



AGV NEWSLETTER

16 DECEMBER 2015

Dear AGV members,

This newsletter is a renewed initiative to give you a summary of Council activity that you will already be aware of through council meeting minutes on the website. Please let us have feedback on how you would like to see this continue and develop.

As you will have seen from the notes of the AGM in September, I took over as President from Linda Smith and since then, have been pleased to be able to continue developing the partnership between AGV and VPHA started by John Lawrence and Linda. For those who don't know me, I have been a government vet in APHA for quite a few years and have recently moved to the Home Office, thus widening the reach of our Association.

At our AGM in September, we welcomed 2 new council members – Amanda Carson and Jane Clark. More recently, 2 members, Anne-Marie McDowell and Enrique Fernandez-Gamazo have had to stand down and I would like to thank them for their contributions while on Council.

The most significant decision at the AGM was, given the changes in how APHA delivers work through official veterinarians, we voted to amend our constitution to widen membership from those employed by Defra and other Government agencies, to all veterinary surgeons who are principally engaged in the delivery of services for any United Kingdom Government Department or their executive agencies and will continue to publicise this fact to increase the number and diversity of our membership.

AGV council have also been working closely with BVA on some of their recent initiatives—the BVA Governance Review and the VetFutures Project (more details on Page 2)

We continue to contribute the Government Veterinarian view to BVA Council through our representative Adrienne Conroy and have been considering how we can increase our influence in Europe. To this end Jane Clark recently attended the EASVO meeting and her report is attached below. Adrienne Conroy's report of her attendance at the BVA Council meeting on 9th December is enclosed with this news letter.

And finally, we have also continued to develop on our AGV/VPHA partnership with another successful joint conference in Leeds (see below) and are planning our joint Spring conference on April 23rd 2016. Our provisional title is 'Veterinary Public Health Hands on-making a difference together' and the CVO's GB and Northern Ireland have accepted our invitation to speak at it. More details will be coming soon but please keep this date free.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

With very best wishes

Kate Sharpe
AGV President



AGV President Kate Sharpe addressing
Joint VPHA AGV Conference Dinner
November 2015

AGV Working with BVA

Initiatives

BVA Governance Review

BVA has undertaken to review its structure and the relationship between BVA and the specialist divisions. Please see the summary of the activities

http://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/Professional_development/Events/BVA-annual%20report%202014-2015.pdf

AGV has been one of the first Specialist Divisions to sign up to the Working in Partnership statement.

VetFutures

This BVA & RCVS initiative projects a vision for the veterinary profession in 2030. It was officially launched at the London vet show on Friday 20th November.

AGV have been actively engaging with BVA to highlight the interesting and challenging alternative careers in State Veterinary Medicine and Veterinary Public Health that government work offers to veterinary graduates. If you have not read it already, please do so and let us have any ideas, thoughts on how to take them forward with the larger veterinary family:

<http://vetfutures.org.uk/download/reports/Vet%20Futures%20report.pdf>



Letter from VPHA President

Milorad Radakovic



Dear AGV members,

On behalf of VPHA I would like to add a note here with a few reflections and 'get to the point' festive season messages.

First of all thank you to all those (Linda Smith, John Lawrence and others) who set up the foundation for VPHA& AGV joint working relationship whilst providing a platform for keeping our separate identities. Time has shown that, in addition to joint working, we are capable of organising excellent conferences together.

Secondly, this relationship is important for the future of veterinary profession, in particular for the vets doing non-clinical jobs showing the tremendous benefits of this work for wider society. Unfortunately, this is not widely and well acknowledged by many.

Thirdly, and probably more importantly, step-by-step we can change this mis-perception together starting in 2016, perhaps by making the next newsletter a joint AGV and VPHA newsletter?

With very best wishes

Milorad Radakovic

VPHA President

AGV Autumn Conference 2015

'Vets and Industry - a profitable partnership'

On Saturday 7th November 2015 the Veterinary Public Health Association and the Association of Government Veterinarians hosted the Autumn Conference on the theme of "Vets and Industry – a profitable partnership". The conference was attended by around one hundred ten delegates from a veterinary public health background and also from the AGV. It was another interesting conference packed with scientific information and interesting discussions on all topics. The venue was the Metropole Hotel in Leeds. There was plenty of food for thought for everyone attending to digest. A quick overview of the topics covered at the conference follows:

Vets Adding Value

Dr. Perpetua McNamee MVB, DipG, PhD, MRCVS, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

Currently with responsibility for international trade, Dr McNamee outlines how State Vets in Northern Ireland add value to ensure industry market access targets are facilitated. In the context of developing countries, vets make an important contribution to a country's sustainable economic development and ultimately their ability to trade internationally.

