



# AGV AGM 2014 Minutes

April 7<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm teleconference

## AGENDA

Linda Smith chaired the meeting and thanked everyone for dialling in.

### 1. Record of Attendees

Linda Smith, Kate Sharpe, Fred Landeg, Lévon Stephan, Adrienne Conroy, Cath McVicar, Aiden Foster, Deborah Alexander, Alan McPhee, Mike Watkins-Jones, Les Eckford, Arjen Brouwer, Viv Malan, Janet Webb.

### 2. Apologies for Absence

Theresa Phillips, Stewart Donald, Ed Varley, Richard Drummond

### 3. Minutes of the last AGM

The minutes of the last AGM (April 2013) are posted on the AGV website.

### 4. Matters Arising

The possible linkage of AGV with the Veterinary Public Health Association was discussed by the Councils of both Associations and it was agreed that the Associations should form a co-operative based upon shared back-office support services, shared membership services, joint conferencing and business remodelling.

At the AGM Linda Smith discussed the various terms on which the Associations could be linked and highlighted that a working group drawing on council members from both Associations would take forward the various issues listed below.

1. AGV and VPHA will remain as individual organisations retaining their full Council, Divisional status, brands and assets.
2. AGV and VPHA will share membership data such that each would have access to the others for the purposes of encouraging participation at conferences, etc. AGV will use the full back-office administrative services of VPHA. AGV/VPHA will review their web-site offerings and explore collaborative options.
  - a. This might include, for example, a combined newsletter.
3. AGV will review its current operating. A joint AGV-VPHA membership category (£49 membership) will be created; this represents a 25% reduction on the combined current membership fees for AGV & VPHA (£25 & £40 respectively; VPHA will rise to £50 in 2015).
  - a. It was agreed that a combined fee of £59 was appropriate and that a mechanism for sharing the income needed to be established with VPHA
4. AGV/VPHA will run a concerted and focussed membership recruitment campaign through the 320 AHVLA vets to seek their support and membership. Co-aligned with this activity will be some unofficial non-member research which explores why people are not members and what they want from a 'new' AGV.
  - a. The spring AHVLA Vet conferences have included items on AGV/VPHA from Linda Smith who would look into the promoting membership through the AHVLA "inBox" electronic newsletter which goes to all employees.

- b. There was discussion about the various address lists within AHVLA that accurately reflect current membership including the RCVS membership list and the vets in the AHVLA Science Directorate who may be interested in joining AGV.

### **ACTIONS**

1. Linda Smith to progress contact with AHVLA staff to establish accurate up to date mailing list to promote awareness of AGV.
2. AGV Council needs to make recruitment a major agenda item for future meetings.
3. Joint VPHA/AGV conferences were considered a good way of promoting membership and the meeting planned for November 2014 should be promoted.
5. VPHA and AGV will collectively lobby AHVLA/Defra to seek support for their members - AHVLA have a stated aim to providing five days CPD and five days training to their staff - AGV/VPHA would commit to delivering part of the CPD programme if AHVLA provided some support to members.
6. AGV and VPHA will run joint conferences – this may either be with two different ‘streams’ or as a single conference, themed to suit both stakeholder communities. The VPHA have conferences planned for May 17th & November 2014.
  - a. AGV have sponsored two speakers for the meeting in May.
7. Two representatives will attend European meetings with AGV at EASVO and the VPHA representative at UEVH.
8. AGV Councillors will attend AGV Council meetings in their own time and travel costs will be reimbursed by their association. VPHA will send one Council representative to AGV Council meetings and AGV will similarly send one Council representative to VPHA Council meetings – each funded by their reciprocal organisations.
9. AGV and VPHA will form a small collaborative working party which will be tasked with continuing to explore further partnership support options and business improvements which would then be fed back to both Councils. The aim of this would be to drive through change and ensure that sufficient momentum is maintained whilst AGV is reinvigorated. The function and make-up of this group would be reviewed periodically.

