

RCVS – CHALLENGE BY MR TOM LONSDALE MRCVS

TO COUNCIL ELECTION 2017

**SUPPORTING BUNDLE FOR RCVS SUBMISSION
DATED 23 NOVEMBER 2017**



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Tom Lonsdale Veterinary Surgeon

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25 July, 2017

By email: Clerk to the Disciplinary Committee: c.newbold@rcvs.org.uk

The Returning Officer
The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62- 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF
UK

Dear Returning Officer,

As a candidate in the 2017 Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Elections and pursuant to *RCVS Council Election Scheme 1967, as amended in 2006* I wish to challenge the validity of the election as per Clause 24 – (1).

Please advise the timetable for submissions.

Please refer the matter to a fully independent and impartial Challenge Committee.

Please note that since 1991 I have been vocal in the public domain in my belief that the poisoning of pets (impairing health or occasioning premature death) by the junk pet-food industry in collusion with the veterinary profession represents unconscionable animal cruelty. The sale of harmful products, portrayed by most vets as being beneficial for animal health and welfare, is in my opinion a fraudulent activity and a criminal offence.

I have levelled my allegations against the British veterinary schools, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the British Veterinary Association and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association. Accordingly, and for the removal of any apprehension of bias whether actual or perceived, I believe that no member of those universities or organisations should sit on the Challenge Committee.

Please accept this letter as my duly signed challenge.

Yours faithfully,



Tom Lonsdale



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6 August, 2017

By email: Clerk to the Disciplinary Committee: c.newbold@rcvs.org.uk

The Returning Officer
The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62- 64 Horseferry Road
London SW1P 2AF
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Grounds for challenge to the validity of the 2017 RCVS Council election

For a successful challenge to the validity of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons election there must be evidence that the election was not a) in accordance with the provisions of the Election Scheme; or b) furthered by conduct, which if the election had been regulated by the *Representation of the People Act* 1983, would have been a corrupt practice by way of bribery, treating or undue influence under sections 113, 114 or 115 of that Act.

I wish to invoke Section 115 (1 & 2b) *Representation of the People Act* 1983.

115 Undue influence.

(1) A person shall be guilty of a corrupt practice if he is guilty of undue influence.

(2) A person shall be guilty of undue influence—

(b) if, by abduction, duress or any fraudulent device or contrivance, he impedes or prevents, or intends to impede or prevent, the free exercise of the franchise of an elector or proxy for an elector, or so compels, induces or prevails upon, or intends so to compel, induce or prevail upon, an elector or proxy for an elector either to vote or to refrain from voting.

Function of elections

A précis of the Encyclopaedia Britannica list of functions of elections includes the following functions in addition to the more recognised role of selecting individuals for office.

1. Facilitation of the expression of public opinion.
2. Political education of the electorate.
3. Facilitation of social and political integration.
4. Elections and the campaigns preceding them are dramatic events which call attention to the importance of participation in the event and an opportunity to express diversity.

As can be seen from the foregoing, elections are not just about separating winners from losers. Undue influence and restriction of the process inhibits the above functions, especially the educational aspect and thus becomes a significant and substantial factor regarding voter behaviour over time. In elections with small voter turnout a few votes either way are crucial.

Self-regulatory profession

Free and fair elections play a significant part in the 'self-regulatory' status of the veterinary profession within the regulatory framework of the *Veterinary Surgeons Act*, The Royal Charter of the RCVS and the Nolan Principles.

There is an inherent presumption that veterinary decisions are best carried out by those who have undertaken a long period of study. There's also an inherent assumption that vets will always and without fail serve the best interests of their patients and the wider community:

On admission to membership of the Royal College, veterinarians make the undertaking:

I PROMISE AND SOLEMNLY DECLARE that I will pursue the work of my profession with integrity and accept my responsibilities to the public, my clients, the profession and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, and that, ABOVE ALL, my constant endeavour will be to ensure the health and welfare of animals committed to my care.

The Royal Charter of the RCVS assigns the objects of the College: 'to set, uphold and advance veterinary standards, and to promote, encourage and advance the study and practice of the art and science of veterinary medicine, in the interests of the health and welfare of animals and in the wider public interest'. The Charter gives the College power to 'undertake any activities which seem to it necessary or expedient to help it to achieve its objects'.

Therein lays a presumption that the RCVS and its elected and un-elected representatives will perform to the highest standards of governance in keeping with the Nolan Principles:

1. Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest.

2. Integrity

Holders of public office must avoid placing themselves under any obligation to people or organisations that might try inappropriately to influence them in their work. They should not act or take decisions in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends. They must declare and resolve any interests and relationships.

3. Objectivity

Holders of public office must act and take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.

4. Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.

5. Openness

Holders of public office should act and take decisions in an open and transparent manner. Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for so doing.

6. Honesty

Holders of public office should be truthful.

7. Leadership

Holders of public office should exhibit these principles in their own behaviour. They should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

Returning Officer not a vet

Although the Returning Officer is not a vet, I believe that the Officer is nevertheless bound by the Nolan Principles and the other principles as if he or she were a veterinarian. As a solicitor she has obligations to uphold the highest professional standards in law.

I acknowledge Section 11.-(4) of the Election Scheme that states:

This paragraph shall not require the Returning Officer to circulate an election statement which he reasonably considers to be defamatory or otherwise unlawful, or factually misleading, and may in the absence of agreement with the candidate either edit the election statement before circulating it or decide not to circulate it.

In order to meet the 'reasonableness' test I believe that the Returning Officer should issue rulings in an open and transparent manner and wherever possible refer to Acts and Statutes that underpin his or her ruling.

Further, insofar that the annual elections allow the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to be challenged on grounds of being unethical and corrupt, then it is incumbent on the Returning Officer to avoid actions that could be perceived as unethical or corrupt conduct or serve to cover up unethical or corrupt conduct.

Veterinary profession corruption

General abandonment of ethical, scientific and legal standards

I believe that the Election Challenge Committee needs a clear view of the widespread corruption, the context, in which the RCVS elections are fought. Armed with this understanding the Committee will be better placed to understand the motives and actions of the RCVS in regard to Council elections generally and to the 2017 election in particular.

In the first instance I offer *Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health* as an overview of a profession that has lost its way. There are several indexed passages that refer to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

The boiling frog analogy holds true for the veterinary profession that now finds itself in very hot water — the crisis started slowly and grew over time.

Until the 1950s the veterinary profession mostly concerned itself with farm animals and horses. However with the disappearance of horse drawn transport and the industrialisation of farming, the need

for individual care of large animals waned. Gradually vets turned their attention to pets — pets that were already being fed industrial junk food.

Thanks to the promotion of pet ownership by the junk pet-food companies and thanks to the widespread diseases so arising out of a monotonous diet of junk food, there was plenty of work for the increasing ranks of small animal vets. (At that time infectious diseases and parasitism were also factors.) Veterinary treatments were less sophisticated and matters of diet scarcely considered except insofar that vitamin or mineral deficiencies occurred.

Under the insidious guidance of various junk pet-food manufacturers there was an acceptance that domestic carnivores should be fed out of the can and then in due course fed junk dry kibbles out of a bag. Propaganda not science prevailed and acceptance of junk food evolved such that the vet profession came to promote carbohydrate based, chemical laced junk food as the most suitable, most healthy food for carnivorous dogs and cats!

Nowadays there's extensive cross-promotion between the companies, veterinary institutions and veterinary practitioners. Some junk products are promoted — especially those sold by vets — as superior to all others. Simultaneously the natural diet of free living wild carnivores and feral domestic animals is vilified for a variety of trumped-up reasons. The essential medicinal aspects of a natural diet are ignored or obscured.

Compartmentalisation of thought and over servicing

Vets, though, tend not to be consistent and trim their sails according to the prevailing wind.

When advising farmers regarding production animals, the relative merits and disadvantages of artificial diets are openly considered. High concentrate feeding gives rise to metabolic diseases, immune suppression, lameness and other 'production' diseases in cattle. However economic meat, milk and hide production are the farmer's priorities. Large animal vets hold honest discussions with their clients regarding trade-offs between diet, productivity goals and animal health risks.

For zoo animals, animals for which a long healthy life is desirable, every effort is made to ensure a diet as close to that of animals in the wild. Zoo vets tend to combine *theory*, *practical know-how* and *experience*, founded on biological imperatives, when advising their clients. Whole carcasses of other animals provide the foundation of wild and zoo carnivore diets.

Unfortunately due to the culture prevalent in the veterinary schools and regulatory bodies, most vets graduate with *no theory*, *no practical know how* and definitely *no experience* of feeding domestic carnivores according to biological imperatives.

Of course vets are cognizant of the move against junk food and drinks for humans and the modern day promotion of the health benefits of unprocessed foods and drinks. They are also aware that much human dietary and dental advice derives from animal research experiments. But when it comes to domestic dogs (modified wolves), cats (modified desert predators) and ferrets (modified polecats) most vets ignore common sense and common knowledge about junk food diets. Instead they are emphatic that the natural carnivore diet should be *avoided* and that the animals should be fed grain (carbohydrate) based slops from the can or desiccated, compressed junk in the bag. It's 'Prescription

food', 'Scientifically Formulated' and 'Vet Recommended' they say as they seek to justify their over-inflated prices.

All wild creatures keep their teeth in good order by eating their appropriate foodstuffs. Small animal vets mostly ignore that edict and instead recommend tooth brushing and expensive surgical procedures. Clients are given no inkling that the white coated professional is peddling dangerous mythologies emanating from junk pet-food company and veterinary school propaganda mills.

Junk foods have many different adverse impacts on the health, vitality and longevity of pet carnivores. By virtue of most vets' refusal to remove the disease producing junk from their patients' diet, but at the same time embarking on massive over servicing then animals are needlessly tormented, nay tortured, to death. Simultaneously owners are fleeced of many thousands of pounds and subjected to constant anxiety regarding their chronically (sometimes acutely) ill pet.

Maria Kuljanic's cat provides a case in point. Ms Kuljanic suffered the severe misfortune of consulting 20 vets indoctrinated in junk pet-food dogma. Her cat suffered the diabolical effects of a junk food diet, periodontal disease, obesity, diabetes and ultimately mouth cancer.

In my own practice every client is effectively seeking a second opinion. Never has a client received correct, biologically appropriate nutritional advice from their previous vet. Oftentimes the client arrives clutching many pages of case history — over-servicing writ large. Most often the animals need dental care and a change of diet. In many instances the improvements are immediate, impressive and long lasting. Animals suffering from diabetes or pancreatic insufficiency often make dramatic recoveries. George the diabetic cat is one such example.

Elizabeth Farrelly writing in the Sydney Morning Herald commented about her exorbitant vet fees and the junk food pushed by her vet:

Before remortgaging the house, I did what you do. Googled, found a website called Raw Meaty Bones. The message was obvious and compelling. I decided to try it. For a month, I gave them each a daily, raw chicken wing. Period. Pretty soon both cats were bouncing. No trouble peeing. No bad-breath or sore inflamed gums. Their coats became thicker and glossier. Two happy cats.

Of course the majority of pets treated by conventional junk-food indoctrinated vets are wracked with pain. We made a video featuring Wally Muir (Stop the Mass Poisoning of Pets by Vets) who was at death's door until we removed all 42 of his teeth. He was just eight years old.

Of course I accept that veterinary opinions vary. However the issues under consideration do not fit into that limited category. All of modern day small animal medicine is predicated on the mass poisoning of pets by vets. (Poisons, by definition, reduce health or bring about premature death.)

By contrast naturally fed animals enjoy superb health and reach their full genetic potential. In 1993, in recognition of my work, I was asked to write the definitive chapter on diet and oral disease by Dr Douglas Bryden of Sydney University. In 2004 Dr Bryden and Dr Richard Malik nominated my work and the attached book Raw Meaty Bones for the College Prize of the Australian College of Veterinary Science. In 2014 the Australian Working Dog Rescue Group nominated our practice for the Australian 'Most Supportive Vet' of the year award. Here is our winning questionnaire.

RCVS Cover-up

History

Many small animal practitioners see the immense good health benefits of a natural diet for their carnivore patients. Consequently I receive consistent support from over 400 MsRCVS at [RCVS Council elections](#). That the RCVS refuses to acknowledge and investigate what I describe as the Mass Poisoning of Pets by Vets shows that *undue influence*, whether by errors of omission or commission, is at the core of the RCVS *modus operandi*.

The history of RCVS incompetence and corruption — and I believe the failure to meet the expected standards of a self-regulating profession — likely predates my standing for election. However it is the RCVS undue and improper influence in support of the junk pet-food culture at all times, during past elections and especially during the 2017 election that must occupy our thoughts now.

Subject matter at the core of my candidacy

Since 1992 I have had many interactions with the RCVS administration and quite a few Presidents. Most staff have been personable and the 2014 meeting with Professor Stuart Reid was enjoyable — although unsatisfactory. In general though, I consider the past Presidents and employed senior staff to be incompetent. I don't label any one individual corrupt. But I do say that taken together their conduct has either been corrupt or they have been engaged in covering up corruption.

It is enough for one pet owner to lodge a complaint against a vet alleging negligence and/or cruelty to an animal patient to initiate a full-blown investigation. Yet year after year [in RCVS elections](#), I have alleged that many thousands of vets have tortured millions of pets and have fleeced millions of pet owners. I have alleged that most if not all veterinary schools accredited by the RCVS are engaged in the unconscionable brainwashing of vulnerable vet students. Most of these so called centres of higher education have slimy deals with the multi-national junk pet-food producers Mars, Nestlé and Colgate-Palmolive.

Each year, for 21 successive years, around 9% of voters have supported my allegations. Yet despite the alleged massive criminality by vets regulated by the RCVS and trained in RCVS accredited institutions the RCVS Executive has maintained unyielding denial.

The information in *Raw Meaty Bones* and the following links give an inkling of the RCVS interactions and malfeasance since 1992.

Selected RCVS correspondence

[1992 President acknowledges and circulates Pandemic of Periodontal Disease \(Ref: Pandemic of Periodontal Disease: A malodorous condition\)](#) The monograph contains an eminent NSW lawyer's opinion on the serious illegality of the vet promotion of junk pet food.

[1995 Past President comments on Mars Inc influence in the veterinary profession.](#) Henry Carter acknowledged the Mars corporations undue influence, but sidestepped the obligations of the College.

2004 Record of meeting with Professor Richard Halliwell, President of the RCVS I informed Professor Halliwell that on the basis of our research I could confidently say that the veterinary profession is responsible for the mass poisoning of domestic pets. Professor Halliwell treated my comments with disdain. He did, as I recall, admit to having been paid by junk pet-food companies for research and opinion.

2014 Freedom of Information Enquiry The links in this document provide much useful background information 22 years after first alerting the President of the RCVS to the huge and still growing crisis.

2014 Record of meeting with Professor S Reid, President of the RCVS Prof Reid understood the gravity of the situation. As I recall he said 'If only 10% of what you say is true then this is a very serious issue'. Of course I cannot stray even slightly from the 100% truth. The incompetence and corruption, as recognised by Professor Reid, is a gigantic issue.

2016 Email Correspondence with journalist Sarah Kidby This correspondence indicates the vet profession again putting up smoke screens. The fundamental issue of the mass poisoning of pets is obscured and denied. Simultaneously the profession generally and the RCVS particularly seeks to distract attention with 'alternative facts'.

Whilst the Presidents and administrators have the main responsibility for the RCVS performance, I believe it's instructive to consider the role of the other Council members. Twenty four members are elected. To my knowledge, not one of those elected this past 21 years has mentioned a word about the mass poisoning of pets, the fraudulent over-servicing of medical cases nor the brainwashing of students in corrupt veterinary schools.

Of the un-elected Councillors, the majority come from the UK veterinary schools. All schools brainwash their students to believe natural food is harmful and that junk food is the only sustenance needed by pets. In the absence of correct dietary advice, the students are brainwashed in the art and practice of over servicing. They are encouraged to preside over the life-long poisoning and thus cruel torture of the pets under their 'care'.

Most perhaps all veterinary schools have corrupt arrangements with the multinational junk pet-food makers.

See improper junk pet-food influence on UK veterinary schools [here](#).

See improper junk pet-food influence on Australian veterinary schools [here](#).

Under these disgraceful conditions the lay members of the RCVS Council are helpless to protest.

Conduct of elections

If the RCVS is corrupt, and I believe that it is, then every act of omission or commission that furthers its corrupt objectives is, in my view, also corrupt. Similarly any act of omission or commission designed to cover up the fundamental corruption only serves to increase the seriousness of the corruption.

Throughout the 21 years that I have contested RCVS elections I have encountered varying degrees of obstruction. For several years I retained the services of specialist defamation lawyer Richard Potter in our attempts to demonstrate to the RCVS that their arguments about my manifestos being libellous were without foundation.

In this 2017 election, the year subject to the Challenge, I did not consult Mr Potter. The Correspondence re Biography and Manifesto reveals the arbitrary nature of the RCVS rulings. (My Biography and Manifesto as submitted can be found here.)

There were four key decisions made by the Returning Officer that I believe had an undue influence on the 2017 RCVS Election under the terms of the *Representation of the People Act*.

1. Summary denial of hypertext links in the online manifesto.
2. The removal of names of pet-food manufacturers that are currently the subject of a Class Action legal case in the USA.
3. The refusal to host my RCVS Q&A video.
4. Double standards for favoured candidates.

I will detail these in turn.