Veterinary Public Health adding value to Environmental Management

Seán Ó Laoide, MVB MRCVS MA MBA CertEnv, County Veterinary Officer, Westmeath County Council Veterinary Public Health is made up of four pillars or component parts; these include Food Safety, Animal Health, Animal Welfare and the Environment. Vets can add value in an advisory capacity or regulatory capacity by enabling the delivering of a smart integrated management approach for industry. The new challenges for industry in the area of Environment include carbon footprint reduction, waste management, nutrient management and legal compliance (IPPC license, Nitrates Directive, Water Framework Directive Objectives etc).

Sheep vets in practice - how veterinary input is changing

Phillipa Page BVSc BSc MRCVS Farm Animal Veterinary Surgeon Wood Vet Group, Quedgeley, Gloucester. Committee member of the Sheep Veterinary Society

Sheep vets are changing the way in which professional services can be used to challenge flock performance to ultimately improve sheep health and profitability. This presentation will give an example of how this has been approached by a practice in the South West of England.

Could we improve on human well-being and animal welfare by embracing mutualism?

Charles Smith, The Farming Community Network

In an age when specialisation has been encouraged in an effort to improve efficiency, could a more three dimensional approach to Veterinary care benefit animal welfare and the well-being of Farmers and Vets?

Vets in Aquaculture

Angela Ashby, Fish Vet Group

Aquaculture is the fastest growing animal food-producing sector globally and in 2014, Scottish salmon became the UK's biggest food export. Fish Vet Group are the world's largest dedicated aquaculture health provider. Historically, the involvement of Vets in the provision of healthcare for fish has been limited. This presentation will outline the role of Veterinarians in the aquaculture industry today.

The many roles of the poultry veterinarian

Paul F. McMullin MVB MSc DPMP RCVS Spec.PMP DipIECPVS MRCVS, Poultry Health Services

Vets working in the poultry sector boost profitability through improved consumer protection and better productivity by the provision of expert advice, driving innovation and helping industry adapt to change.

'Vet Futures' session

This session was facilitated by John Blackwell, BVA President and delegates worked in groups to discuss the following areas:

- Role of the CVO UK / DCVO [and other CVOs]
- What veterinary leadership looks like in veterinary public health
- Career opportunities in veterinary public health
- Definition of One-Health
- Learning and development

The conference was followed as usual by a reception and drinks and then dinner. Lévon Stephan delighted us with a Post Study Tour Expose, no more words can describe this particular event. There was also some dancing with a Concert by Eddie Grant.

Please come and join us at the next AGV/VPHA Conference in April 2016.

EASVO General Assembly meeting, Brussels, 12th November 2015

Jane Clark

A constructive meeting with the UK made very welcome and a clear hope that AGV will be able to become a full member again in due course. The main issues covered included updates on the progress of the Official Controls negotiations, Animal Health Regulation and fees for OV's in Slaughterhouses. The recent revisions of the FVE principles of Veterinary Certification were raised and IE and the UK's professional bodies are both considering whether there should be similar changes to their principles. There were detailed discussions of several Animal Welfare issues including an update on the work of the AW Working Group and some specific AW issues (Bobby calves, permanently housed and tethered dairy cows, the slaughter of pregnant animals and the production of PMSG). There was an update from representatives on the One Health Working Group and an interesting and thought provoking lecture on "Zoonoses – a matter of priorities". Approximately 60% human pathogens (and 75% of those identified in the last 20 years) originate from animals. Many of these pathogens originate in wild animals and increased human mobility, climate change, International Trade, logging, urbanisation, exotic pets etc. all potentially contribute by increasing the contact between man/livestock/wildlife. Finally the General Assembly agreed EASVO's position on several issues for the FVE General Assembly and carried out the election of Officers for the next 2 years.

A high level version of this report is also available on the AGV website -

<http://www.agv.org.uk/bva-and-fve-easvo/>

and the report has been shared with the UK's EU coordination group (UKECG) which includes representatives from VPHA and the BVA.

