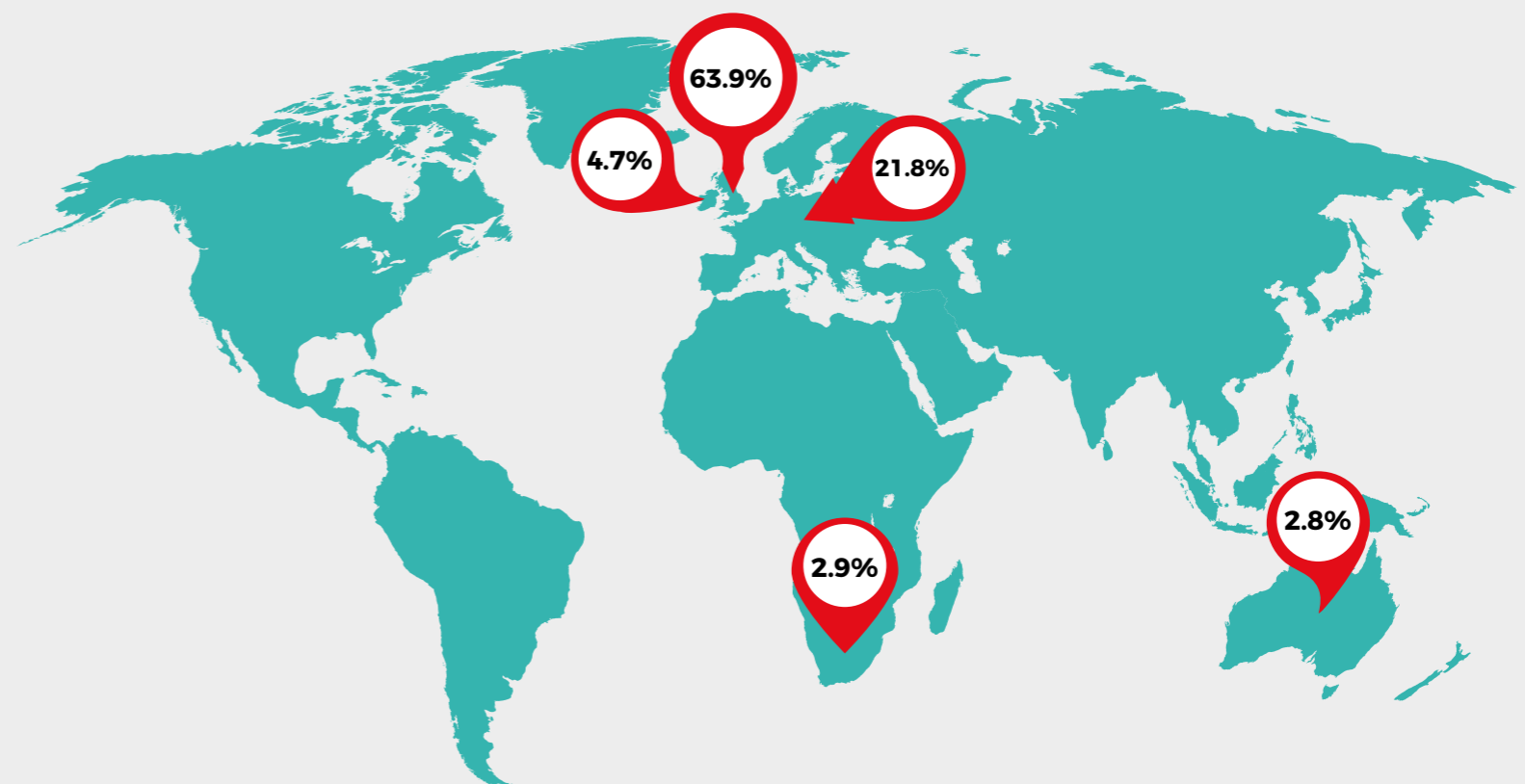
**2% gay men**

**0.9% gay women**

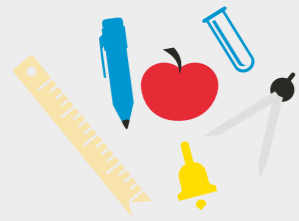
**0.6% self-describe**

**5.5% prefer not to say**

## PLACE OF QUALIFICATION (TOP 5)



## SOCIAL MOBILITY



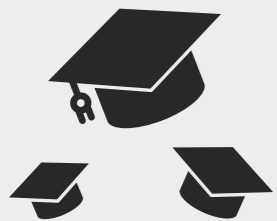
**37.9%**

attended non-selective state schools



**31.4%**

attended independent/fee-paying schools



**28.5%**

attended selective state schools

## ETHNIC BACKGROUND

RESPONDENTS FROM BLACK AND  
MINORITY ETHNIC BACKGROUNDS

**NOW: 3.5%**

**2014: 2%**

## FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT



## PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

**13.6%**  
MALE



## AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS FOR THOSE WORKING FULL TIME



**42.3**  
HOURS

### HIGHEST AVERAGES



**EQUINE**  
**50.5**  
HOURS



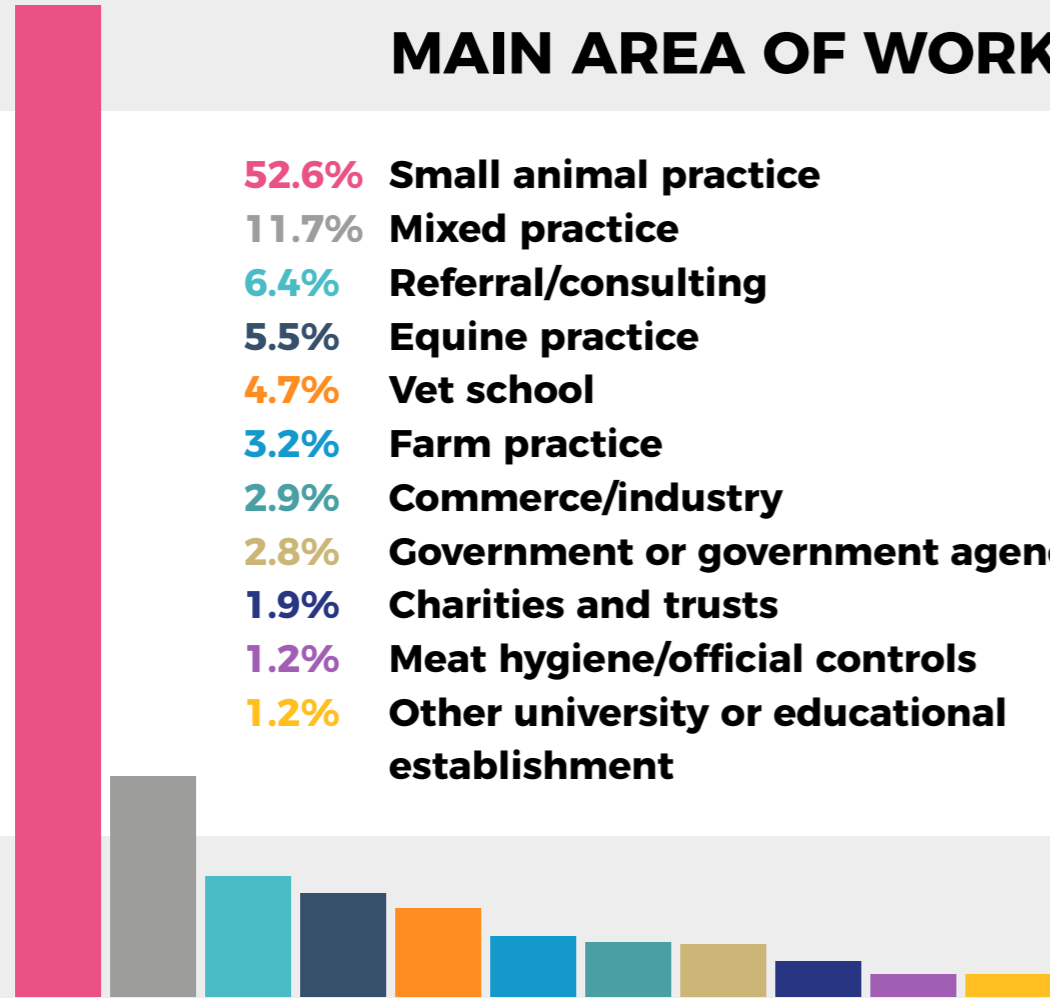
**MIXED**  
**44.2**  
HOURS



**VETERINARY  
SCHOOL**  
**43.1**  
HOURS

## MAIN AREA OF WORK (TOP 10)

- 52.6%** Small animal practice
- 11.7%** Mixed practice
- 6.4%** Referral/consulting
- 5.5%** Equine practice
- 4.7%** Vet school
- 3.2%** Farm practice
- 2.9%** Commerce/industry
- 2.8%** Government or government agency
- 1.9%** Charities and trusts
- 1.2%** Meat hygiene/official controls
- 1.2%** Other university or educational establishment