1. Summary denial of hypertext links in the online manifesto

From 2007 to 2013 links were permissible in both the online and paper versions of the Biography and Manifesto. In an increasingly digital age it was a natural progression into the 21st Century for the RCVS to adopt this function within manifestos. The electorate could thereby gain a better understanding of the candidates and cross-check any electioneering statements. This was especially relevant for candidates such as me wishing to promote new, creative, beneficial but otherwise obscured and controversial ideas.

The drawback, at least in the printed version, was that expanded html links took up space — one link potentially taking as much space as several words.

In my published 2014 online manifesto there are no links. I believe that it was about this time that the expanded links were discontinued from both printed and online documentation. However, Mr Hockey the Registrar, subsequently agreed that ‘hotlinks’ within the text were permissible as a means to better inform the electorate.

My 2015 and 2016 online manifestos both contain ‘hotlinks’. The 2016 Candidate Guidance form contained the statement: ‘Links to websites etc are not permitted.’ Clearly, however, the Returning Officer treated that ruling as only being applicable to the printed version.

It is true that other candidates have tended not to employ links in their election material — although of course they were free to do so.

In 2017 the Returning Officer, without any discussion, took the retrograde step of banning online links.

After ten years of permitting links, the RCVS now stymies proper in-depth discussion of any subject, but particularly the subjects that the veterinary press, the universities and vet associations seek to suppress.

Seen in context of their interdependent relationship with the junk food makers, veterinary schools and veterinary associations, I believe this action of the RCVS to be an example of their exercising undue and improper influence

2. The removal of names of pet-food manufacturers that are currently the subject of a Class Action legal case in the USA

A pet-owner \$Multi-Billion Class Action has been launched in the USA against Mars Petcare; Nestlé Purina, Hill's Pet Nutrition, PetSmart, Banfield Pet Hospitals and Blue Pearl Specialist Centres. This is a matter of public knowledge and is widely discussed in pet-owner circles. That the RCVS deems that this information should not be made known to MsRCVS in the course of an election beggars belief.

Are the sensibilities of vets too delicate for discussion of these robust issues?

How could the named companies possibly object to re-publication of a news item? If they are innocent they will surely welcome their day in court.

A much more sinister issue arises. The RCVS enjoys privileged status as the self-regulatory body for the veterinary profession. Over two decades the RCVS has refused to acknowledge concerns about the mass poisoning of pets and the defrauding of pet-owners as is now countenanced in the USA Class Action.

Now in the face of the Class Action, the RCVS seeks to suppress the details and thereby assist the accused junk pet-food companies and their acolytes.

This appears as another instance of the RCVS exercising undue, improper influence on behalf of its friends and the benefactors of its friends in the universities, the British Veterinary Association and British Small Animal Veterinary Association.

3. The refusal to host my Q&A video

The Correspondence re Video reveals that I submitted my 2017 video early. Unfortunately the RCVS response arrived after an unnecessary delay:

Broadly the video is fine – we have just one area that causes some concern. In the answer to your second question, you mentioned governing bodies in the plural (around 1m 08s into the video and thereafter in your answer to that question) and refer to them in various terms including that they are corrupt. While robust criticism of the RCVS would be a matter for us in these election videos, we are concerned that you may have, even if inadvertently, been making the same assertions about other governing bodies that apply to you and such defamatory comment should be excluded.

Apart from being disadvantaged by insufficient time to make the changes, it's my contention as per the Correspondence re Video that no changes were necessary. Throughout the 21 years that I have

contested RCVS elections I have mounted vigorous criticism of the veterinary establishment as illustrated by this passage from my 2010 biography and manifesto:

Since 1992 I have worked to solve the gravest issue facing pet health and the veterinary profession in the 21st century.

From the outset a corrupt veterinary establishment fought back. I was subjected to several bogus disciplinary actions and threatened with jail.

According to the RCVS it seems that the veterinary establishment can launch bogus disciplinary actions, whilst I as a candidate in 2017 am not allowed to point out in general terms the possibility that veterinary organisations are suspect, even corrupt.

Again it appears to me that the RCVS abuses its power to gain undue, improper influence. (The collection of banned RCVS videos, including the 2017 video can be found [here](#).)

4. Double standards for favoured candidates

The RCVS ruling on naming companies in the manifesto and the RCVS ruling regarding the video reveal a double-standard in their effort to suppress the names of companies as per this quote:

The feedback that I have received from the Registrar is that she felt that organisations were implicitly identifiable in the video even if they were not directly named. In UK defamation law it is not necessary for an organisation or individual to be directly named in order for it to be defamatory – it is enough that the material can be reasonably understood to be referring to a particular individual or organisation.

Despite this ruling about my video, the RCVS approved the publication of two videos containing highly disparaging remarks about readily identifiable veterinary surgeons who practise Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine (CAVM).

Miss Sarah Brown video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFEuVExqr70>

Mr Danny Chambers video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDu8zfUdDyI>

It's instructive to note that whether aided by their videos or due to other attributes the authors of the videos finished second and third in the ballot and now sit on the Council of the RCVS.

I should declare that I hold no brief for Complementary and Alternative Veterinary Medicine modalities. However I am aware that much in this world remains to be investigated and understood; that there are veterinary surgeons who have made discoveries and will continue to make discoveries of immense benefit to animals, animal owners and the wider community, but which discoveries often run counter to conventional wisdom.

At the 2017 elections the RCVS favoured two candidates who show a crusading zeal in their efforts to persecute a small group of fellow vets on mere matters of CAVM opinion. Simultaneously the RCVS hampered my attempts to disseminate information on systematic incompetence and corruption affecting the integrity and standing of the entire profession.

I suggest that the RCVS is engaged in systematic corruption, employs double standards and employed undue influence.

Conclusion

It would seem that the RCVS has predetermined views, is markedly out of step with community values, shows distinct bias and has exerted Undue Influence in support of those who wish to maintain the *status quo*.

It is my contention that any Undue Influence exercised by a demonstrably corrupt RCVS has significant and or substantial effects as per the functions and purposes of elections as mentioned above.

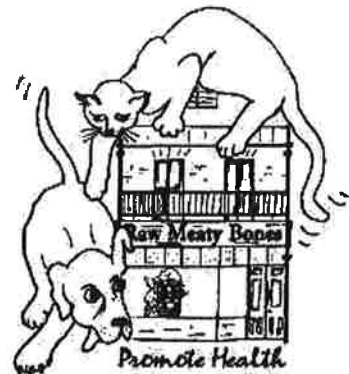
Accordingly I believe that the Challenge Committee should void the 2017 RCVS Council Election result and call for new, free and fair elections.

Signed,



Tom Lonsdale

Attached: Electronic copy of *Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health*



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RCVS – Lonsdale Election Challenge 2017

CHRONOLOGY

Date	Event
19.10.16	<p>RCVS announces that nominations are open for council elections</p> <p>RCVS makes available for download from its website:</p> <p><i>'Guidance Notes for Candidates' which states (para 19): "Candidates should ensure that the Election Statements do not contain claims that are inconsistent with the legal position of the RCVS and should be aware that the Election Scheme gives the Registrar power to delete any material that s/he considers to be defamatory or the publication of which would be unlawful"</i></p> <p><u>FAQs</u> for potential candidates, which note: <i>"The College would only intervene [in relation to the contents of a candidate statement] if the proposed statement is libellous or is perceived to bring the College into disrepute"</i></p>
23.01.17	Dawn Wiggins (PA to Registrar) emails Mr Lonsdale – says biography and candidate statement are unacceptable due to links to websites; also company names are not permitted
27.01.17	Mr Lonsdale responds, questioning registrar's position
30.01.17	Dawn Wiggins responds – saying the biography can stand as long as links are removed; statement cannot include references to brand names – suggest that these are replaced with the words "household names"
31.01.17	Mr Lonsdale again queries the registrar's position; asks for explanation, asks if the President is aware of what is proposed
31.01.17	5pm - deadline for candidate statements and biographies to be submitted to the RCVS
07.02.17	Dawn Wiggins responds, attaching final version of his statement / bio in which links have been removed and brand names have been replaced with "household names"; notes that the President is aware of the policy but not of the facts in Mr Lonsdale's case as the President himself is a candidate
16.03.17	Mr Lonsdale emails Luke Bishop (RCVS) with a link to his candidate video on YouTube

23.03.17	Luke Bishop emails Mr Lonsdale re his candidate video, saying there is one area of concern, namely the suggestion that reference to governing bodies (in plural) might be defamatory
24.03.17	Voting opens
25.03.17	Mr Lonsdale emails back – saying he cannot produce a revised video in time, and in any event he declines to provide a replacement video. He says no parties are named so questions how it can be defamatory
28.03.17	Luke Bishop emails back – says the Registrar feels that parties he criticises are implicitly identifiable, points out that edit required to the video to correct this would be minor
28.03.17	Mr Lonsdale responds saying he has no time or interest in recording a replacement video; asks that RCVS publishes an explanation for why his video is not posted
29.03.17	Mr Bishop says the RCVS is not willing to post such a notice; says it is up to candidates to produce a video which meets the requisite standards
28.04.17	Voting closes
02.05.17	Candidates notified of election results by RCVS
03.05.17	RCVS publishes results of the election
07.07.17	RCVS AGM at which new council members are formally announced and take office
25.07.17	Mr Lonsdale's letter saying he wishes to challenge the election – asks for guidance on procedure
06.08.17	Mr Lonsdale's substantive challenge letter
21.08.17	Mr Price QC advice re suggestion of bias
28.08.17	Mr Lonsdale lodges challenge to make-up of Challenge Committee
12.09.17	Mr Price QC provides further advice to Challenge Committee re bias challenge, outlining additional information which he recommends is obtained from committee members
04.10.17	Mr Price QC provides further advice following receipt of additional information from committee members
08.10.17	Mr Lonsdale writes to Clerk to Committee challenging involvement of Mr Price QC
11.10.17	RCVS provides submissions in respect of apparent bias
12.10.17	Mr Lonsdale writes to Clerk to Committee making further points regarding bias

16.10.17	Penningtons Manches writes to Clerk to Committee on behalf of the RCVS in response to Mr Lonsdale's challenge to Mr Price QC's involvement
30.10.17	Decision of Mr Price QC in relation to suggestion by Mr Lonsdale that he should recuse himself (declines to recuse himself)

TAB
3

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – Council Election 2017

Guidance notes for candidates

Election Scheme

1. The election of members to RCVS Council is conducted in accordance with the Election Scheme made by the Privy Council under the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. Copies of the Scheme are available upon request.
2. Every candidate for election to the Council must be a member of the RCVS, and must not be resident in the Republic of Ireland, unless he/she has retained his/her right to vote in Council elections, pursuant to the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons (Agreement with the Republic of Ireland) Order 1988.
3. The role of the RCVS and of Council Members is set out briefly in the attached document.

Timetable

4. The election is run for the RCVS by the Electoral Reform Services (ERS) who undertake the ballot administration for a number of professional bodies and trade unions.
5. On 23 November 2016, we will hold a 'Meet the RCVS Day' for those wishing to stand for Council, to enable them to find out more about the role of the College, and RCVS Council members. Attending this event is optional, but we hope it will ensure that those elected are best prepared for the role. Please contact Emma Lockley on e.lockley@rcvs.org.uk for more information.
6. The timetable for the election is:

a. Closing date for submission of nominations	5pm, Tuesday, 31 January 2017
b. Posting of voting papers (approx)	Week commencing Monday, 13 March 2017
c. Closing date for receiving votes	5pm, Friday, 28 April 2017
d. Candidates informed of results	Tuesday, 2 May 2017
e. New Council Members join Council	Friday, 7 July 2017 (RCVS Day)
7. On the date when Electoral Reform Services sends the results to the RCVS, the Executive Office will contact all candidates individually to pass on the results; candidates are therefore asked to let the office know where and how they can best be contacted on that day. Once all the candidates have been told the results they will be published.

Documentation

8. Those wishing to stand for election should return the enclosed **Nomination Form** in hard copy, duly completed and signed, ensuring that it reaches the RCVS by the date stated above. NB. Forms received after the closing date will **not** be accepted. Faxed and emailed forms will only be accepted if the signed hard copy original is received by the closing date.
9. This form must be signed by two proposers, each of whom shall be a member of the RCVS, but neither a member of the Council of the College nor resident in the Republic of Ireland, unless he/she has retained his/her right to vote in Council elections, pursuant to the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons (Agreement with the Republic of Ireland) Order 1988.
10. No proposer may nominate more than one candidate.
11. The Nomination Form may be accompanied by:
 - a. the **Candidate Information Form** containing:
 - i. full name, title and qualifications;
 - ii. contact details, including any or all of: postal address, telephone number(s), email address, website. NB. Only the address listed in the *RCVS Register* will be printed on the actual ballot paper; an alternative contact address may be included on the Candidate Information Form; and
 - iii. **Candidate biography and statement** for publication (see paragraphs 15 – 20); and
 - b. a recent **colour photograph** in digital format (at highest resolution possible, i.e. minimum of 300dpi at 100%) or hard copy (larger than passport-sized).
12. All forms and photographs should also be submitted in electronic format wherever possible.
13. All statements and photographs supplied will be published by the RCVS in *RCVS News – Council Election Special*, which is circulated to all members with the ballot papers, and on the RCVS website. The photographs and statements will also be made available for publication in the veterinary press.
14. All nominations will be acknowledged and the RCVS will confirm that the names and addresses of the candidates and proposers conform to those in the *RCVS Register*.

Candidate biography and statement

15. The biography should be no more than 200 words and the statement no more than 300 words (excluding name, qualifications and contact details). These will be published with the ballot papers.
16. The biography should contain information about a candidate's education and training, previous and current employment, relevant achievements, membership of other organisations, interest and hobbies etc. Candidates should also declare any relevant conflicts of interest in this section.
17. The statement is an opportunity for candidates to promote their suitability to serve on RCVS Council and set out what they could bring to the Council and the activities of the RCVS. Candidates may wish to address current issues facing the RCVS and the veterinary profession generally, and/or those that might arise in the future. Candidates who are previous or existing Council Members may also, or instead, wish to highlight their RCVS-related activities and contributions to the work of the Council and its committees.
18. It is strongly recommended that candidates familiarise themselves with the role and function of the RCVS and that of Council Members so their manifestos can be as relevant as possible.
19. Candidates should ensure that their Election Statements do not contain claims that are inconsistent with the legal position of the RCVS and should be aware that the Election Scheme gives the Registrar power to delete any material that s/he considers to be defamatory or the publication of which would be unlawful.
20. Candidates who are currently involved in the investigation of a complaint against them which has been, or might be, referred to the Disciplinary Committee are particularly asked to consider whether standing for election might be inappropriate and represent a conflict of interest until the matter is resolved.
21. **NB** Candidates wishing to submit statements should ensure they are received by the RCVS by **5pm on 31 January 2017**. No late submissions will be accepted and those exceeding the word count **will not** be included, unless adjustments can be made before the closing date.

Canvassing

22. Candidates may canvass members either orally or in writing. The RCVS will supply a single set of names and postal addresses of all members in electronic format to any candidate upon request. Any candidate wanting sub-sets of data, e.g. all members in Scotland, or in a particular age or geographic category, will be charged £60+VAT for the cost of producing such an extract from the database. It is expected that any communications to members will be legal, decent, honest and truthful, and that election expenses will be kept at a reasonable level.

23. In recent years we have organised 'Quiz the candidates', which gives members of the profession the opportunity to pose a question to the candidates directly. We have then asked all candidates to produce a video recording of themselves answering two of these questions, which we publish on our website and social media channels. Depending on candidate numbers, this may be repeated again in 2017. Whilst it's not compulsory to participate in Quiz the Candidates, we consider that it enables candidates to make their points in a way that will engage a broader range of voters than the paper manifestos alone.

RCVS

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Frequently-asked questions for potential RCVS Council candidates

Please read these notes in conjunction with the 'Guidance notes for candidates'

1. How can I stand for election to RCVS Council?

Those considering standing for election first need to secure nomination from two individuals who must be veterinary surgeons registered with the RCVS, but not current Council members.

There is then paperwork for you to fill out and sign, and paperwork for your nominees and you to sign. Both can be found at www.rcvs.org.uk/rcvscouncil17, together with guidance notes.

For you, there is a short form which includes your name, qualifications, address and other contact details.

You are then asked to include a short (max 200 words) biography and (max 300 words) personal statement.

You also need to send us a high resolution digital image to be included in the election booklet which is sent to voters.

Meanwhile your nominees need to complete a form which asks for their name and Register information and to sign that they agree to nominate you, and you also need to sign this form.

The paperwork needs to be submitted to Dawn Wiggins at the RCVS by 5pm on 31 January 2017. Faxed and emailed forms will only be accepted if the signed hard copy original is received by the closing date.

2. Do I have to be a practising member of the RCVS in order to stand?

No, you can be a non-practising or retired member, but you must be on the RCVS Register.

3. What is the timeframe for the election?

Closing date for submission of nominations	5pm, Tuesday, 31 January 2017
Posting of voting papers to members	Week commencing Monday, 13 March 2017
Closing date for receiving votes	5pm, Friday, 28 April 2017
Candidates informed of results	Tuesday, 2 May 2017
New members join Council	Friday, 7 July 2017 (RCVS Day)

4. What is the composition of Council?

Council comprises:

- 24 elected veterinary surgeons
- 14 individuals appointed by the veterinary schools (two from each school, mix of vets and lay people)
- Four individuals appointed by the Privy Council, which usually includes the CVO and three lay people

5. Are there any restrictions on what I can include in my candidate statement?

It should go without saying that your statement needs to be legal, decent, honest and truthful. Links to websites etc are not permitted.

