

Standards Committee

Agenda for the meeting to be held on 16 September 2026 at 1 Hardwick Street

1.	Apologies for absence, declarations of interest. Minutes from the meeting of June 17 2026	
2.	Matters for decision	
	a. PSS review - confidential	Paper attached and sent in advance
	b. Under care survey – profession - confidential	Paper attached
3.	Matters for report	
	a. Disciplinary Committee Report	Paper in library
4.	Risk and equality	Verbal update
5.	Any other business and date of next meeting on Nov 11 2026 - AI Transparency Framework (LL) - SC admin process	Verbal update

Standards Committee 2026/27

Chair

Sam Bescoby MRCVS

Vice Chair

Sinéad Bennett MRCVS

Members

Belinda Andrews-Jones RVN

Linda Belton MRCVS (Officer Observer)

David Black FRCVS

Jo Cliff

Helen Grantham

Timothy Hutchinson MRCVS

Matthew Jones MRCVS

Neil Smith FRCVS

Lara Wilson MRCVS

Terms of reference

The Standards Committee shall provide advice and guidance on the professional conduct of veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses, including, but not limited to:

- a. Publishing a Code or Codes of Professional Conduct, subject to the approval of the Council;
- b. Publishing as necessary advice on professional conduct;
- c. Responding to professional conduct issues raised by the RCVS Council, Veterinary Nurses' Council or any committee of the RCVS;
- d. Responding to requests for advice from members of the profession and the public, as agreed by the chair; and,
- e. Overseeing the development of the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme by the Practice Standards Group, making recommendations to Council as appropriate, and considering appeals from the Practice Standards Scheme Review Group.

Summary

Meeting	Standards Committee
Date	17 June 2026
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held remotely on Wednesday 17 June 2026, at 9.30am. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 1-27 of the Classified appendix.
Attachments	Classified appendix
Author	Ky Richardson Standards and Advice Manager/Solicitor k.richardson@rcvs.org.uk / 0207 202 0757

Classifications

Document	Classification ¹	Rationales ²
Minutes	Unclassified	n/a
Classified appendix	Confidential	1

1Classifications explained

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

2Classification rationales

Confidential	1. To allow the Committee or Council to come to a view itself, before presenting to and/or consulting with others 2. To maintain the confidence of another organisation 3. To protect commercially sensitive information 4. To maintain public confidence in and/or uphold the reputation of the veterinary professions and/or the RCVS
Private	5. To protect information which may contain personal data, special category data, and/or criminal offence data, as listed under the General Data Protection Regulation

Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held remotely on 17 June 2026, at 9.30am

Members:

- Olivia Cook (Chair)
- Sinéad Bennett (Vice Chair)
- Derek Bray
- Linda Ford
- Christopher Loughrey
- Matthew Rendle
- Tim Walker
- David Black
- Sam Bescoby
- Abbie Calow
- Linda Belton (Officer Observer)

In attendance:

RCVS	Lizzie Lockett	Chief Executive Officer
	Clare Paget	Registrar and Director of Legal Services
	Gemma Kingswell	Head of Legal Services (Standards)
	Beth Jinks	Standards and Advisory Lead
	Ky Richardson	Senior Standards and Advice Officer/Solicitor
	Bri McLachlan	Standards and Advice Administrator
	Alice Duvernois	Lead PSS Assessor
	Ben Myring	Head of Policy, Insight and Public Affairs

AI 1 Apologies for absence, declarations of interest, minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2026

1. Apologies were received from Linda Belton who would be slightly late to the meeting and Lizzie Lockett who needed to leave early. Sinéad Bennett did not attend.
2. The Chair agreed that Sam Bescoby, as incoming Chair, would chair this meeting on their behalf.
3. There were no new declarations of interest.
4. The minutes of the meeting of 22 April 2026 were agreed.

Matters for discussion and decision

AI 2 (a) VetCompass research update – presentation by Dr Stuart Becker MRCVS – confidential

5. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 1 - 5 of the Classified appendix.

AI 2 (b) Review of guidance on prescribing POM-Vs – progress and next steps - confidential

6. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 6 - 24 of the Classified appendix.

AI 3 (a) Standards and Advice Team update – confidential

7. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 25 - 26 of the Classified appendix.

AI 3 (b) Disciplinary Committee Report

8. The report was noted.

AI 4 Risk and equality

9. No new risks were reported however the Committee was informed that the Standards and Advice specific risk register is reported periodically to the Audit and Risk Committee, and the Committee will be notified each time a report is made.

AI 5 Any other business and date of next meeting on 16 September 2026

10. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraph 27 of the Classified appendix.
11. The Chair acknowledged the hard work and dedication of the Committee, noting the formidable knowledge in the group and the fact that it was her final meeting acting as chair before Sam Bescoby steps into the role.
12. Sam Bescoby thanked the Chair for her hard work and dedication and thanked the Standards and Advice Team for the detailed meeting papers and background, as well as the helpful organisation of the meetings.