**OF THOSE  
IN CLINICAL  
PRACTICE...**

(80% OF RESPONDENTS)

- 41.6%** worked in fully independent, stand-alone practices
- 35.5%** of respondents worked in a practice that was corporate owned
- 6.4%** worked in an independent practice with some shared centralised function
- 4.6%** worked in a practice in a joint venture with a corporate group

## CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD)

RESPONDENTS USING AN RCVS PLATFORM TO RECORD CPD

**NOW: 71%**

**2014: 44%**

WHO IS PAYING FOR CPD?

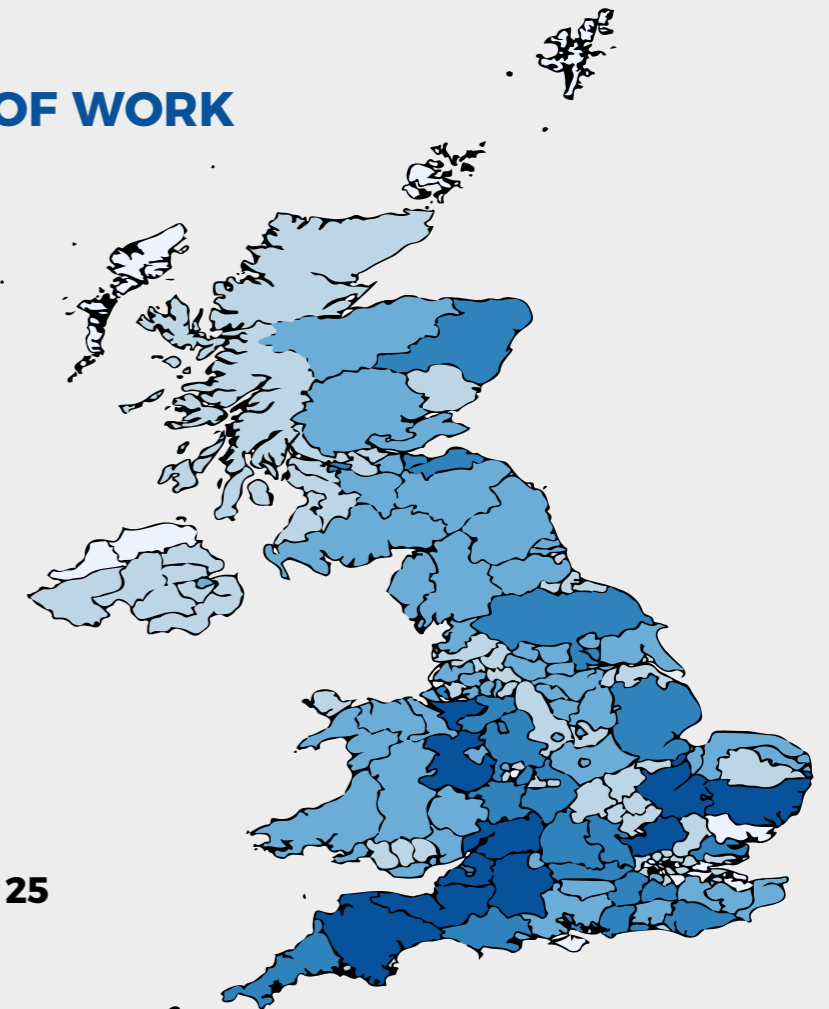
**EMPLOYER-FUNDED 51%**

**SELF-FUNDED 33%**

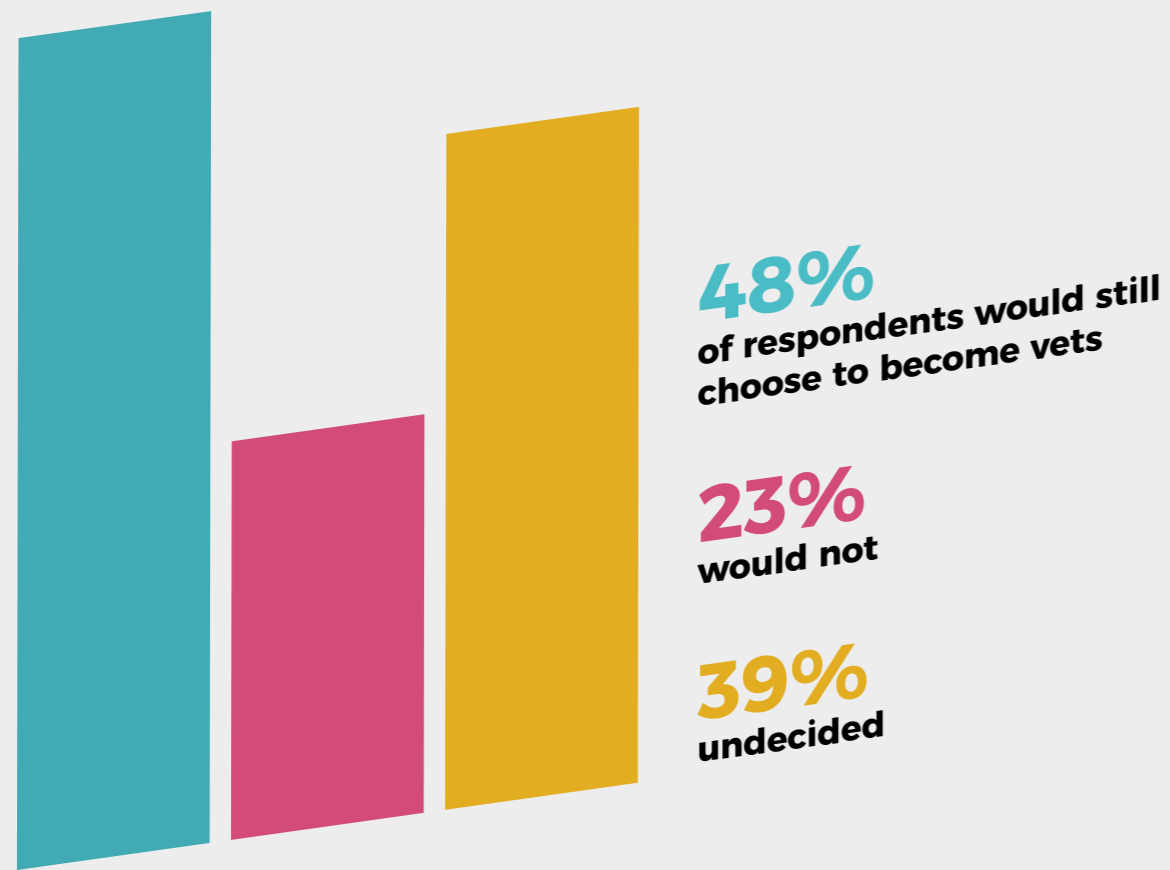
## GEOGRAPHICAL SPREAD OF VET RESPONDENTS

LOCATION OF WORK IN THE UK

- 150+**
- 100-150**
- 50-99**
- 25-49**
- LESS THAN 25**



## WOULD YOU DO IT AGAIN?



### RESPONDENTS IDENTIFIED BEST THINGS ABOUT BEING A VET AS:

- Working with animals
- Job satisfaction
- Challenge/stimulus



### THE THREE BIGGEST CHALLENGES:

- Client expectations
- Stress levels
- Changing structures in practice ownership



### VIEWS OF THE RCVS:

asked to rate the RCVS between 1 and 10 the average rating was **6.58** with **34%** of respondents being very positive

## NEW GRADUATES

(RESPONDENTS WHO GRADUATED FROM 2016 ONWARDS):



**71%**

straight into clinical practice compared to 52% in 2014



**65%**

felt totally or adequately supported in transition to practice



**35%**

not at all or inadequately supported in transition to practice



**97%**

of new graduates aware of the Professional Development Phase with a completion rate of 60%