We aim to publish exactly as submitted – which means that any typographical errors will also be included. The College would only intervene if the proposed statement is libellous or is perceived to bring the College into disrepute.

The *Code of Professional Conduct* pertains to the publication of your statement, as much as any other element of your professional life.

More detail about what to include in your statement is included in the 'Guidance notes for candidates' which can be downloaded from www.rcvs.org.uk/rcvscouncil17.

6. How many people will stand for election?

There is no limit to the number of election candidates each year.

A minimum of six elected Council members retire each year, although they can re-stand and there is no limit to the number of Council terms they can serve.

Over the last five elections there has been an average of 13 candidates.

7. What is the term for an elected member?

Each term is a maximum of four years, although some Council members may retire early for personal reasons. There is no limit to the number of terms that an elected Council member can serve.

8. How much of my time would being a Council member take up?

This depends on which committees and working parties you are asked to sit; RCVS committees generally sit three times a year.

There are at least three Council meetings per year, plus RCVS Day our AGM and awards ceremony. Additional Council meetings may be called – for example, there were three extra meetings during 2013.

You may also be asked to join a working party on a particular issue, and there may be other College activities – such as Regional Question Time meetings – which you can attend on a voluntary basis.

On average, therefore, successful candidates might expect to spend around eight to ten days a year on Council business in terms of formal meetings during their first year on Council. Additional time will be required to keep on top of emails, read paperwork etc.

As your Council career develops, you may be required to take a more active role. For example, committee chairs sit on the Operational Board, which meets 8-10 times a year.

9. Where are meetings held?

Meetings are usually held at Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, Westminster, London SW1P 2AF.

10. When are meetings held?

RCVS Council meetings are generally held on the first Thursdays of March, June (for 2017 it is scheduled for 15 June) and November. RCVS Day is generally the first Friday of July. The Education Committee and VN Council generally, but not always, meet in the first weeks of February, May and October.

Subcommittees and working parties meet on a more ad hoc basis, and it is often possible to join by conference call/video conference.

11. Is the RCVS family-friendly?

We try to be, both for staff and Council members. Council and Committee meetings are planned at least a year in advance, although additional meetings may be added at shorter notice and, generally, there are fewer meetings during the holiday periods, because we follow an academic calendar.

12. Would I be paid for Council work?

Council members are not paid directly for the work they do. However, employers can claim a loss of earnings allowance on your behalf (and, if you are self-employed, you can do this). The rate is currently set at £310 per day.

Days spent on specific College business can be claimed for – eg meetings – but not time spent on emails or preparation for a meeting.

13. Would I receive expenses for Council work?

Reasonable expenses are covered, including an overnight stay in London, if that is required.

14. What legal status does a Council member have?

Council members are effectively trustees of the RCVS and have overall responsibility for RCVS activities.

15. What are the key duties of Council members?

The role of the RCVS is to set, uphold and advance veterinary standards. It is not a representative body for the profession, although it's important that its Council members are representative of the profession at large.

Council sets the strategic direction of the College, by, among other things:

- Agreeing the three-year strategic plan (you can find the strategy online)
- Approving the annual budget and operational plan
- Overseeing the strategic management of organisational risk
- Electing the President, Vice-Presidents and main committee chairs
- Creating committees and setting their terms of reference
- Making major policy decisions
- Appointing the CEO and Registrar.

More detail about the role of Council and of Council members can be found in the Guidance notes for candidates, at www.rcvs.org.uk/rcvscouncil17.

16. What support might I receive as a Council member?

New Council members are invited to an induction day at the College where they meet the President and senior staff to find out more about the role of Council and the activities of the College.

Council members are happy to support newly-elected members, either with informal advice or in a more formal mentoring role.

17. Who can I talk to for more information about becoming a Council member?

A 'Meet the RCVS Day' for potential candidates is being held on **23 November 2016** at Belgravia House. You are also welcome to contact the Registrar, Eleanor Ferguson (e.ferguson@rcvs.org.uk), the CEO, Nick Stace (n.stace@rcvs.org.uk), or the President, Chris Tufnell (c.tufnell@rcvs.org.uk), for more information.

18. What will I get out of being involved on Council?

Our Council members tell us that being on Council has broadened their horizons, and allowed them to meet people and go places they never would normally have done. In some cases it's given them back the buzz about their profession that they enjoyed when they first graduated. They feel good about giving something back to their profession – and often the employers benefit too, from having someone on their team 'at the heart' of the governance of the profession.

Council work can count as CPD if you feel it has helped you meet your development objectives, and it's even been rumoured that it can be fun....

Why not watch our video, in which some current Council members talk about why they stood for election, what life's really like on Council, how to juggle Council work and the 'day job' and what benefits you can expect to gain: www.youtube.com/rcvsvideos.

19. Can I attend a Council meeting to see what it's like?

Regular Council meetings are held in public and anyone is welcome to attend, providing there is space. Please contact Dawn Wiggins on d.wiggins@rcvs.org.uk for more information.

However, unfortunately, there is no Council meeting during the nomination period.

Paperwork from past Council meetings is available online at www.rcvs.org.uk/about-us, and will give you an indication of the type of business conducted.

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RCVS Council Election Scheme 1967, as amended in 2006

Interpretation

1. This Scheme may be cited as the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Council Election Scheme 1967.

2.-(1) In this Scheme –

“the Act” means the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966;

“elector” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph 15;

“Council” means the Council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons;

“Independent Scrutineer” means the body appointed in accordance with paragraph 4;

“last date for despatch of voting papers” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph 7 read with paragraphs 12 and 13;

“last date for nominations” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph 6 read with paragraphs 12 and 13;

“last date for return of voting papers” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph 8 read with paragraphs 12 and 13;

“member” means a member of the College in accordance with sections 3(1), 5A(1) and 6(1) of the Act;

“registered address” means the address entered in the register under section 9 of the Act;

“Returning Officer” shall be construed in accordance with paragraph 3;

(2) Any requirement in this Scheme for any nomination, voting paper, vote cast electronically or by means of telecommunications, or other material to be received by the Returning Officer or the Independent Scrutineer by a date fixed by the Returning Officer or calculated in accordance with these Rules shall be construed as a requirement that it shall be received by him not later than 5.00 pm on that date.

Returning Officer

3.-(1) The registrar of the College shall act as the Returning Officer for each election to the Council.

- (2) In the absence or inability of the registrar to act of the Returning Officer, the assistant registrar, or such other employee of the College as shall be appointed by the registrar, shall act in his place.
- (3) The Returning Officer shall be responsible for the conduct of each election, subject to and in accordance with the provisions of the Act and this Scheme, and shall exercise the functions conferred upon him by this Scheme.
- (4) The Returning Officer may arrange for the Independent Scrutineer or any other person to carry out on his behalf such administrative functions as he considers appropriate.

Independent Scrutineer

- 4.-(1) Electoral Reform Services, or such other body as shall be appointed by the Council, shall act as Independent Scrutineer for each election to the Council.
- (2) As well as carrying out its other functions set out in this Scheme, and any functions it carries out on behalf of the Returning Officer in accordance with paragraph 3(4), the Independent Scrutineer shall be responsible for –
 - (a) receiving and scrutinising the completed voting papers and the votes cast electronically or by telephone in the ballot;
 - (b) counting the votes cast and determining the votes cast for each candidate; and
 - (c) certifying the result of the ballot in writing to the Returning Officer.

Eligibility to become a candidate in the election

- 5.-(1) A member may be a candidate for election only if on the last date for nominations –
 - (a) he is a member who resides outside the Republic of Ireland; or
 - (b) he is a member who resides in the Republic of Ireland and has retained his right to vote under the provisions of the Veterinary Surgeons (Agreement with the Republic of Ireland) Order 1988.
- (2) The Returning Officer shall reject any nomination which appears to him to be invalid on the ground that the person nominated is not eligible to be a candidate by virtue of this paragraph.

Last date for nominations

- 6.-(1) Subject to paragraphs 12 and 13, the last date for nominations for each election shall be 31st January.

- (2) Any nomination which is received after the last date for nominations shall be invalid.

Last date for despatch of voting papers

7. Subject to paragraphs 12 and 13, the last date for despatch of voting papers for each election shall be 31st March.

Last date for return of voting papers

8. The Returning Officer shall determine a last date for the return of voting papers, which shall be not less than 21 days after the last date for despatch of voting papers.

Notice of election

- 9.-(1) Subject to paragraphs 12 and 13, at least 21 days before the last date for nominations, the Returning Officer shall give notice of an election.
- (2) The notice of election shall be published on the College's website and in such veterinary professional journals and on such number of occasions as the Returning Officer shall direct.
- (3) The notice of election shall be in such form as the Returning Officer shall determine and shall state –
- (a) the number of vacancies on the Council to be filled;
 - (b) the names of the elected members of the Council who are retiring in rotation;
 - (c) the address of the Returning Officer to which nominations are to be sent, together with such other information as to the mode of delivery of nominations as the Returning Officer thinks fit;
 - (d) the maximum length and acceptable format of election statements which candidates may submit, and the size and acceptable format of photographs of themselves which candidates may supply, in accordance with paragraph 11 and as specified by the Returning Officer; and
 - (e) the last date for nominations.

Nominations

- 10.-(1) Nominations for election shall –
- (a) be made in writing on a nomination form which is in the form specified by the Returning Officer and obtainable from him;

- (b) be sent to the Returning Officer by post, or handed in at the offices of the College, to be received not later than the last date for nominations.
- (2) Each nomination form shall be signed by two members –
 - (a) each of whom would be eligible to be a candidate in accordance with paragraph 5(1); and
 - (b) whose full names and registered addresses must be given on the form.
- (3) No member shall nominate more than one candidate in each election and if he signs more than one nomination form his signature shall be inoperative on all but the first nomination form opened by the Returning Officer.
- (4) Each nomination form shall be signed by the candidate to whom it relates, who in doing so shall confirm that –
 - (a) the information contained in the form is correct;
 - (b) that he is eligible to become a candidate in accordance with paragraph 5(1);
 - (c) that he consents to being nominated for election;
 - (d) that he is willing to serve, if elected; and
 - (e) that he is willing, if elected, to comply with any codes of practice or guidance issued by the Council from time to time governing the conduct of members of the Council.
- (5) The Returning Officer shall reject any nomination or purported nomination which –
 - (a) is received after the last date for nominations;
 - (b) is not on a nomination form which is in the form specified under paragraph 10(1)(a);
 - (c) does not bear the signatures of two members qualified to nominate by virtue of paragraph 10(2);
 - (d) does not contain the information required by the nomination form; and
 - (e) which is not signed by the candidate to whom it relates.
- (6) A nomination may be withdrawn at any time until the last date for nominations by a written notification signed by the candidate and addressed to the Returning Officer.

Election statements by candidates and photographs

- 11.-(1) A candidate for election may supply with his nomination –
- (a) an election statement of not more than 300 words in such format as the Returning Officer shall specify;
 - (b) biographical information of up to 200 words, in such format as the Returning Officer shall specify;
 - (c) contact details in such format as the Returning Officer shall specify; and
 - (d) a photograph of that candidate, of such size and in such format as the Returning Officer shall specify.
- (2) Subject to the following provisions of this paragraph, any election statement and photograph received under sub-paragraph (1) shall be reproduced and circulated by the Returning Officer as part of the election material circulated in accordance with paragraph 16.
- (3) This paragraph shall not require the Returning Officer to circulate an election statement or biographical information submitted which is greater in length than the maximum number of words specified by the Returning Officer and in the absence of agreement with the candidate the election statement or biographical information circulated by the Returning Officer shall end at the last complete sentence within the specified length.
- (4) This paragraph shall not require the Returning Officer to circulate an election statement which he reasonably considers to be defamatory or otherwise unlawful, or factually misleading, and may in the absence of agreement with the candidate either edit the election statement before circulating it or decide not to circulate it.
- (5) Any question as to the format or presentation of an election statement, biographical information or contact details shall be decided conclusively by the Returning Officer.
- (6) Every candidate who supplies an election statement or biographical information under paragraph (1) shall be deemed to have agreed –
- (a) that the decision of the Returning Officer not to issue the whole or any part of it is final; and
 - (b) to indemnify the Returning Officer and the College against any liability to any third party this arises by reason of issuing the statement or biographical information.

Procedure if no candidates nominated

12. If no candidates have been validly nominated in accordance with paragraph 10 –
 - (a) The Returning Officer shall fix a new last date for nominations to be received for election to fill the vacancies together with a new last date for despatch of voting papers, and give notice in the manner required by paragraph 9 that an election will take place for that purpose; and
 - (b) The provisions of this Scheme shall otherwise apply to any election which is re-started in accordance with this paragraph.

Procedure if fewer candidates nominated than vacancies

13. The following provisions shall apply if fewer candidates have been validly nominated in accordance with paragraph 10 than there are vacancies to be filled –
 - (a) those candidates who have been so nominated shall be entitled to be elected and the chairman of the next ensuing annual general meeting of the College shall formally declare elected the members so nominated;
 - (b) the Returning Officer shall fix a new last date for nominations to be received for election to fill the outstanding vacancies together with a new last date for despatch of voting papers, and give notice in the manner required by paragraph 9 that an election will take place for that purpose; and
 - (c) the provisions of this Scheme shall otherwise apply to any election which is re-started in accordance with this paragraph.

Procedure if no more candidates nominated than vacancies

14. If no more candidates have been validly nominated in accordance with paragraph 10 than there are vacancies to be filled, no ballot shall take place and the chairman of the next ensuing annual general meeting of the College shall formally declare elected the members so nominated.

Entitlement to vote in an election

15. Only those members who would be eligible to become a candidate for election in accordance with paragraph 5 may vote in an election.

Conduct of the ballot

- 16.-(1) If more candidates have been nominated in accordance with paragraph 10 than there are vacancies to be filled, the Returning Officer shall not later than the last date for despatch of voting papers send a voting paper and election material to each elector.

- (2) The voting paper and election material shall together include the following –
- (a) the number of vacancies on the Council to be filled in the election;
 - (b) the full name and registered address of each candidate;
 - (c) instructions on how to complete the voting paper or to vote electronically, through the internet or by telephone;
 - (d) the address of the Independent Scrutineer to which a completed voting paper is to be returned;
 - (e) the last date for the return of voting papers or, subject to paragraph 18, for electronic, internet or telephone votes to be registered; and
 - (f) subject to the provisions of paragraph 11, copies of any election statements, biographical information and contact details which were supplied by the candidates in the specified form and any photographs which were supplied by the candidates in the specified size and format.
- (3) Subject to paragraph 20, each elector shall be entitled to receive one voting paper only and a voting paper shall not be valid unless –
- (a) it is a voting paper issued to that elector by the Returning Officer or any external body acting on his behalf; or
 - (b) the member has recorded his vote or votes in accordance with the instructions on the voting paper.

Postal voting

17. An elector who wishes to vote by post shall –
- (a) record his vote on the voting paper circulated in accordance with paragraph 16, in accordance with the instructions on how to complete the voting paper circulated pursuant to that paragraph; and
 - (b) return it to the Independent Scrutineer by the last date for the return of voting papers.

Voting electronically or by means of telecommunications

- 18.-(1) The Returning Officer may if he thinks fit and in accordance with arrangements approved by the Independent Scrutineer make voting facilities available by any or all of the following –
- (a) use of electronic mail;

- (c) use of the internet; or
 - (b) use of telecommunications.
- (2) If voting facilities by any or all of the voting methods referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are being made available, any elector wishing to vote by such a method shall do so –
- (a) in accordance with the instructions given on the voting paper; and
 - (b) by the last date for return of voting papers.
- (3) The Independent Scrutineer may take such steps as it considers necessary to ascertain that a vote cast by any of the methods referred to in sub-paragraph (1) is valid.

Double voting

19. (a) An elector who has returned a voting paper in an election shall not, if any or all of the voting methods referred to in paragraph XX have been made available, use any of those methods to vote in that election.
- (b) An elector who has voted by one of the voting methods referred to in paragraph 18 shall not return a voting paper in that election or use any of the other methods referred to in that paragraph.
- (c) Where an elector has voted both by returning a voting paper and by one of the voting methods referred to in paragraph 18, account shall be taken by the Independent Scrutineer only of the voting paper.

Replacement voting papers

20. An elector shall be entitled to receive from the Independent Scrutineer not later than the last date for return of voting papers and by such means as the Independent Scrutineer considers appropriate (including facsimile transmission or electronic mail) a replacement voting paper if –
- (a) the elector concerned states his full name and registered address; and
 - (b) the original voting paper has been spoiled and the spoiled voting paper is produced to the Independent Scrutineer; or
 - (c) the elector declares in writing (including by electronic mail) that he has not received a voting paper or that, if he has received one, it has been accidentally lost or destroyed.