## **5. President’s Address**

Linda Smith acknowledged that AGV had survived another year. Following discussions with VPHA it was acknowledged that the AGV business model needs to be developed and in collaboration with VPHA there was the prospect of such development. This would be incumbent on working harder to develop the membership to make for a stronger organisation. Linda is able to stay on for another year as President as we move forward with the collaborative arrangement with VPHA.

## **6. Treasurer’s Report**

Fred Landeg reported that of the current membership of 103 people there were 65 receiving news by email. There were few outgoings for the AGV account except for the cost of maintaining the website with 1&1; there was a healthy sum in the deposit account.

The financial & membership reports for 2013 had been circulated previously. The total of those paying various levels of subscription that year was 103. Because of the retirement rule – the number of “active members” is unknown but is assumed to be greater than those paying subs.

There was some discussion about seeking support from the CVO to cover the substantial costs of EASVO membership given that this is worked out on the basis of the number of vets in the UK – and not on the number in AGV.

Election of the auditors: It was agreed that Alan McPhee and Fred Eames would continue to audit the accounts and they were thanked for their report for 2013.

Fred was thanked for his work as Treasurer by Linda Smith.

## **7. Secretary’s Report**

Aiden Foster reported that AGV council meetings in the past 12 months have been by telecom to cover BVA Council meeting papers and to discuss collaboration with VPHA. The website has been maintained with limited evidence of visits except for pet owners trying to find an OV to help export their pet dog (!).

There followed a discussion about the AGV and VPHA websites; for the latter the site has been revamped to improve visibility. It was acknowledged that some way of combining website support should be considered as part of the “back office” relationship with VPHA.

## **8. Election of the AGV Council**

Council members may serve up to three years. Given the proposed changes to the operations of the Association a new Council is required, especially given that the last election was September 2011. Nominations are sought for all five officers (president, junior and senior vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer) and a further eight Council member positions. Candidates should also consider the various roles that we need to cover:

1. BVA representative to attend the BVA Council meetings;
  - a. Adrienne Conroy
  - b. Linda Smith
  - c. Kate Sharpe
2. BVA-Welfare rep to provide input on welfare issues to BVA
  - a. Rebeca Garcia
3. A representative for EASVO
  - a. Cath McVicar

Council members would be expected to develop the co-operative arrangements with VPHA including participation in the organisation of conferences, participating in the collaborative working party, attending council meetings, promoting membership and developing the website.

Most of the current Council members are prepared to stand for at least one more year; if they are all re-elected then there will be three vacancies on the Council.

The existing Council were voted en bloc to continue and Anne-Marie McDowall was appointed.

It was acknowledged that there needed to be some resilience for attendance at BVA Council meetings and that there should be a reserve person(s) (who is a BVA member). To offset

difficulties with accommodating Council meetings the future dates, as current on the BVA website, were passed to the AGV Council.

**ACTION:**

Three people had expressed interest but not submitted nomination forms; it was agreed that they would be followed up to see if they were still interested.

**9. Position with European Association of State Veterinary Officers (EASVO)**

Cath McVicar gave a report and emphasised the importance of redeveloping a relationship with EASVO. She would attend the next meeting this summer in Biarritz.

There is a consultation on antimicrobial resistance and Arjen Brouwer offered to look at this and report back.

Letters have been drafted to review the financial aspects of the membership of EASVO.

It was acknowledged that a Council member should take on the role of developing links with EASVO in collaboration with C McVicar.

**10. Any other business**

Constitution change vote forms received from Paul Honeyman, JN Webb, AM McDowall, David Brims, Lévon Stephan, Vivien Malan, Alan McPhee, Fred Landeg, Arjen Brouwer.

It was agreed that the terms (1 to 9) of collaboration listed as major items in "4. Matters Arising" and given above were acceptable for the AGV council to take forward.

There was also unanimous agreement that the AGV Constitution should be revised to reflect this relationship with VPHA.

Given the size of the audience at this AGM and the current membership of AGV it was also agreed that the Constitution should be changed so that decisions could be made with 10% of the membership, with at least five people present at an AGM.

**11. President's Closing Remarks**

Linda Smith closed the meeting with thanks to everyone for taking part.

**12. Date of next meeting**

To be decided

Aiden Foster  
AGV Secretary  
16/05/2014