Standards Committee

Agenda for the meeting to be held on 11 November 2026 remotely at 09:30

1.	Apologies for absence, declarations of interest. Minutes from the meeting of September 16 2026	
2.	Matters for decision	
	a. Blood banks guidance – Confidential	Paper attached
	b. CMA and the Code – Confidential	Paper attached
	c. PSS rules – Confidential	Paper attached
	d. AI transparency framework – Confidential	Paper attached
	e. Under care review update – 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 March 3 2027	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	16 September 2026
Title	Standards Committee Minutes
Summary	Minutes of the Standards Committee meeting held in-person and remotely on Wednesday 16 September 2026, at 10am. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 1-29 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

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

2 Classification 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 in-person and remotely on 16 September 2026, at 10am

Members:

Sam Bescoby MRCVS (Chair)
Sinéad Bennett MRCVS (Vice Chair)
Belinda Andrews-Jones RVN
David Black FRCVS
Jo Cliff
Helen Grantham
Timothy Hutchinson MRCVS
Matthew Jones MRCVS
Neil Smith FRCVS
Lara Wilson MRCVS
Linda Belton MRCVS (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	Standards and Advice Manager/Solicitor
	Hannah McGillan	Standards and Advice Officer
	Alice Duvernois	Lead PSS Assessor
	Sophie Ayres	PSS Liaison Officer
	Vicki Bolton	Research Manager
	Luke Bishop	Media & Publications Manager

AI 1 Apologies for absence, declarations of interest, and minutes from the meeting of 17 June 2026

1. Apologies were received from Timothy Hutchinson and Matthew Jones. Sinéad Bennett did not attend.

2. The following declarations of interest were made:

    a. Neil Smith is a director of a recently opened exotics practice that is not PSS accredited.
    b. David Black sits on the Practice Standards Group (PSG) which is heavily involved in the PSS review.

3. The minutes of the meeting of 17 June 2026 were approved.

Matters for decision

AI 2 (a) PSS review – confidential

4. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 1 - 22 of the Classified appendix.

AI 2 (b) Under care survey (profession) – confidential

5. The Committee's attention is drawn to paragraphs 23 - 29 of the Classified appendix.

AI 3 (a) Disciplinary Committee Report

6. The report was noted.

AI 4 Risk and equality

7. No new risks were reported however the Committee was informed that the PSS specific risk register is reported periodically and includes risks relating to Stanley.

AI 5 Any other business and date of next meeting on 11 November 2026

AI Transparency Framework (LL)

8. The CEO informed the Committee that it will receive a detailed paper about this framework for comment at the November meeting and provided a brief overview in the meantime.

9. The College hosted a roundtable on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in 2024. This roundtable included many external stakeholders and discussed the potential regulation of the use of AI. The consensus was that AI was a tool and so the professions should simply use their clinical and professional judgement when using it.

10. However, it appears that developers of the software were not providing transparent and consistent information capable of being cross-checked to enable judgement to be used. There was a clear regulatory gap too, which cannot be filled by the College, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD), or the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).

11. To address these challenges, the College had been working with industry to feed into a developer-run project around transparency. Essentially, to create a data-sheet equivalent for AI, which would then enable vets and nurses to better exercise their judgement when deciding which AI tools to use. This had resulted in the development of a draft framework, which was subject to comment by the professions in the summer.

12. The task now was to decide who owned the framework and how to disseminate it. Until that was resolved, it may, in the short term, be hosted on the College's website as a charter-based project, rather than a statutory one.

13. Using the framework was likely to be done using a phased approach:

    a. Explaining the project and encouraging developers to sign up and advertise it on their own websites.

    b. Gathering AI products/service providers into one place for comparison, which will be difficult as there is not yet a consensus on 'what good looks like'.

    c. Developing a kitemark.

14. More work would be done in terms of generating interest from other stakeholders, to take ownership or be involved, including the global veterinary associations, as there was recognition that this was a global issue, and more detail would be provided to this Committee in November.

Standards Committee administrative process

15. The Head of Legal Services (Standards) informed the Committee that following the Council recommendation to keep papers short where practicable, for longer projects such as 'under care' older papers/appendices will instead be stored in the resources folder on Board Effect rather than being appended to the papers every time.