Scrutiny of votes

- 21.-(1) The Independent Scrutineer shall reject any voting paper which –

- (a) is ambiguous;
 - (b) has not been completed in accordance with the instructions circulated pursuant to paragraph 16;
 - (c) is spoiled or mutilated in such a manner that no clear voting intention may be discerned; or
 - (d) has been received by the Independent Scrutineer after the last date for return of voting papers.
- (2) Where an elector has voted by any of the voting methods referred to in paragraph 18, if such a method has been made available by the Returning Officer, the Independent Scrutineer shall reject any purported vote which –
- (a) is ambiguous;
 - (b) has not been registered in accordance with the arrangements approved by the Independent Scrutineer for voting by the method concerned; or
 - (c) has been received by the Independent Scrutineer after the last date for the return of voting papers.
- (3) The Independent Scrutineer shall certify the result of the ballot to the Returning Officer in writing (which may be by facsimile transmission or electronic mail), giving the following information –
- (a) the total number of voting papers and, if appropriate, votes cast by any of the voting methods referred to in paragraph 18;
 - (b) the total number of voting papers and, if appropriate, votes cast by any of the voting methods referred to in paragraph 18 which were rejected and the grounds for rejection; and
 - (c) the number of valid votes cast for each candidate.
- (4) Subject to paragraph 24, the certificate of the Independent Scrutineer shall be conclusive as to the result of the ballot.
- (5) The Independent Scrutineer shall retain the voting papers in secure custody for a period of one month after the annual general meeting of the College at which the results of the election are announced, following which, in the absence of any challenge made under paragraph 24, they shall be destroyed, as shall be any information in printed or electronic form relating to individual votes cast by any of the voting methods referred to in paragraph 18 or information relating to demographic analysis of the votes cast by whatever means.

Election of successful candidates

- 22.-(1) Such number of candidates equal to the number of vacancies to be filled in the election who are certified by the Independent Scrutineer as having received the highest number of valid votes shall be deemed to be elected, and the names of the candidates elected shall be announced by the chairman at the annual general meeting of the College at which the vacancies to be filled occur.
- (2) If in any ballot two or more candidates receive the same number of valid votes, then for the purpose of determining which of them has the highest number of valid votes –
- (a) if one of the candidates has been registered longer than any of the others he shall be deemed to have the highest number of votes; and
 - (c) if two candidates have been registered for the same period, the candidate deemed to have the highest number of votes shall be determined by the drawing of lots by the responsible officer of the Independent Scrutineer.

Death or disqualification of a candidate

- 23.-(1) If notification of the death or disqualification of a candidate is received by the Returning Officer after the last date for nominations but before any voting papers have been circulated to the electors, the name of the deceased or disqualified candidate shall be removed from the voting paper and the election shall proceed in all respects as if he had never been nominated, unless the resulting number of candidates is the same as the number of vacancies, in which event the procedure set out in paragraph 10 shall be followed.
- (2) If notification of the death or disqualification of a candidate is received by the Returning Officer after voting papers have been circulated to the electors, but before the conclusion of the election, the ballot shall proceed but the Independent Scrutineer shall disregard votes cast for the deceased or disqualified candidate.

Challenge procedure

- 24.-(1) Any candidate in an election may, within one month after the annual general meeting at which the result of the election was declared, challenge the validity of the election, but only on the grounds that the election was –
- (a) not in accordance with the provisions of this Scheme; or
 - (b) furthered by conduct which, if the election had been regulated by the Representation of the People Act 1983, would have been a corrupt practice by way of bribery, treating or undue influence under sections 113, 114 or 115 of that Act.

- (2) Any such challenge must be in writing, signed by the candidate making it, and addressed to the Returning Officer, who shall send a copy of it to each of the other candidates in the election.
- (3) The Returning Officer shall refer any such challenge to a Challenge Committee, which shall consist of three members of the Council who are not elected members nominated by (in order of exercising the power) –
 - (a) the President, unless he was a candidate in the election concerned;
 - (b) the Senior Vice-President, unless he was a candidate in the election concerned;
 - (c) the Junior Vice-President, unless he was a candidate in the election concerned;
 - (d) the most senior Past President of the College still serving on the Council who was not a candidate in the election
- (4) The Challenge Committee shall sit with one of the Legal Assessors appointed under paragraph 6 of schedule 2 to the Act, who shall act in an advisory capacity and have no vote, and who shall be nominated in the same manner as the members of the Challenge Committee.
- (5) The Challenge Committee shall determine whether to declare the election void according to such procedure as it thinks fit, subject to the provisions of the Act and this Scheme, but which shall afford all candidates in the election under challenge the right to make written representation on the subject of the challenge.
- (6) The determination of the Challenge Committee shall be final and conclusive for all purposes.
- (7) The Challenge Committee shall not declare an election void under sub-paragraph (5) unless it is satisfied –
 - (a) that the irregularity concerned rendered the election substantially not in accordance with this Scheme; or
 - (b) that the irregularity concerned significantly affected the result of the election.
- (8) No election under this Scheme shall be rendered void on the ground of the accidental omission to send a voting paper to any elector or the accidental non-delivery of a voting paper to any elector.

Postal disruption and civil contingencies

25. In the event of a significant disruption to postal services, the internet, electronic mail or telephone services, or of any other civil contingency arising, the Returning Officer may defer

the last dates set out in this Scheme, and otherwise adjust the procedures set out in this Scheme, at his discretion.

TAB
6

RCVS 2017

Candidate biography

1991 Blew whistle on junk pet-food fraud and called for Class Actions.

1992 Pandemic of Periodontal Disease.

1993 Preventative Dentistry Book chapter commissioned by Sydney University flagging the professional and legal risks of endorsing junk pet foods.

1994 Feeding vs Nutrition: Have we lost the plot in small animal dietetics?

1994 Cybernetic Hypothesis *JVetDent* (Postulates ecological theory of health and disease as extension of Gaia Hypothesis.)

1994-7 Junk pet-food cult brought four disciplinary actions before NSW Vet Board.

1995 Periodontal disease and leucopenia *JSAP*

2001 Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health Exposes vet establishment cruelty, negligence and corruption. Proposes new paradigm of vet science and practice.

2004 Nominated for ACVSc Award. 'Dr Lonsdale has identified a problem, researched the aetiology and the pathogenesis, introduced therapeutic and preventative procedures, and addressed, head on, what he saw to be a moral issue for the profession. In short he has changed a paradigm and guided his profession in a more thoughtful and proper course of action.' Dr D I Bryden AM

2014 Most Supportive Vet Award

Freedom of Information research: Junk pet-food grease contaminating Australian vet schools.

2015 Videos: Banned RCVS videos. Science Death Experiment. The Mass Poisoning of Pets by Vets 1991-2015

Candidate manifesto

The junk pet-food industry/veterinary alliance is at last coming under scrutiny. A recent USA \$multi-billion Class Action names:

Mars Petcare; Nestlé Purina, Hill's Pet Nutrition, PetSmart, Banfield Pet Hospitals; Blue Pearl Specialist Centres.

The action alleges conspiracy to defraud over the sale and promotion of prescription pet foods.

However prescription diets are but a fraction of a major scam. Let's be clear, the food/medicine birthright of modified wolves (dogs) and modified desert predators (cats) involves:

- 1.) Feeding frenzy — release of endorphins/immune stimulation — therapeutic.
- 2.) Physical exercise — release of endorphins/immune stimulation — therapeutic.
- 3.) Tooth cleaning — preventative medicine — therapeutic.
- 4.) Stimulate gut enzymes/motility — therapeutic.
- 5.) Natural food contains intracellular enzymes and is thus pancreas sparing — therapeutic.
- 6.) Probiotics, maintenance of the microbiome — therapeutic.
- 7.) Substrate conditioning of the colon environment leading to healthy balance of bacteria — therapeutic.
- 8.) Behavioural conditioning (avoidance of stress/neurosis) — therapeutic.
- 9.) Natural array of biochemicals — nutrition in the commonly used sense and providing all the essential macro and micro nutrients in the appropriate balance for optimal cellular growth, function and repair.

That any vet denigrates a natural diet and simultaneously insists that pets should be fed artificial junk — junk contravening basic biological principles — beggars belief.

Back in 1991, when commencing the raw meaty bones campaign, I hoped for a soft landing. I hoped for discussion and a chance to revitalise our science and reform our outmoded 'profession'.

Please I urge you:

- Go to www.rawmeatybones.com for articles, testimonials and videos.
- Visit our practice, engage with us and see the evidence for yourself.
- Recognise that this is not a 'single issue'.
- Help your clients escape the junk pet-food scam.
- Recognise that our reputation depends on a swift, responsible resolution of the issues.
- Cast your vote signalling your desire for a veterinary community worthy to be called a profession.

Thank you.

TAB
7

Correspondence re Biography and Statement re RCVS Council Election 2017

23 January 2017

Morning Tom,

I have heard back from the Registrar regarding your biography and statement on the Candidate Form. Regrettably, we are unable to accept them in their present style as both contain links to websites – both the guidance notes and the FAQs make it clear that links are not permitted and that there is also a limited word count (200 for the bio, 300 for the statement and cannot be amalgamated as we have a specific lay out and space to adhere to for print purposes). Also, company names are not permitted. There is the option to include a website address in the Information section of the Candidate Form, which you have completed.

If you could re-submit amended versions of both parts of the form (bio and statement) that would be grand.

Many thanks,

Yours,

Dawn.

Dawn Wiggins

PA/Secretary to Director of Legal Services/Registrar

27 January 2017

Morning Dawn,

Thanks for the message.

Please pass on the comments below.

Regarding the inclusion of links I am aware of the rules regarding the print version of the docs. (Unfortunately I temporarily forgot and included www.rawmeatybones.com in the text). However I thought it was a RCVS agreed convention that links are fine in the online version - indeed desirable and should be encouraged in this digital age.

For examples please see my last two years' docs:

<http://www.rawmeatybones.com/RCVS/2016/Dr%20Thomas%20Lonsdale%20-%20RCVS.htm>

and

http://www.rawmeatybones.com/RCVS/webpage_complete/Mr%20Thomas%20Lonsdale%20-%20RCVS.htm

About the word count my computer running Microsoft Word clearly indicates the Bio to be 199 words and the Statement 300 words. Please let me know if there is an alternative more accurate word counting system.

Regarding company names, I am unable to find any reference in the FAQ or Guidance Notes. Those organisations mentioned in the Statement are simply copied and pasted (with minor word count reduction) from the \$multi-billion Class Action court filing at:

<http://www.rawmeatybones.com/pdf/Class%20Action%20Doc.pdf>

Surely it's better to stick to accurate reporting of court documents rather than leave RCVS members guessing -- with all the potential misunderstandings that may entail. If the RCVS administration has an alternative view perhaps the Registrar would like to provide the Membership with an explanation.

I hope that the RCVS will adhere to past agreements and value transparent, frank statements of fact.

I have changed www.rawmeatybones.com in the Statement to read [website](#) as per the attached. Otherwise I believe that the document should remain unchanged.

Thanks in advance.

Cheers,

Tom

30 January 2017

Morning Tom,

I have relayed your reply to the Registrar and have been asked to let you know that, as previously directed, company names must still be removed from the documentation as well as the links to the different sites:

- We can use the biography wording as it is, so long as the links to sites and videos are removed;
- We cannot currently use the statement as it stands as this contains both company names and links within it – this means that any reference to Mars, Nestle, etc., will need to be deleted, as well as all links within the statement. However, if you wished to make a general reference to a class action in the USA, for example, "involving household names" or another general phrase that would be acceptable but, again, without links.

I would be grateful if you could please let me have your amended documentation by 5pm (GMT) tomorrow, 31 January 2017.

Many thanks,

Dawn.

31 January 2107

Morning Dawn,

Thanks for message. Unfortunately I'm off on a rare four day break so don't know if I'll get emails until the weekend.

However, I'm reluctant to accept the Registrar's rulings without any explanation.

For the last two years it's been perfectly OK to include links -- in keeping with modern electronic communication standards. That the new Registrar rules that this is somehow wrong or unacceptable without any supporting evidence strikes me as retrograde and without merit.

Please advise if the CEO and President are *au fait* with this ruling. If they support the ruling, please supply reasons that can be communicated to the membership.

=====

Regarding the inclusion of company names, again I think it appropriate that the membership should know who is making arbitrary rulings. There is nothing in the regulations or guidance notes that says people or organisations can't be named.

Please confirm that the CEO and President are aware of and in agreement with any ruling on this matter. If they are comfortable with the ban (a ban not mentioned in any written document) then please provide their reasoning.

For twenty years I've contested RCVS elections on matters of principle. Seems to me principles are what should inform our political discourse and I hope that the RCVS Executive will be happy to live by basic principles.

If things work out I'll get your reply in Nelsons Bay.

Gotta dash.

Cheers,

Tom

7 February 2017

Morning Tom,

Hope you had a good break in Nelson's Bay.

I've attached the final version of your statement: as previously discussed, the links have been removed from the text, as well as the company names – with the slight amendment to the first

sentence of the statement to include the term 'household names' instead (highlighted). Besides those, there have been no other changes.

The President is aware that links are not being allowed in this process (we do include the website address at the top of the form) but he has not seen nor agreed the statement as it is a conflict of interest as he is also standing in this current election. However, the CEO, Registrar and Assistant Registrar have all seen the statement and the changes were approved.

One other thing, unless you have any objection, we will use the photograph from last year (attached) for the booklet.

Many thanks,

Dawn.

9 February 2017

Hi Dawn,

Thank for confirmation of the final version and for making those changes to the satisfaction of the Executive.

21 years sure is a long time to be dishing up the unmistakable, incontrovertible truth -- to be ignored and given the run around by those who in the first instance are responsible for identifying and dealing with that truth.

In fact there's been several replacements of the various executives throughout that time.

Will it be another 21 years before the obvious is acted upon, I wonder?

Whilst we await that revelation, here's wishing you lots of good fun and laughter,

Cheers,

Tom

Ps. That photo is a couple of years old and I'm aging fast. So please do use the photo.

TAB
8

Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons – Council Election 2017 Candidate Information Form

Candidate Information

Dr	Tom	Lonsdale
BVetMed		
PO Box 6096 Windsor DC NSW 2756 Australia		
Landline: +61 2 4577 7061		
Mobile: +61 437 2928 00		
Email: TOM@RAWMEATYBONES.COM		
Website: www.rawmeatybones.com		
Proposer 1: Andrew John Stephens		Proposer 2: Roger Sidney Meacock

Candidate biography and statement

Candidate biography: (up to 200 words maximum – please refer to guidance notes, paras 15 – 20)

1991 Blew whistle on junk pet-food fraud and called for Class Actions.
 1992 Pandemic of Periodontal Disease.
 1993 Preventative Dentistry Book chapter commissioned by Sydney University flagging the professional and legal risks of endorsing junk pet foods.
 1994 Feeding vs Nutrition: Have we lost the plot in small animal dietetics?
 1994 Cybernetic Hypothesis *JVetDent* (Postulates ecological theory of health and disease as extension of Gaia Hypothesis.)
 1994-7 Junk pet-food cult brought four disciplinary actions before NSW Vet Board.
 1995 Periodontal disease and leucopenia *JSAP*
 2001 Raw Meaty Bones: Promote Health Exposes vet establishment cruelty, negligence and corruption. Proposes new paradigm of vet science and practice.
 2004 Nominated for ACVSc Award. 'Dr Lonsdale has identified a problem, researched the aetiology and the pathogenesis, introduced therapeutic and preventative procedures, and addressed, head on, what he saw to be a moral issue for the profession. In short he

has changed a paradigm and guided his profession in a more thoughtful and proper course of action.' Dr D I Bryden AM

2014 Most Supportive Vet Award

Freedom of Information research: Junk pet-food grease contaminating Australian vet schools.

2015 Videos: Banned RCVS videos. Science Death Experiment. The Mass Poisoning of Pets by Vets 1991-2015

Candidate statement: (not more than 300 words – please refer to guidance notes, paras 15 – 20)

The junk pet-food industry/veterinary alliance is at last coming under scrutiny as shown by a recent USA \$multi-billion Class Action involving household names.

The action alleges conspiracy to defraud over the sale and promotion of prescription pet foods.

However prescription diets are but a fraction of a major scam. Let's be clear, the food/medicine birthright of modified wolves (dogs) and modified desert predators (cats) involves:

- 1.) Feeding frenzy — release of endorphins/immune stimulation — therapeutic.
- 2.) Physical exercise — release of endorphins/immune stimulation — therapeutic.
- 3.) Tooth cleaning — preventative medicine — therapeutic.
- 4.) Stimulate gut enzymes/motility — therapeutic.
- 5.) Natural food contains intracellular enzymes and is thus pancreas sparing — therapeutic.
- 6.) Probiotics, maintenance of the microbiome — therapeutic.
- 7.) Substrate conditioning of the colon environment leading to healthy balance of bacteria — therapeutic.
- 8.) Behavioural conditioning (avoidance of stress/neurosis) — therapeutic.
- 9.) Natural array of biochemicals — nutrition in the commonly used sense and providing all the essential macro and micro nutrients in the appropriate balance for optimal cellular growth, function and repair.

That any vet denigrates a natural diet and simultaneously insists that pets should be fed artificial junk — junk contravening basic biological principles — beggars belief.

Back in 1991, when commencing the raw meaty bones campaign, I hoped for a soft landing. I hoped for discussion and a chance to revitalise our science and reform our outmoded 'profession'.

Please I urge you:

- Go to website for articles, testimonials and videos.
- Visit our practice, engage with us and see the evidence for yourself.
- Recognise that this is not a 'single issue'.
- Help your clients escape the junk pet-food scam.
- Recognise that our reputation depends on a swift, responsible resolution of the issues.
- Cast your vote signalling your desire for a veterinary community worthy to be called a profession.

Thank you.