Updates from BVA Council 9th December 2015

Adrienne Conroy

Governance review

BVA is currently undertaking a governance review which aimed to ensure that BVA is keeping pace with changes in the profession (eg corporatisation, specialisation, etc.) and wider trends such as devolution, diversity and openness. The aim is also to ensure that BVA is up to date with best practice and innovation compared to similar membership associations and professional bodies. Work was ongoing across the four priority areas of work:

- The relationship between BVA and the specialist divisions
- Procedures for electing BVA officers
- BVA's committee structure and appointments to committees
- The relationship between Board and Council

Vet Futures project

Following the launch at BVA Congress in November 2014 the Vet Futures project progressed through a number of phases including the identification of the key strategic issues, refinement, and testing, which had included a series of regional meetings and scenario testing. The report focuses on six broad 'ambitions':

- Vets as leaders in animal health and welfare
- Vets' wider role in society
- Health and wellbeing
- Rewarding and diverse careers
- Sustainable businesses and client-focused services
- Leadership



Updates from BVA Council 9th December 2015

Continued



BVA Animal Welfare Strategy

The BVA President had been leading the development of BVA's animal welfare strategy with a view to championing existing successes and strengthening the profession's leadership role on animal welfare. As part of this process, research had been undertaken to gather the views of key stakeholders, specialist divisions and BVA members on what the profession did well in relation to animal welfare and what more it could or should do. The coming year would see the development of recommendations and implementation of actions under the themes of:

- Animal welfare assessment
- Ethics
- Legislation
- Advocacy
- Education
- International

Welfare at Slaughter

AGV supported the proposal by BVA to request EFRA Select committee to consider the decision not to include stunning parameters in WATOK (as their absence compromises animal welfare, leads to different standards in England, Scotland and Wales and compromises the ability to enforce the legislation).

EU Animal Health Regulation

This is an important area of work and AGV acknowledged BVA input in providing members for the technical working group to support Defra's proactive attitude in influencing the work.

Re-wilding

AGV advised BVA that consideration needs to be given to the risk of disease introduction and spread through introduction/translocation of animals (eg wild boar-ASF/CSF, badgers-TB).

Hunting with dogs

BVA had initially taken a neutral stance on hunting with dogs in light of the fact that the Hunting Act was already in place. Council supported the principle that BVA should be able to form positions on subjects where there is an absence of compelling peer-reviewed evidence by turning to empirical evidence. Ultimately it was agreed that BVA should not support a repeal of Act. The following position on hunting with dogs is BVA's stance:

'In the absence of compelling evidence regarding the effectiveness and humaneness of hunting with dogs as a method of wildlife control, BVA cannot support a repeal of the Hunting Act'

NOTE: it is not intended that BVA will proactively campaign on the issue of hunting with dogs. Any agreed position will be used for reactive media work in light of any potential repeal of the Act on the basis that the profession, which is intrinsically concerned with animal health and welfare and its interaction with society, will be expected to have considered the issue.

Surveillance

Progress has been made on surveillance - although much still remains to be done, progress is being made in the right direction. AGV advised BVA to keep a 'watching-brief' on this area as the latest spending review may affect plans and implementation.

Compensation for compulsory slaughtered food producing animals

AGV advised BVA that compensation varies by species and/or disease and that criteria for compensation for bTB will be different to that for other diseases. Overall, careful consideration needs to be given to compensation

Re-wilding

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Non-traditional companion animals

Apart from the welfare aspects, AGV advised BVA as to the potential zoonotic risk from both keeping these animals and also, breeding and supplying the rodents used to feed them. (psittacosis, salmonella, hantavirus). In addition, AGV advised that Defra has provided an education-note in the form of Guidance.

Council Contact Details

Note for security purposes the details below are images which cannot be searched and therefore cannot be cut and pasted.

Name	Role	Email Contact
Kate Sharpe	President	Kate.Sharpe1@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk
Levon Stephan	Junior Vice President	Levon.Stephan@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Linda Smith	Senior Vice President	linda.smith@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Adrienne Conroy	BVA Rep	adriennev.cnry@btinternet.com
Jane Clark	EASVO Rep	jane.r.clark@defra.gsi.gov.uk
Rebeca Garcia	BVA AW Rep	rebeca.garcia@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Amanda Carson	Council Member	amanda.carson@apha.gsi.gov.uk
John Lawrence	Council Member	John.Lawrence@foodstandards.gsi.gov.uk
Edwina Thirkell	Council Member	Edwina.Thirkell@apha.gsi.gov.uk
Cath McVicar	Council Member	catherine.mcvicar@nottingham.ac.uk
Fred Landeg	Hon. Sec Treasurer	Fred.landeg@btinternet.com