TAB

9

Hein Le Roux

Subject: FW: RCVS Council election update and video instructions
Attachments: Hints and tips for videoing.docx; Questions for 2017 RCVS Council elections grouped thematically.docx

Importance: High

From: Luke Bishop
Sent: 09 March 2017 09:58
To: [Candidates]
Cc: Ian Holloway <i.holloway@rcvs.org.uk>; Dawn Wiggins <d.wiggins@rcvs.org.uk>
Subject: RCVS Council election update and video instructions
Importance: High

Dear all,

I am sorry that I have not been in touch sooner but, due to a procedural issue, we have, unfortunately, had to delay the start of the election by one week. All things being well the ballot papers and candidate election booklets should be despatched on Wednesday 22 March with online voting commencing on Friday 24 March. The end date for the elections remains the same – namely, **Friday 28 April 2017**. I apologise for any issues this delay may cause.

Anyway, thank you for your patience and I have the pleasure of attaching the 'Quiz the candidate' questions that we received from members of the profession.

Remember, you only need to choose two to answer, but please also briefly introduce yourself and include a brief explanation of what you feel sets you apart as a potential member of RCVS Council.

You should speak for **no more than 2m30s in total**. If any recordings are longer than this, I'm afraid we will cut them at that point to ensure fairness for everyone.

I have also attached some hints and tips for making your video recording, which I hope you find useful, together with instructions on how to send me your recording once you've done it.

You can record your video via smart phone, camera, tablet, laptop or desktop (using webcam) and send it to me via a file-sharing website like www.wetransfer.com (see attached hints and tips). Files should be no larger than 2Gb. The recommended file format would be mp4, wmv or mov.

Please bear in mind that your video statements need to be legal, decent, honest and truthful and should not include any statements that are defamatory against an individual or organisation (or otherwise unlawful), misleading or inaccurate. If your video contains such statements we will ask you, in the first instance, to edit the content but do reserve the right to refuse to publish video if such statements remain.

Do come back to me if you have any queries, or if you need help. Otherwise, I look forward to receiving your recording by **Friday 17 March 2017**.

All the best,

Luke Bishop
Senior Communications Officer

Communications Department
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62-64 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AF

T 020 7202 0784

RCVS & VN Councils Elections 2016 – Quiz the candidates

Hints and tips for video recording

Setting the scene

Lighting

- Find a well- and evenly-lit room if you can – try to avoid strong lights or shadows. A room with plenty of day light would work well, but don't have your back to the window otherwise you will just become a silhouette!

Audio

- It's important for the sound quality of your recording to be good as possible. Find somewhere quiet indoors with no background noise, where you won't be disturbed.
- If you happen to have an external microphone, use it, but the built-in microphone on your phone/video camera should do the job.

Hold it steady

- Try to hold the phone/video camera as steady as you can. Ideally, ask someone else to hold it (they can also help with the recording) or, if you prefer to record on your own, use a tripod or stable surface to lean the device on.
- Hold the device in both hands (resting them on a table/chair if necessary) and take care not to block the microphone or lens with your fingers!

Positioning

- If you're using a phone, it looks better if you hold it horizontally rather than vertically.
- Try to avoid being bang in the middle of the screen if possible; if you're positioned slightly to one side or the other, it will look more professional.
- Don't stand too close or too far away from the screen. Ideally, we should be able to see your head, neck and the tops of your shoulders.
- Again, positioning will be easier if you have someone to help you.

Appearance

- What you wear is entirely up to you, but we would recommend you ensure the background is simple and uncluttered, so as not to distract the viewer from you and what you are saying.

Delivery

Where to look

- When you deliver your answers, you can choose to look straight at the camera (recommended, to be more engaging with the viewer) or, if you prefer, you can pretend to be being interviewed by someone off-camera, meaning that you should look to the side (remember to keep looking at the same place, though!).
- If you're looking at the camera, make sure you look directly at the lens. Don't be tempted to look at any live-recording image of yourself, as you won't then be looking directly at the viewer.

Speaking

- Speak clearly and carefully. It's probably advisable to speak a little slower than you might in ordinary conversation, especially if you're normally a fast talker. (NB don't be so slow that you risk your viewers nodding off!).

Answering the questions

- After you've given your brief introduction and explanation (see email), start each answer with a reference to the question you're answering, to set the context for the viewer. This need not be the whole question, especially where it's a long one; just a quick summary will do (and you can include the question number if you wish, as the list of questions will be published online).
- If possible, try to deliver your answers all in one go, so there are no distracting breaks/cuts in the film. To help with this, you could produce a brief list of the main points you want to cover and position it in your eye-line, just off-camera, so that you can read it without being seen to look away. You should also practice a few times beforehand, before making your actual recording.
- If you can't answer all the questions in one go, you will need to edit your answers together. We can help with this (see 'Editing' below).

Starting and stopping

- Whether you're recording yourself, or someone is helping you, it's best to include a few moments of silent stillness both before you start speaking and after you've finished. Simply hold your pose and look at the lens (or at your fixed point off-camera) for a couple of seconds and then start speaking; similarly, once you've finished speaking, hold your pose for a short while before stopping the recording. This will enable you (or us) to ensure a 'clean' start and finish to the recording.

Technical issues

Memory

- Although you should only speak for 2m30s, video files are large and can take up a lot of room on memory cards and internal storage. Before you start, ensure you have sufficient memory capacity so you don't get cut off in mid flow.
- Depending on your device, you could expect a 2m30s video to require between 200MB and 500MB of storage space.

Editing

- You are welcome to record your answers individually and then edit them together, providing the total length of the video does not exceed the 2m30s limit.
- If you need help compiling separate videos, please send us all the video files you have recorded and we will do this for you. Please indicate the order you would like your answers to appear.

How to send us your video(s)

- As video files tend to be very large, you won't be able to email them to us. Instead, we suggest you use the file-sharing website www.wetransfer.com, which is free and very simple to use.

From your computer

- Firstly, download your video file(s) to your computer.
- Click the **+Add files** button on the left and browse for the video file(s) you want to send us (you can send multiple files at the same time if you wish).
- Click on the **+Friend's email** button (underneath the +Add files button), and enter the following email address: i.holloway@rcvs.org.uk
- Click on the **+Your email** button and enter your email address.
- In the **Message** section, please enter your name, a description of how many files you are sending and the order in which you want them to appear.
- Press the **Transfer** button.
- The file will start to upload. Please stay on the page until it shows that the transfer is complete. You will receive an email to confirm that the file has uploaded. You will also receive an email when the file has been downloaded by us.

From your phone

- If you can't transfer the file from your phone to your computer, you might like to use the 'wetransfer' app instead to send it to us directly from your phone (search for 'we transfer' in the App Store or Google Play Store).
- Once you have installed the app, the file transfer process is similar to that outlined above.

Via YouTube

- If the above options aren't possible, we may be able to access your video via YouTube. Please contact Ian to discuss this: i.holloway@rcvs.org.uk / 020 7202 0727

TAB
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Correspondence re: Feedback regarding RCVS 2017 Council election video

16 March 2017

Hi Luke, Hi Ian,

We've just posted short vid at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXqy-QrRyKw>

I hope you can access it OK. Otherwise I may be able to get my IT conversant helper to do the other stuff.

Ta,

Tom

23 March 2017

Dear Tom,

Thank you for submitting your video for the RCVS 2017 Council elections so promptly. These have now been reviewed by the Registrar, Eleanor Ferguson, and the Deputy Registrar, Corrie McCann.

Broadly the video is fine – we have just one area that causes some concern. In the answer to your second question, you mentioned governing bodies in the plural (around 1m 08s into the video and thereafter in your answer to that question) and refer to them in various terms including that they are corrupt.

While robust criticism of the RCVS would be a matter for us in these election videos, we are concerned that you may have, even if inadvertently, been making the same assertions about other governing bodies that apply to you and such defamatory comment should be excluded.

Could we ask that you edit the latter part of your video to address this and resend the video to me at the earliest opportunity. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you on this and any inconvenience this may cause.

Best wishes,

Luke Bishop

Senior Communications Officer

25 March 2017

Dear Luke,

Thank you for your message.

The earliest I could record a replacement video would be the week starting 3 April -- clearly

too late for the purposes of the election.

However, I decline to provide a replacement video.

It's my understanding that since no parties are named then no defamatory imputations can be alleged. Even if such imputations are alleged, then I can either assert that the aggrieved party is not a target, or alternatively that I allege the party to be corrupt and that I rely on truth as a proper defence.

For these reasons I believe that the RCVS has erred and should publish the video at the earliest.

If the RCVS declines to publish the video then I believe a notice should be posted at the relevant site/s.

Best wishes,

Tom Lonsdale

28 March 2017

Dear Tom,

Thank you for getting in touch and apologies for the tardiness of my reply.

The feedback that I have received from the Registrar is that she felt that organisations were implicitly identifiable in the video even if they were not directly named. In UK defamation law it is not necessary for an organisation or individual to be directly named in order for it to be defamatory – it is enough that the material can be reasonably understood to be referring to a particular individual or organisation.

The edit that we have requested (as outlined in the previous email) is a relatively minor one so it may not require wholesale replacement of the video but an edit of the relevant part.

Please let us know if that would be feasible or not and, if it is possible, the time-frame you would be able to do this within.

Best wishes,

Luke

28 March 2017

Hi Luke,

Thanks for message.

Next week, when I return to Sydney I shall be plenty busy and no time or interest in recording another video.

If you resolve not to publish my video please post a notice so that the voters will understand your reasoning.

All the best,

Tom

²⁹
~~30~~ March 2017

Dear Tom,

Thank you for your reply.

I am afraid we would not be willing to put up a notice explaining why we have not published your video.

As with the manifesto statements, the onus is on the candidate to produce a video which meets the standards we have set out and to make the requested edits when it does not meet our standards. Where we cannot come to an agreement on this content we reserve the right not to publish it and do not need to provide an explanation to the electorate as to why.

If you could edit your video to make it clear that you are not calling multiple governing bodies corrupt (but in your opinion are suggesting this only of the RCVS) then that should be sufficient for us to publish it.

I hope we can come to a reasonable compromise on this.

Best wishes,

Luke Bishop

Web addresses for 2017 Election Videos for Mr Lonsdale, Mr Chambers, and Ms Brown

Mr Lonsdale

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZXqy-QrRyKw>

(or Google "tom lonsdale 2017 election video" – it is the first result)

Mr Chambers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDu8zfUdDyI>

(or Google "danny chambers 2017 election video" – it is the first result)

Sarah Brown

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yFEuVExqr70>

(or Google "sarah brown 2017 election video" – it is the first result)

TAB
12

COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 96/93 ON THE CERTIFICATION OF ANIMALS AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS

In an era of expanding world trade in animals and animal products, it is becoming ever more important that standards of certification are of the highest order, are uniform, can be relied upon, and are enforceable both within Europe and as far as possible for all third country imports. All veterinary surgeons in the UK and EU should therefore be aware of Council Directive 96/93/EC on the certification of animals and animal products, published recently in the Official Journal of 16 December 1996.

Competent authorities of a number of Member States have been concerned about certification standards in Europe for many years, and were very much in favour of an official European standard. In addition, there have been complaints by several Member States regarding the quality of certification being received from some sources. The European Commission as a result of lobbying accepted that controls on certification were necessary and responded by producing an initial proposal based on the 12 Principles of Certification, for a Commission recommendation on certification.

Negotiations on the substance of the proposal were not without problems, however. Not every Member State initially supported the need for a proposal in principle, although this was eventually accepted by all. There was also considerable debate, in response to pressure from a number of Member States, over whether to include provisions aimed at the Commission... certificates, including the... of the Directive and require the Commission... These require element of the... at making certificates set... not make statements... cannot be verified... difficult to verify the certificates un...

As the result of a... legal services, it was... formulating certificates... and unnecessary in a Commission proposal.

It was felt that the drafting and formulation of certificates are already under veterinary control as all certification proposals must be debated within the appropriate veterinary forum, either Council Working Groups for directives or the standing Veterinary Committee for Commission proposals. It is here where potential problems can be addressed and therefore additional controls were not considered to be required.

The initial proposal was also for a Commission recommendation, which would not have been binding on Member States. During the course of the negotiations it was accepted that something more binding was required and the proposal changed to become first a Commission Decision and subsequently a Council Directive - a far stronger instrument in EU legislation and one that must be enacted in member States through their own legislation.

Directive 96/93/EEC is the result of considerable lobbying by MAFF, the RCVS, the BVA and the FVE. The Directive gives official recognition to the importance of certification in EU veterinary legislation governing trade within the Community of both animals and products of animal origin. It will also have a knock-on effect for certification originating in third countries.

The final, agreed text of the Directive is a major step forward in setting a benchmark for standards across the European Union and does require effective action by competent authorities against the certifying officer when cases of unethical or fraudulent certification...

Article 7 Further detailed rules under Article 3 may be made by SVC procedure.

Article 8 Commission to report on electronic certification to the Council by 31.12.1998.

Article 9/10 Addresses the Directive to Member States which are required to bring in the provisions of Directive by 1.1.1998.

As with all EU legislation, the Directive can be amended and updated. There is an in-house procedure (SVC procedure, Article 7) to make amendments in the light of experience and any new developments, of the use of electronic certification.

The Directive which must be implemented by 1.1.1998 represents a major step forward for certification and it is to be hoped that all veterinarians across Europe will observe its requirements, so that the high standards of veterinary certification we have come to expect within the UK will be reflected in all veterinary certificates produced and signed within the EU.

N G Brooks, MAFF

College Council Election Results

The result of this year's election to fill six vacancies on the Royal College Council was:

P J Nute	(2,485 votes)
G N Ostle	(1,929 votes)
J Parker	(1,885 votes)
W P H Duffus	(1,770 votes)
C P Lazarus	(1,762 votes)
M Richer	(1,664 votes)
<i>(The above six were elected)</i>	
R D Jones	(1,575 votes)
K A Drnec	(1,498 votes)
K C Meldrum	(1,388 votes)
T Lonsdale	(614 votes)

PRIVY COUNCIL APPOINTMENTS

Mr J M Scudamore, Chief Veterinary Officer, MAFF, has been appointed by the Privy Council with effect from 30 April 1997.

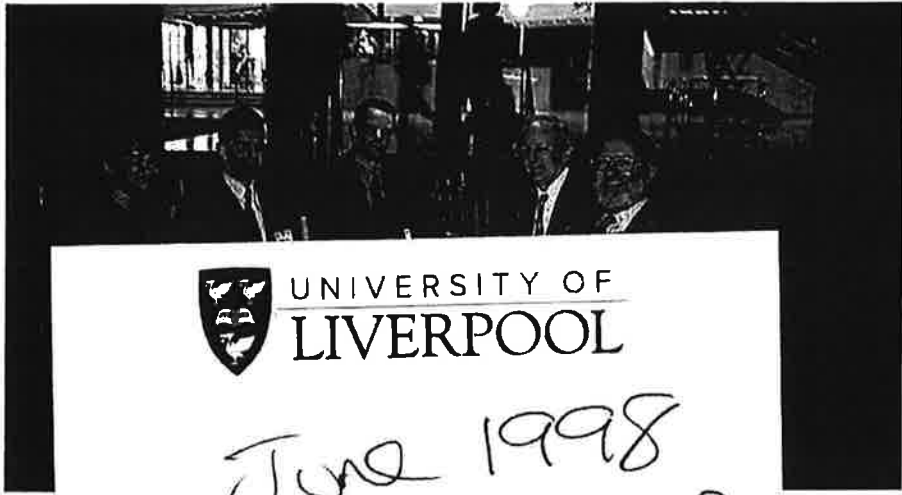


UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

June 1997
RCVS News

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provided in third countries for EU imports.



June 1998
RCVS News

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t out below.

Overseas members must undertake CPD and complete a record card, unless they are planning to gain a Certificate or Diploma qualification or to apply or reapply for recognition as a specialist. A copy of the CPD record card(s) is required in such cases.

Retired members: There is no obligation on retired members to undertake CPD and complete a record card unless they are undertaking any veterinary activities such as attending agricultural or horse shows even in an honorary capacity.

Nevertheless, the RCVS believes that undertaking CPD is the professional obligation of ALL veterinary surgeons.

Appropriate CPD: There is more to CPD than undertaking a further qualification. If a type of CPD is relevant and of benefit to any aspect of a veterinary surgeon's professional life, then it is appropriate and should be recorded on the record card.

Submission of record card. At present, copies of record card should be submitted to the RCVS along with applications for:

- final approval of experience for Certificate and Diploma candidates;
- specialist recognition;
- veterinary hospital status.

It is likely that this list will develop in time.

When a practice applies for BSAVA standard recognition, copies of the record cards of all veterinary surgeons in the practice will be requested.

Accreditation of courses: The RCVS has no plans to accredit courses. All course providers are encouraged to offer courses appropriate to a wide range of experience and to state the level to which a course is aimed when marketing that course.

Certificate and Diploma Candidates

Candidates for RCVS Certificates and Diplomas are reminded that a copy of their CPD record card for the period they are offering as experience must be submitted with their application for final approval of experience (Form E2). Applications received without copies of the record card will not be considered by the Subject Boards. From 1 November 1998, this requirement will be strictly enforced.

Certificate in Veterinary Public Health (Meat Hygiene) - Syllabus

The syllabus for the Certificate has been slimmed down dramatically from 12 to 3 sides of A4. The syllabus has been approved by SFEC and Council at the recent round of meetings and will apply to examinations in 1999 and after.

RCVS COUNCIL - ELECTION RESULTS

The result of this year's election to fill six vacancies on the Royal College Council was:

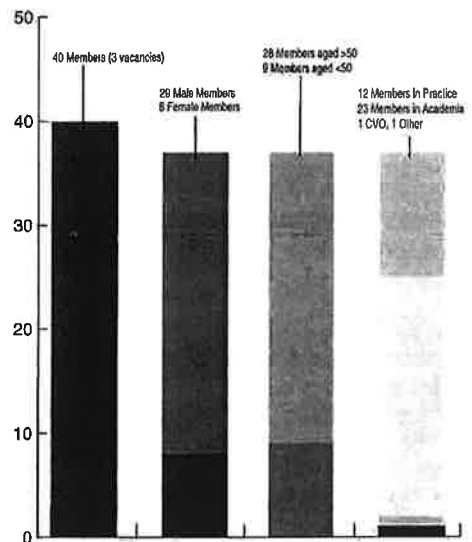
Shield, C F	2166 votes
Gorman, N T	2147 votes
MacArthur Clark, J A	2027 votes
Beswick, W	1796 votes
Green, R	1700 votes
Skerritt, G C	1521 votes

(The above six were elected.)

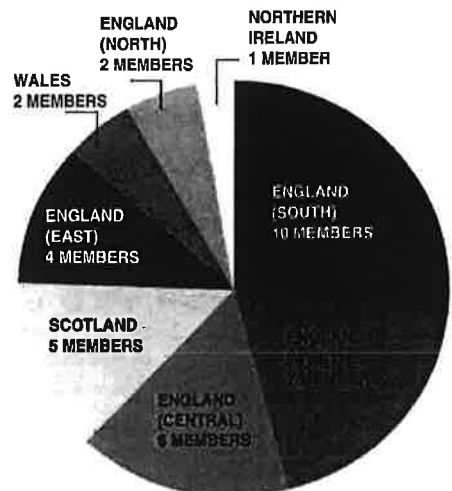
Lucke, J N	1469 votes
Kirwan, A P	1370 votes
Jones, R S	1295 votes
Lonsdale, T	361 votes

Correction: Mr Tom Lonsdale's website address in the Council Election Special was incorrect and should have read as follows: <http://www.zeta.org.au/~lonsdale/>. The error is regretted.

RCVS COUNCIL - KEY FACTS



RCVS COUNCIL - REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION



VETERINARY NURSING

Veterinary Nursing Newsletter

The first issue of Veterinary Nursing News has been distributed to all Listed Veterinary Nurses and to the principals of training centres and colleges involved in VN training. It is the first RCVS newsletter for veterinary nurses. Professional issues in veterinary practice increasingly affect veterinary nurses. *Veterinary Nursing News* is intended to keep nurses abreast of current professional and training issues and to provide a regular link with the RCVS as their regulatory body. For further RCVS veterinary nursing information please email: vetnursing@rcvs.org.uk or look at the RCVS website.

National Minimum Wage

The Veterinary Nursing Department has received a number of enquiries concerning the National Minimum Wage in relation to the employment of student veterinary nurses. The national Minimum Wage Act 1998 came into force on 1 April 1999. This legislation applies to all employed workers and trainees over the age of 18 although there are some exemptions for individuals in training.

Further guidance on how the regulations affect employees may be obtained from the Department of Trade and Industry enquiry line: 0845 6000 678. Comprehensive and very helpful guidelines can be downloaded from the DTI website at: www.dti.gov.uk/ir/nmw or by post from NMW Enquiries, Freepost PHQ1, Newcastle upon Tyne NE88 1ZH.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Please let the President have by **Friday, 10th September 1999**, any nominations you may wish to make for the honours and awards shown below, so that they may be considered by the Nominations Committee at its meeting on 21st October 1999.

All nominations must be accompanied by the following information:

- Name of nominee
- Honour/Award for which the nomination
- Relevant qualifications of nominee
- Age
- Date of registration as member of RCVS
- Nominee's current post/projects
- Nominee's career history
- Particular reason why the honour/award

The summary will form the basis of a "citation" which cannot be considered without such a summary. It should identify suitable candidates and hopes.

Honorary Associates

Honorary Associates need not be veterinary surgeons of special eminence in, or special service to, the profession. They should be restricted to persons not eligible for election. Names are listed on page 241 of the 1998/99 Register. In 1999, the honours were awarded to Professor I Ekesbo, The Earl of Selborne and Mrs D A Sinclair in 1999.

Honorary Fellowship by Election

Under the Bye-laws, this award may be made to not more than three persons in any one year in respect of their special eminence in, and service to, the cause of veterinary science. A recipient must be a Member of the College and have been a Member, or possessed of a registrable qualification, for a period of at least 20 years. The present Register of Honorary Fellows by Election is on page 241 of the 1998/99 Register and in addition, this honour will be awarded to Mr B H Coles, Dr P C Doherty and Professor J A Wyke in 1999.

The R W Hall of Barry, Glamorgan, Prize

This prize is awarded for the advancement of clinical work to graduate members or Fellows judged to have made an outstanding contribution in the field of clinical observation and practice among farm animals. Details of the award and past recipients are shown on page 254 of the 1998/99 Register.

The JT Edwards Prize

This prize is awarded for outstanding work in the fields of Pathology, Bacteriology and Virology, or as an alternative, Veterinary History. Details of the award and past recipients are shown on page 252 of the 1998/99 Register.

The John Henry Steel Memorial Medal

This medal is awarded for scientific or literary work of merit connected with the profession. Fellows and Members of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons are alone eligible for the award. Details of the award and past recipients are shown on page 256 of the 1998/99 Register.

PRESIDENT AND JVP TOP COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The result of this year's election to fill six vacancies on the RCVS Council was:

Brown, L A	2153 votes
Eddy, R	1991 votes
Moore, R	1770 votes
Windsor, R	1761 votes
Hill, L	1611 votes
Kirwan, A	1572 votes

(The above six were elected)

Williams, G V	1567 votes
Penfold, J W F	1374 votes
Hoare, J	868 votes
Lonsdale, T	395 votes

The result was confirmed by a recount for sixth and seventh places

The number of ballot papers returned this year was 3588 out of 17 091.

COLLEGE APOLOGIES

College wishes to apologise to those members affected by recent incidents.

There was a problem with mailing of the Retention Fee and Voting Papers to some members. A surface rate used by the mailing house the College had paid for to be used. Regrettably this meant that some members were not given the opportunity to vote. This is a serious matter but the election is not invalidated as a result. The College assures all members concerned that there will be no problem with the retention fee, and it will be rectified as soon as possible.

Secondly, a large number of errors were printed in the Directory of Practices which appeared unaccountably after the proofs had been signed off. The Directory will be reprinted and distributed as soon as possible.

VMD'S NEW CODE OF PRACTICE LAUNCHED

Agriculture Minister, Nick Brown MP formally launched the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's (VMD) new **Code of Practice on the Responsible Use of Animal Medicines on the Farm** on 29 April 1999. It has been endorsed by the RCVS and copies are available from the VMD on 01932 338408.



JUNE 1999
RCVS News

INSTITUTE OF VETERINARY SCIENCE
www.liverpool.ac.uk/vets

This honour will be awarded to Professor I

CHANGING YOUR REGISTER ENTRY

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/TELEPHONE OR FAX NUMBER/EMAIL ADDRESS

Members should inform the Membership department of any permanent change of address within 28 days of the change. Changes of address, telephone or fax number or email address can be made by letter, fax, telephone, or email to Membership@rcvs.org.uk. Please state if the changes are to a private or practice address.

CHANGE OF NAME

Notification of a name change through marriage should be made in writing, only if the member wishes to change her name in the Register. Changes of name for other reasons should be made in writing with a copy of the deed poll.

CHANGE OF BANK

Members only need to notify the College of a change of bank if they pay their annual retention fee by Direct Debit, when they should request a new Direct Debit mandate.

NB: When contacting the Membership Department it is helpful if you are able to quote your Membership Number.

MANPOWER SURVEY

Thank you to all members who took the time to fill in and return the Manpower Survey 2000 questionnaire. By the end of April the RCVS had received about 9400 forms, a response rate of about 50% from the total membership. The report of the Survey will be published as a booklet and on the RCVS website (www.rcvs.org.uk) in the summer. Further reports will be made in RCVS News.

RCVS DIRECTORY OF PRACTICES

The RCVS has recently been contacting veterinary practices not currently included in the RCVS Directory of Practices. If your practice is not included, you may receive a letter from the College soon. To be sure of an entry, which costs nothing, and a free copy of the Directory, please call the Publications department at the College on 020 7202 0762, and leave us your name and address.

RETIRED MEMBERS

There is a special category of members of the College who qualified before university degrees became the normal route onto the Register. For many of these members 'MRCVS' are the only letters they have to put after their name. If they were to come off the Register they would have nothing to show they had ever had a veterinary qualification. For a number of years these members have been pressing either for (1) to be able to stay on the Register free of charge or (2) for something which would record their veterinary qualification, whether or not they stay on the Register. Views on this anomaly were registered strongly at the Regional Meeting held in Maidstone in March 2000.

Council has accepted the following recommendations:-

- those members who wish to stay on the Register but elect to go on the retired list shall continue to pay a reduced retention fee (currently £20) and be listed separately in the Register as MRCVS Ret;
- those members who chose not to pay a fee, or for other reasons decide not to stay on the Register, who gained their MRCVS by direct examination [before the 1966 Act and 1967 Charter] shall be entitled to use the letters MRCVS (Ret) but not to hold themselves out as being on the RCVS Register. Such retired former members will not receive College mailings or be entitled to vote.

NB: Retired members may not engage in veterinary practice.

RCVS DAY

RCVS Day will be held on **Friday 7 July 2000** at Church House at the Conference and Banqueting Centre, Church House, Deans Yard, Westminster SW1. Details were included in the March edition of RCVS News, but if you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact Nina Swart at the RCVS on 020 7202 0761. Tickets are **free** and will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

RCVS REGIONAL MEETINGS

RCVS Officers will be attending Regional Meetings in November 2000 in Carlisle and Leeds. Dates and venues have yet to be confirmed but keep an eye on the RCVS website and the veterinary press for details!

Topics discussed at the March Regional Meetings included retired members retention fee, details of the VN scheme, surgical mutilations and illegal imports of drugs.



Regional Meeting - March 2000

MILLENNIUM PRIZE RESULTS

Veterinary surgeons, nurses and students were invited in the March edition of RCVS News to enter the Millennium Prize competition, awarded for the most imaginative and well-reasoned view of the future of veterinary medicine. The winners of the Prize were judged on 1 June 2000 and are as follows:

- 1st Ms A L Woods**
- 2nd Mr P Cawardine**
- 3rd Mr M B de C Giles**

The winning essay was entitled "Knowledge and Practice: The Future of Companion Animal Medicine?" and the winner has been invited to present her essay at RCVS Day in July.

RCVS COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The result of the 2000 RCVS Council Election to fill six vacancies on Council was:

Bob Michell	2204
Wendy Harrison	2130
Des Thompson	2086
Stephen Ware	1982
Barry Johnson	1872
Chris Chesney	1808

The top six candidates were elected

Ian Mason	1764
Margaret Pannell	1269
Bertie Ellis	1228
John Hoare	895
Thomas Lonsdale	359

The number of ballot papers returned was 4095.

REMINDER TO VETERINARY TEACHERS AND RESEARCH WORKERS

Sometimes veterinary surgeons engaged in teaching or in research are uncertain whether they are acting under the Veterinary Surgeons Act or Home Office legislation - A(SP)A. Advice is given in the relevant annex to the Guide to Professional Conduct 2000, but if veterinary surgeons remain uncertain, they should contact the RCVS in the first instance.

RCVS REGIONAL MEETINGS

The next round of Regional Meetings will take place on 7 and 8 November 2001 in Scotland. The venues are still to be confirmed, but will be announced in the veterinary press and on the RCVS website.

Invitations are sent out to individual veterinary surgeons in the area, although you are more than welcome to bring other members along - just let us know on the number below. There is no formal agenda for the meeting; discussion revolves around issues that members wish to raise with the RCVS Officer team either in advance or on the day. A report of the last two meetings, in Hatfield and Winchester in March 2001, is now available on the RCVS website so that you can see the wide range of issues recently covered.

Meetings start at 8.00pm, although a buffet supper is provided from 7.00pm, and usually finish at around 10.00pm. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Alexandra Thompson on 020 7202 0727, (a.thompson@rcvs.org.uk).

UK MEMBER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF FVE

UK veterinary surgeon, Fred Nind, was elected President of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE) at its Annual General Meeting in Budapest on 17 May 2001 for a 2 year term, replacing Dr Karlheinz Simon of Germany. Mr Nind, who was formerly in small animal practice near Edinburgh, has been President of the Union of European Veterinary Practitioners since 1999 and has been politically active within BSAVA since 1985.

"Foot and Mouth disease - Lessons for the future" was among the main topics discussed during the AGM and issues raised included the regular presence of the veterinary practitioner on the farm, a review of resources and manpower, the use of vaccine in disease control and veterinary border checks.

Other topics discussed during the AGM included the welfare of animals during transport, the evaluation of veterinary teaching establishments, veterinary medicines availability and risk based meat inspection.

The next General Assembly will convene in Brussels on 16-17 November 2001, and the UK delegation will host the 2002 AGM in Belfast from 29 May to 1 June.

RCVS COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the 2001 RCVS Council Election Results were as follows (those in bold were elected). The number of papers returned was 3131.

Mark Elliott	1798	Bertie Ellis	1042
Jerry Davies	1637	John Parker	1022
Jill Nute	1608	Philip Duffus	941
David Harding	1459	John Penfold	844
Nigel Swayne	1398	John Hoare	484
Charles Ross	1293	Thomas Lonsdale	235

Due to Walter Beswick's early retirement from RCVS Council after 11 years with effect from 6 July 2001, Dr Bertie Ellis, as the 7th placed candidate, will take a seat on Council for the remainder of his term. Professor Philip Duffus, in his capacity as Dean of Bristol Veterinary School will also remain on Council, but as an appointed member and Dr Susan Long will step down. Also resigning from Council, after 10 years, is Professor David Noakes of the Royal Veterinary College. John Parker, Mark Richer, Geoff Ostle and Penny Gripper will retire from Council in July after 4 years service each.

The number of ballot papers received in this year's Council elections was about 25% lower than last year with the highest number of votes barely exceeding the poll of the best of last year's unsuccessful candidates. Indeed the number of members who voted in 2001 is lower than it has been for a number of years and it would seem that voter apathy is not an issue which uniquely affects General Elections!

Year	Total number of ballot papers returned	% of Members voting	No. of votes received for the highest place	No. of votes received for 7th place
2001	3131	17%	1798	1042
2000	4095	23%	2204	1764
1999	3588	21%	2153	1567
1998	3567	22%	2166	1469
1997	4075	25%	2485	1569
1996	3908	25%	2284	1569

RETENTION FEES SET TO INCREASE

Council has approved a recommendation to increase the registration and retention fees by 4% with effect from April 2002 (registration fee: from £220 to £230; retention fee from £200 to £208; overseas fee from £80 to £83). This will now be submitted to the Privy Council for approval. Council has reaffirmed the policy, agreed last year, of building up the RCVS's reserves to ensure that it is able to fully discharge its regulatory responsibilities in the future, respond to any legal challenges that might arise and deal effectively with the media and policy issues.

RCVS WEBSITE

Many members will have noticed the changes to the RCVS website over recent weeks. The layout and overall design of the site have been dramatically altered to make the site easier to navigate around. All RCVS certificate and diploma information is now available online and the membership and Library & Information Service sections have been improved. The RCVS Trust and veterinary nursing sections are currently undergoing re-development: The 'Find-a-Vet' service was also launched in May 2001 (www.findavet.org.uk) and members of the public are able to search online for a veterinary practice in their area. The service is based on the *Directory of Veterinary Practices* and if you would like to add your practice to the database, please telephone the Membership department on 020 7202 0706, email membership@rcvs.org.uk or download the form from the website.

The latest news column on the home page enables us to communicate more quickly with members, in between editions of *RCVS News*. News about the RCVS Council Elections, disciplinary hearings, RCVS Day and FMD related information are some of the items recently posted. There are now well over 500 user sessions a day on the RCVS website and it is becoming an ever more important means for us to get information out to the membership. Feedback is always welcome and an RCVS 'webgroup' meets internally each week to discuss website issues - so ideas are always considered! If you have any ideas or suggestions for improvement, please email webmaster@rcvs.org.uk.

REDUCED FEES FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDENTS

It is clear from correspondence received from members that the RCVS did not advertise widely enough a concession introduced in April 2001 that members registered as undertaking full-time post-graduate courses with higher education establishments in the United Kingdom would be eligible for payment of a reduced fee, provided they met specific criteria. Council agreed that:

- the reduced fee would not be available to members undertaking residencies, scholarships or internships unless they were also studying for a post-graduate qualification;
- members enrolled for an RCVS certificate or diploma would not be eligible unless they were also studying for a European or American College diploma;
- the reduced fee would be available for a maximum of 3 years and would be half the home members fee;
- the Registrar would be final arbiter for deciding eligibility for payment of the reduced fee; and,
- eligibility for the reduced fee would start in the April after commencement of the course.

Members who consider they are eligible for payment of the reduced fee should contact the Head of Membership for further information on (020) 7222 2001.

EMPLOYMENT SURVEY 2002

Just over 29% of members replied to the 2002 Employment Survey. This survey was much shorter than the previous ones as it was designed only to pick up the main trends in veterinary employment. The results will be used to help the College decide when it needs to carry out another full survey of veterinary employment, to ensure that an up-to-date picture of the profession is maintained.

Analysis of the results is still under way, but some familiar trends remain:

- The proportion of women in the profession is now 36%, up 3% from two years ago, and their different working patterns continue to have an impact on practice.
- The shift towards small animal practice and away from large and farm animal practice is continuing.
- Average working hours seem to be falling, but on-call hours are increasing.

The full report should be available on the RCVS web site in the summer.

RCVS COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

The results of the 2002 RCVS Council Elections were as follows (those in bold were elected). The number of ballot papers returned was 2697.

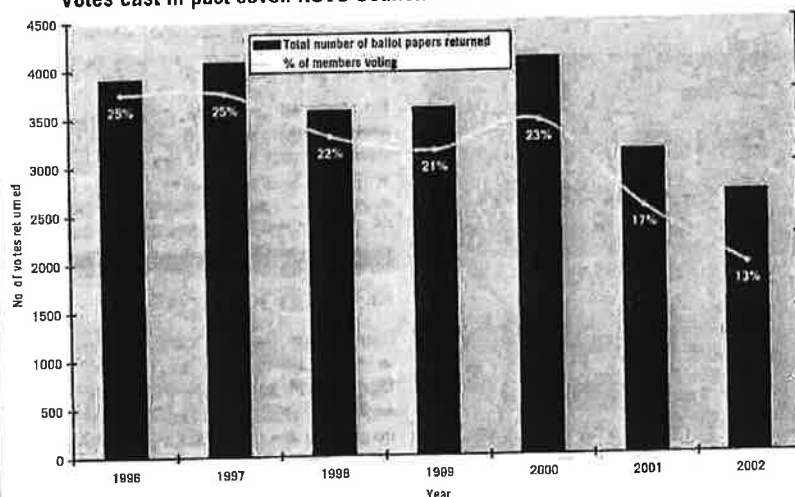
John Parker	1503
Christine Shield	1340
Judy MacArthur Clark	1290
Geoffrey Skerritt	1226
Neil Gorman	1210
John Bailey	1183
Anthony Buxton	1063
Bertie Ellis	1046
Alan Richardson	970
Roger Green	921
Thomas Lonsdale	276

Of the eleven candidates standing for election, just one new person, John Bailey, was successful. Four sitting Council Members were re-elected and John Parker was elected back on Council having lost his seat in 2001. RCVS

President Roger Green's term on Council will now finish this July after 12 years' service. Council has decided that Roger Eddy, the current Senior Vice President will continue in this role for another year.

Once again the profession's participation in these Elections dropped, with just 13% of members choosing to vote. This continued a downward trend seen over the past few years (see chart) and represents a 24% fall on last year's response alone. It is unclear whether this poor response indicates members' disenchantment with the College and its activities or reflects a more general voter apathy seen in elections nationwide. An insight into members' views on the RCVS has been gleaned from the Communications Audit survey (see page 7) although the response to this was even lower!

Votes cast in past seven RCVS Council elections



DART GUNS

Council approved new stricter guidance for veterinary surgeons concerning "Medicinal Compounds for use in Dart Guns". The new guidance provides that before the supply of such medicines, both the dart gun licence holder and the veterinary surgeon should sign a written agreement; the written agreement to include such information as the details of the dart gun licence holder's firearms licence, confirmation that the dart gun licence holder will provide a signed receipt for the supply of medicines used for restraint (such as Immobilon) and the details of specified antagonists, and that these will be available in an emergency.

The guidance is available on the RCVS website (www.rcvs.org.uk) and hard copies may be obtained from the Professional Conduct department.

VSA/(SP)A ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

The RCVS and Home Office have produced a flow diagram, with examples, to help with the understanding of the "Report of the working party to consider the interface between the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986", an Annex to the Guide to Professional Conduct, Edition 2002. This may be viewed on the RCVS website (www.rcvs.org.uk) or a hard copy obtained from the Professional Conduct department.

COLLEGE HONOURS AND AWARDS - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Nominations for the honours and awards detailed below are invited and should be submitted to the President by Friday, 5 September 2003 for consideration by the Nominations Committee in October.

All nominations must be accompanied by the following information:

- Name of nominee
- Honour/Award for which the nomination is made
- Relevant qualifications of nominee
- Age
- Date of registration as member of RCVS (if applicable)
- Nominee's current post/projects
- Nominee's career history
- Particular reason why the honour/award should be conferred (maximum 300 words)

The summary will form the basis of a "citation" for the ultimate award winner at the AGM in 2004. In default of such a summary being submitted, the nomination cannot be considered.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the RCVS Executive Office on (020) 7202 0761 or at d.wiggins@rcvs.org.uk.

Honorary Associates

Honorary Associates need not be veterinarians. This award may be made to persons by reasons of their special eminence in, or special service to, the veterinary profession but Council has agreed that the award should be restricted to persons not eligible for election as Honorary Fellows. The present Honorary Associates are listed on page 290 of the *RCVS Register 2002*. In addition, this honour will be awarded to Emeritus Professor R G Hemingway, Mr P Kertesz and Professor A Tait in 2003.

Honorary Fellowship by Election

Under the Byelaws, this award may be made to not more than three persons in any one year in respect of their special eminence in, and service to, the cause of veterinary science. A recipient must be a member of the College and have been a member, or possessed of a registrable qualification, for a period of at least 20 years. The present Honorary Fellows by Election are listed on page 291 of the *RCVS Register 2002*. In addition, this honour will be awarded to Dr A I Donaldson, Mr D L Haxby and Mr V R Simpson in 2003.

SLIGHT IMPROVEMENT IN ELECTION TURNOUT

The results of the 2003 RCVS Council Elections were as follows (those in bold were elected):

Roger Eddy	1759
Robert Moore	1693
Sheila Crispin	1651
Lynne Hill	1651
Bertie Ellis	1509
Lydia Brown	1438
Susan Long	1399
Neil Smith	1160
Maurice Kirk	1024
James Weir	450
Thomas Lonsdale	298



The 3,111 ballot papers returned in this year's election represented 16% of members - a 3% improvement on last year's returns although still the second lowest response in the past eight years. Bertie Ellis was returned to Council having lost his seat a year earlier and Sheila Crispin was elected independently, having served as one of the appointed members from Bristol Veterinary School since 1997. No new candidates were successful.

NEW DESIGN FOR PRACTICE DIRECTORY

If you are a regular user of the *RCVS Directory of Veterinary Practices*, you will have noticed that as the number of included practices has increased, so has the size of the Directory. With over 3,500 practices and branches now listed it weighed nearly two kilos last year! This has led to problems with the bindings splitting and a significant increase in postage. For a publication that has to be self-financing - unsubsidised by retention fees - this is not acceptable.

The new 2003 edition, to be published in August, will contain a radically redesigned layout for the geographical list of practices. The old "tramline" design is going and will be replaced by entries using standard symbols for practice facilities and the species treated. This will allow us to print twice as many entries per page and, as a bonus, to publish additional practice information not included in the old layout.

The new design may take a little time to get used to, but we hope that it will become as familiar as the old design, and make the Directory much lighter, easier to use and more informative.

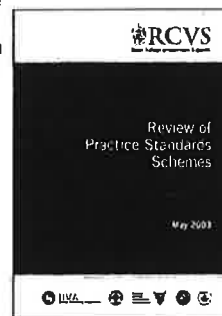
PROFESSION'S VIEWS SOUGHT ON PRACTICE STANDARDS

Last month, the RCVS sent a consultation paper to members on a review of current practice standards schemes and the future of practice standards in the veterinary profession. This is the College's third major consultation exercise in under a year and ties in with the proposals of the Education Strategy Steering Group and the review of the Veterinary Surgeons Act.

The Practice Standards Working Party (PSWP) is chaired by the Chairman of RCVS Advisory Committee, Lynne Hill, and includes representatives from the British Veterinary Association (BVA), British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA), British Veterinary Hospital Association (BVHA), British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA).

The consultation, which is also available at www.rcvs.org.uk, seeks views from the practising arm of the profession and follows a similar format to previous consultations, posing a number of questions to assist those wishing to respond. The list of questions is not exhaustive and any other comments are welcomed. The working party will take into account responses to the VSA consultation that relate to practice standards.

The RCVS is very grateful to all those who have responded to the previous consultations and hopes that the profession's response to the current consultation will be just as healthy. All responses should be submitted in writing/by email to Gordon Hockey, RCVS, Belgravia House, 62-64 Horseferry Road, London SW1P 2AF or pswp@rcvs.org.uk by 31 July 2003.



The Practice Standards consultation paper was sent to members in May

Miss Jane Hern - Registrar
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62-64 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AF

4th May 2004

Dear Miss Hern

RCVS COUNCIL ELECTION 2004

My report of voting in the above elections, which closed at 5pm on Friday 30th April 2004:-

Number of ballot papers received	2981
Number of papers found to be invalid (blank/spoilt)	8
Thus, total number of valid papers to be counted	2973

Result (6 to elect):

ALLEN, William Richard 768
CHESNEY, Christopher James 1397 ELECTED
HARRISON, Wendy Elizabeth 1898 ELECTED
HARVEY, Richard Galsworthy 1283
JOHNSON, James Barry 1334 ELECTED
JOLLEY, Stephen Alfred 672
LONSDALE, Thomas 264
LLOYD, David Hugh 937
McDOWELL, David Michael 1561 ELECTED
SMITH, Neil Christopher 1327 ELECTED
WARE, James Stephen 1591 ELECTED

The ballot papers will be stored for a period of twelve months before being securely destroyed.

Yours sincerely



Katherine Wiggins
Ballot Adviser

taking into consideration risk factors such as the possibility of contact between domestic poultry and wild birds, risk factors associated with different poultry species, the density of poultry farms, and so on. Surveillance would be carried out on wild birds to ensure that new knowledge was gained on the risk posed by these birds. Based on the results obtained, the EC and member states would regularly revise the surveillance plans to increase their effectiveness.

Discussing how the measures would be funded, the EC notes that an impact assessment carried out when preparing the draft directive estimated that the additional cost of the new measures to the EU budget would be between €3 million and €8 million a year. This would be financed from the EU veterinary fund.

The EU Health and Consumer Protection Commissioner, Mr Markos Kyprianou, said that the current situation in Asia and recent outbreaks of avian influenza in the EU had shown how devastating the social and economic consequences of the disease could be. The proposed directive aimed to set up the best possible system to prevent new outbreaks of avian influenza in the EU, to manage swiftly those that did occur and to minimise their negative impact.

The draft directive must be approved by the European Council after consultation with the European Parliament. If approved, it will come into force on January 1, 2007.

RCVS Council election results

THE results of voting in this year's RCVS Council elections were announced on May 3. The six candidates whose names are given in bold type below have been elected and will take their places on the Council at RCVS Day on July 8.

Patricia Jill Nute (2360 votes); **Peter Charles Jinman** (2304 votes); **Bradley Phillip Viner** (2098 votes); **Jeremy Vincent Davies** (1887 votes); **Nigel Paul Swayne** (1697 votes); **David Harding** (1568 votes*)

Mark Francis Elliott (1558 votes*); Charles Morgan Ross (1501 votes); Adam Marcus Hutber (932 votes); Thomas Lonsdale (273 votes)

* Confirmed by a recount

A total of 3591 ballot papers was received in the election, 18 per cent of the 19,972 papers sent out. The number of papers returned was an increase of 610 on the number returned in the 2004 elections, and was the highest for five years. Of those returned, 12 were invalid (blank or spoiled), so 3579 papers were counted.

The RCVS has also announced that, for the first time, the independent ballot administrators who run the election have collated demographic data on those who voted. These data will be anonymised and passed to the College for analysis. The RCVS hopes that this will provide information on the profiles of members who vote, 'in order to target promotional campaigns more effectively in the future'.

COMPANION ANIMALS

Charter for pet insurance

THE pet insurance market is currently the fastest growing personal lines insurance sector, with a market worth an estimated £234 million in the UK. This was one of the statistics to emerge during a seminar in London on April 26, organised by Sainsbury's Bank. The bank described the results of research it had conducted into the pet insurance market and launched a charter of its suggested minimum criteria that a policy should fulfil.

The bank's research indicated that, while the pet insurance market might be growing quickly, only one in eight pet owners had pet insurance. Of these, one in three would make a claim on their insurance each year, and 96 per cent of all claims were made in respect of veterinary fees.

When it came to selecting a policy, 64 per cent of pet owners were looking for one that provided cover for long-term conditions and 63 per cent were looking for a high upper limit on veterinary fees. However, the bank had found that, while 4.5 million people had had a pet with an illness or injury that had required more than 12 months of treatment, 49 per cent of canine policies and 47 per cent of feline policies did not offer cover for the treatment of long-term conditions. With regard to the limits on the costs of veterinary fees, the bank's research indicated that 37 per cent of policies for dogs and 36 per cent of policies for cats offered less than £3500 in veterinary fees cover. It had

found that 556,000 people had had to pay veterinary fees of more than this amount, resulting in a collective payment of £1.9 billion.

The bank has drawn up a charter, which, it says, aims to provide guidelines for customers to use when selecting the right insurance policy for their needs. The charter has been developed in consultation with insurance claims experts, taking client feedback into account. Key elements that it suggests clients should look for include:

- Cover for veterinary fees in excess of £3500;
- Cover for treatment of long-term conditions;
- Cover for dental treatment as a result of accident or illness up to the full value of the veterinary fees cover;
- Cover for behavioural treatments;
- Payment of advertising costs of £500 to help recover missing pets;
- Payment of £250 reward to help recover missing pets.

Mr Neal King, veterinary adviser to the company that administers Sainsbury's pet insurance business, described some factors that increased the cost of veterinary fees to owners. Among them were increased client expectation and the increased practise of defensive medicine which mirrored the increased demand for professional accountability. Veterinary fee inflation was, he said, justifiable and inevitable, and was set to continue. ▶

Pet adoption takes centre stage

TWO-LEGGED cast members of the London musical 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' – Brian Conley (Caractacus Potts), Alvin Stardust (the Child Catcher), Tony Adams (Grandpa Potts) and Jo Gibbs (Truly Scrumptious) – joined some of the four-legged cast members recently to publicise the 'Tour for Life', which aims to highlight animal shelters as the best places to adopt pets. The tour is part of an international initiative on pet adoption and has travelled in the UK, USA and Canada, promoted by North Shore Animal League International and Purina PetCare. The aim is to put local rescue centres and the work they do in the spotlight and to attract potential animal adopters by showing the benefits and joys of rehoming an unwanted pet





ELECTORAL REFORM SERVICES

The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW
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www.electoralreform.co.uk

Ms Jane Hern
Registrar
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62-64 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AF

2nd May 2006

Dear Ms Hern

COUNCIL ELECTION 2006

My report of voting in the above elections, which closed at 5pm on Friday 28th April 2006, is as follows:-

Number of ballot papers received:	3,598
Number of papers found to be invalid (blank/spoilt):	42
Thus, total number of valid papers to be counted:	3,556

Result (6 to elect):

TAPSFIELD-WRIGHT, Clare Joan	1,998	ELECTED
PARTRIDGE, Robert Duncan	1,835	ELECTED
SHIELD, Christine Fiona	1,773	ELECTED
GORMAN, Neil Thomson.....	1,749	ELECTED
SKERRITT, Geoffrey Coupland	1,678	ELECTED
MOLYNEUX, Jacqueline Rosina.....	1,651	ELECTED
PARKER, John.....	1,624	
ROSS, Charles Morgan	1,440	
BAILEY, John David	1,243	
MARSHALL, Frederick James	862	
HUTBER, Adam Marcus.....	611	
LONSDALE, Thomas.....	263	

The ballot papers will be stored securely for a period of six months before being destroyed.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Wilkins
Senior Consultant





ELECTORAL REFORM SERVICES

The Election Centre, 33 Clarendon Road, London N8 0NW
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Ms Jane Hern
Registrar
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Belgravia House
62-64 Horseferry Road
London
SW1P 2AF

8th May 2007

Dear Ms Hern

COUNCIL ELECTION 2007

My report of voting in the above elections, which closed at 5pm on Friday 4th May 2007, is as follows:-

Number of postal votes received:	2,930
Number of internet votes received:	798
Number of telephone votes received:	35
Number of votes found to be invalid:	6
Thus, total number of valid votes to be counted:	3,757

Result (6 to elect):

CRISPIN, Sheila Margaret	2,316	ELECTED
MOORE, Robert Paul.....	2,009	ELECTED
COTTRELL, Beverley Dawn	2,005	ELECTED
HILL, Lynne Victoria.....	1,935	ELECTED
EDDY, Roger Graham.....	1,759	ELECTED
ELLIOTT, Mark Francis	1,715	ELECTED
ROSS, Charles Morgan.....	1,703	
ELLIS, Robert Nigel Ward.....	1,438	
GRUCHY, Charles Edward.....	1,136	
LONSDALE, Thomas.....	375	

The ballot papers will be stored securely for a period of six months before being destroyed.

Yours sincerely

Adrian Wilkins
Senior Consultant





RCVS Council and VN Council election results

9 May 2008

The results of the RCVS Council and VN Council elections have been announced.

Just over 17% of the RCVS membership voted in the Council elections – the turn-out is consistently around this mark. New faces on Council include Richard Stephenson, Charles Gruchy and Catherine Goldie. Dr Barry Johnson (first elected to Council in 1985) and Dr Christopher Chesney (first elected in 1996) have been voted on for further terms. Dr Robert Ellis, who has had three previous periods on Council, has been re-elected.

The votes were cast as follows:

Richard Stanley Stephenson 2,728 - Elected

James Barry Johnson 2,057 - Elected

Christopher James Chesney 1,739 - Elected

Charles Edward Gruchy 1,622 - Elected

Robert Nigel Ward Ellis 1,532 - Elected

Catherine Anne Goldie 1,378 - Elected

David Michael McDowell 1,372 - Not Elected

Neil Christopher Smith 1,353 - Not Elected

Alison Margaret Bean Lambert 1,346 - Not Elected

Thomas Lonsdale 358 - Not Elected

Meanwhile about 9% of registered and listed veterinary nurses cast their vote in the VN Council elections. At 680, the number of votes was up 100 on last year, but the turnout remains disappointing low. Dot Creighton, current Vice-Chairman, will continue on Council for another term, and Katherine Kissick has been newly-elected.

The votes were cast as follows:

Dorothy Elizabeth Creighton 284 - Elected

Katherine Elizabeth Kissick 192 - Elected

Hannah Patricia Kay 179 - Not Elected

Rebecca Louise Bevan 160 - Not Elected

Angiy Michael 151 - Not Elected

Diane Elizabeth Guinan 129 - Not Elected

Wendy Jane Miller-Smith 86 - Not Elected

New members of both Councils will take up their posts on RCVS Day, which is being held at One Great George Street, London, on 4 July this year. All will serve four-year terms.

All members and listed / registered veterinary nurses are welcome to RCVS Day. Contact Fiona Clark for more information on f.clark@rcvs.org.uk or 020 7202 0773.

[READ MORE NEWS](#)



RCVS Council and VN Council elections results

7 May 2009

Results for the 2009 RCVS Council and VN Council elections are now in, and, following slight increases in both turnouts this year, one or two new faces will be joining some of the more familiar ones from July.

Voting in the RCVS Council election increased from 17% to 18.2% this year, with 4,041 veterinary surgeons out of a possible 22,201 casting a vote. The results of the voting are as follows:

NUTE, Patricia Jill 2,467 (Elected)

JINMAN, Peter 2,346 (Elected)

GRAY, Christopher John 2,230 (Elected)

DAVIES, Jeremy Vincent 2,229 (Elected)

VINER, Bradley 2,123 (Elected)

TUFNELL, Christopher Wynne 2,088 (Elected)

SWAYNE, Nigel 1,673

McDOWELL, David Michael 1,394

LONSDALE, Thomas 389

The new Council members will be Christopher Gray and Christopher Tufnell, who will officially join Council at RCVS Day on 3 July 2009.



RCVS Council election results

4 May 2010

Results for the 2010 RCVS Council elections have been released today and, following a slight increase in turnout for the second year running, four existing Council Members and one former Member have been returned for another four years. However, new to Council this year and securing the most votes was Preston-based veterinary practitioner David Catlow.

4,232 veterinary surgeons out of a possible 22,541 cast their votes this year, an increase of 0.6% from 18.2% in 2009. The results of the voting are as follows:

Candidate	Number of votes	Outcome
CATLOW, David Frederick	2,383	Elected
TAPSFIELD-WRIGHT, Clare Joan	2,352	Elected
SHIELD, Christine Fiona	2,133	Elected
	2,111	Elected

MOLYNEUX, Jacqueline Rosina		
SMITH, Neil Christopher	2,089	Elected
PARTRIDGE, Robert Duncan	1,971	Elected
NELL, Adi	1,781	
ANDERSON, Roy Paxton	1,455	
GODDARD, Philip Campbell	1,385	
LONSDALE, Thomas	380	

Terms of office for the six successful candidates will (re)commence at RCVS Day on 2 July 2010.

Following a successful partnership with www.vetsurgeon.org last year, the RCVS again teamed up with the veterinary community website to allow voters more opportunity to quiz the candidates directly and find out more about their views.

Once again, this seemed to prove popular with the electorate although it presented candidates with a large increase in their workload during the voting period. Page views on vetsurgeon.org's election section rose 23% to 28,347 this year; 48 discussion threads were started (slightly down from 53) and total responses rose dramatically by 47% to 988.

A new incentive for members to vote this year was a pledge to donate 20p per voter to the DEC Haiti Earthquake Appeal. A donation of just over £845 will therefore be made shortly.

RCVS Registrar Jane Hern comments: "An increase in turnout, if only a small one, is to be welcomed and I hope we can continue to increase members' interest in the composition and activities of RCVS Council. I'd like to thank all ten candidates who stood for election this year; my congratulations to those elected and my commiserations to those who weren't successful this time."

Note: there was no VN Council election this year as only two nominations were received for the two available places. These will be filled by Suzanne May RVN and Hilary Orpet RVN.

[READ MORE NEWS](#)



RCVS and VN Councils elections results published

28 April 2011

All votes for the 2011 RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurse Council elections have been counted and the results are now in.

For the first time in eight years, all six successful RCVS Council candidates have served on Council before, although one – Sandy Trees – is currently an appointed, rather than an elected, member.

For VN Council, one existing member has been returned and two new members have been elected.

However, following rises in previous turnouts, voting figures have dropped markedly this year in both RCVS and VN Councils elections, to 15.9% (3,887 voters) and 7.6% (723 voters) respectively. The previous turnouts were 18.8% (in 2010) and 11.2% (in 2009).

The results of the two elections are as follows:

RCVS Council election

Candidate	Number of votes	
Sheila Crispin	2,281	Elected

Candidate	Number of votes	
Sandy Trees	2,247	Elected
Bob Moore	1,890	Elected
Mark Elliott	1,821	Elected
Lynne Hill	1,711	Elected
Beverley Cottrell	1,604	Elected
Jonathan Bray	1,494	
David Mason	1,358	
Adi Nell	1,163	
Tom Lonsdale	363	

VN Council election

Candidate	Number of votes	
Elizabeth Branscombe	430	Elected
Elizabeth Cox	335	Elected
Tanya Caley	332	Elected
Rachel Smith	328	

An additional vacancy arose on VN Council this year due to an existing member retiring early; hence, Tanya Caley, as third-place candidate, will take up that seat for the remaining one year of the term.

RCVS Registrar Jane Hern said: "It's certainly disappointing that the turnout has dropped so much this year. It's unclear whether this is due to lack of time, lack of awareness, or lack of interest, but perhaps anyone who didn't vote could let us know why, so we can see what we could do to increase participation.

“Nevertheless, my congratulations to all successful candidates, who I look forward to formally welcoming, or welcoming back, onto the Councils at RCVS Day in July, and my commiserations to those who were unsuccessful this time and who I hope won't be discouraged from standing again next year.”

This year's chosen charity – the Veterinary Benevolent Fund – will receive a cheque for £922 arising from the College's pledge to donate 20p for each veterinary surgeon and veterinary nurse who cast a vote.

[READ MORE NEWS](#)



RCVS & VN Councils elections results

1 May 2012

The votes for the 2012 RCVS Council and Veterinary Nurse (VN) Councils elections have been counted and the results are now in.

There was a record number of candidates [*/news-and-events/news/rcvs-and-vn-council-elections-open-soon/*] standing in the RCVS Council election this year, and the results in the end were much closer than usual, although the turnouts were low once again.

Two candidates entirely new to the Council have been elected, one of whom - Amanda Boag - received the highest number of votes.

Two candidates entirely new to the Council have been elected, one of whom - Amanda Boag - received the highest number of votes. The other - Chris Barker - also did well, coming in third place overall.

Three existing RCVS Council Members have been re-elected for a further four years, and Stephen May, who was formerly an appointed Council Member from the Royal Veterinary College, was also voted onto Council for the first time.

Of the three candidates standing for election to VN Council, one existing Member - Kathy Kissick - has been returned, and one new member - Elizabeth Figg - has been elected.

All successful candidates will take up or resume their seats at RCVS Day on 6 July 2012.

Turnouts for both elections continued to be disappointing, with just 3,625 veterinary surgeons (15.1%) and 743 veterinary nurses (7.5%) choosing to exercise their right to vote.

In 2011, voting figures were 3,887 (15.9%) and 723 (7.6%), respectively, so whilst 20 more VNs voted this year, there was a very slight drop in turnout in real terms.

Veterinary surgeons' and veterinary nurses' use of online and text voting, rather than postal voting, increased again this year from 25% to 30.6%, and 12.9% to 20%, respectively.

The full results of the two elections are as follows:

RCVS Council election

Candidate	Number of votes	
Amanda Boag	1,991	Elected
Catherine Goldie	1,690	Elected
Christopher Barker	1,540	Elected
Barry Johnson	1,401	Elected
Richard Stephenson	1,321	Elected
Stephen May	1,238	Elected*
Christopher Sturgess	1,235	
Robert Ellis	1,024	
David Mason	963	
Edward Gillams	909	
Christopher House	843	
Charles Gruchy	806	
Jonathan Ruben	801	
Tom Lonsdale	259	

*confirmed by a recount

VN Council election

Candidate	Number of votes	
Katherine Kissick	496	Elected
Elizabeth Figg	297	Elected
Phillippe Ramboaniaina	259	

[READ MORE NEWS](#)



29th April 2013

ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

COUNCIL ELECTION 2013

Our report of voting for the above election, which closed at 5pm on Friday 26th April 2013, is as follows:

Number of eligible voters:		24,856
Votes cast by post:	3,247	
Votes cast by online:	1,330	
Votes cast by text:	84	
Total number of votes cast:		4,661
Turnout:		18.8%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		22
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		4,639

Result (6 to elect)

WITTE, Thomas Hermann	2,251	Elected
GRAY, Christopher John.....	1,974	Elected
JINMAN, Peter Charles	1,949	Elected
VINER, Bradley Phillip	1,927	Elected
TUFNELL, Christopher Wynne	1,883	Elected
DAVIES, Jeremy Vincent.....	1,830	Elected
STURGESS, Christopher Paul.....	1,809	
CONNELL, Niall Thomas	1,596	
ROBINSON, Peter Bayley	1,366	
ELLIS, Robert Nigel Ward	1,302	
GRANT, Lewis George	832	
TORGERSON, Paul Robert	824	
LONSDALE, Thomas	337	

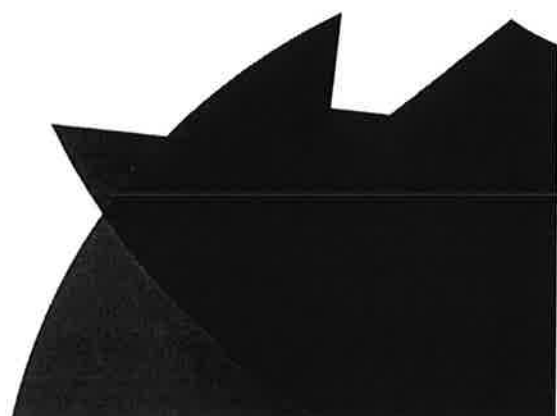
Electoral Reform Services can confirm that, as far as reasonably practicable, every person who chose to participate in the ballot had their vote fairly and accurately recorded.

All voting material will be stored for six months.

Adrian Wilkins
Senior Consultant

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RCVS and VN Councils elections results

30 April 2014

We are delighted to announce the results of the RCVS Council and VN Council elections, which this year see an even split of new faces elected and existing members reinstated to both Councils.



Re-elected to three of the six seats available on RCVS Council are current President Neil Smith (1,687 votes), incoming Standards Committee Chairman David Catlow (1,656) and Vice-President Jacqui Molyneux (1,304); and, from RCVS Day on 11 July 2014, they will be joined by new members David Bartram (1,674), Susan Paterson (1,496) and Mandisa Greene (1,296) - pictured above.

The two available places on VN Council are taken by existing member Hilary Orpet (611 votes) and new member Amber Richards (371) - pictured below.

I'm very much looking forward to working with our three new RCVS Council members and delighted that the profession has returned three existing members to their seats, enabling them to continue their work for the College.

Gordon Hockey, Registrar

Of particular note, following the all-male list of candidates for the 2013 RCVS Council elections and the record number of women standing in 2014 [<https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-events/news/rcvs-and-vn-councils-election-candidates-announced-in-record-yr/>], half of the successful RCVS Council candidates this year are women, two of whom being elected for the first time.

Unfortunately, overall turnouts in both elections have fallen, with 4,137 (16.1%) veterinary surgeons and 1,157 (10%) veterinary nurses voting.

These turnouts and voter numbers compare with 4,661 (18.8%) and 1,329 (12.5%) last year, and ten-year averages of 3,927 (17.4%) and 869 (9.9%), respectively.

Commenting on the results, RCVS Registrar Gordon Hockey, says: "It was always going to be tough to beat last year's record turnout, even with a record number of candidates standing this year, but it's encouraging that voter numbers are still the third highest in the last ten years.

"I'd like to be amongst the first to publicly congratulate all the successful candidates this year, and to encourage those who weren't successful this time to stand again in the future.

"I'm very much looking forward to working with our three new RCVS Council members whilst, at the same time, delighted that the profession has returned three existing members to their seats, enabling them to continue their work for the College."

Chair of VN Council, Kathy Kissick, says: "Many congratulations to Hilary, who has been returned to the VN Council for the third time running, and to Amber, who I'm looking forward to welcoming to VN Council in July. Hilary's experience and Amber's fresh input will, I'm sure, combine to provide an excellent contribution to our ongoing work."

Veterinary surgeons and VNs could cast their votes by post or online, with the former remaining the more popular method.



Online voting increased in 2014, however, with 32% of veterinary voters and 25% of VN voters visiting the new election microsites, compared to 29% and 17%, respectively, voting online in 2013.

The 2014 RCVS and VN Council elections were run on behalf of the RCVS by Electoral Reform Services [<http://www.electoralreform.co.uk/>].

The full results of both elections are as follows:

RCVS Council

Candidate	Number of votes	
SMITH, Neil Christopher	1,687	Elected
BARTRAM, David James	1,674	Elected
CATLOW, David Frederick	1,656	Elected
PATERSON, Susan	1,496	Elected
MOLYNEUX, Jacqueline Rosina	1,304	Elected
GREENE, Mandisa Onika	1,296	Elected
MACALDOWIE, Susan Jane	1,079	
EDWARDS, Camilla Rigmor Hastrup	1,003	
RICHARDS, Katherine Anne	988	

SHIELD, Christine Fiona	984	
FOALKS, Caroline Angela	882	
LEICESTER, David James	845	
GILLAMS, Edward Mark	806	
ROBINSON, Peter Bayley	776	
RITCHIE, Janet Margaret	726	
OXLEY, Sarah Grace	687	
PEARSON, Christopher Michael	674	
MOORE, Peter	505	
LONSDALE, Thomas	432	

Eleven votes in the RCVS Council election were found to be invalid.

Veterinary Nurses Council

Candidate	Number of votes	
ORPET, Hilary Anne	611	Elected
RICHARDS, Amber	371	Elected

WHITEHEAD, Megan Angharad	325	
FORD, Tammy Louise	286	
ERNE, Amanda-Jane	284	

No invalid votes were found in the VN Council election.

[READ MORE NEWS](#)



27th April 2015

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS
COUNCIL ELECTION 2015**

Our report of voting for the above election, which closed at 5pm on Friday 24th April 2015, is as follows:

Number of eligible voters:		26,677
Votes cast by post:	3,318	
Votes cast by online:	1,520	
Total number of votes cast:		4,838
Turnout:		18.1%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		12
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		4,826

Result (6 to elect)

CONNELL, Niall Thomas.....	2,575	Elected
GREET, Timothy Robert Charles.....	2,550	Elected
DYER, Joanna Mary.....	2,383	Elected
ROBINSON, Peter Bayley.....	2,308	Elected
RICHARDS, Katherine Anne.....	1,905	Elected
HILL, Lynne Victoria.....*	1,889	Elected
HILLMAN, Richard William.....*	1,887	
MAIN, James Patrick Murray.....*	1,872	
JORDAN, Hannah.....	1,356	
JANICKE, Heidi Jane.....	1,024	
LONSDALE, Thomas.....	374	

*confirmed by recount

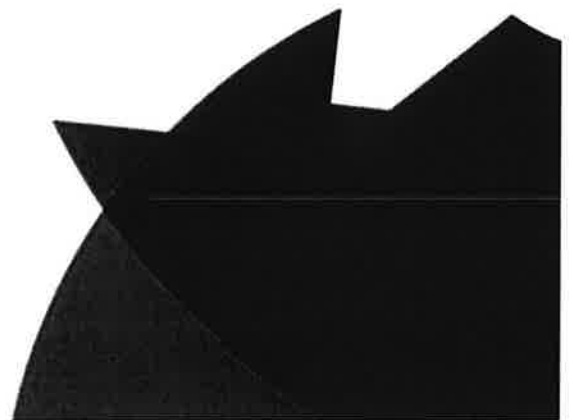
Electoral Reform Services can confirm that, as far as reasonably practicable, every person whose name appeared on the electoral roll supplied to us for the purpose of the ballot:-

- a) was sent the details of the ballot and
- b) if they chose to participate in the ballot, had their vote fairly and accurately recorded.

All voting material will be stored for six months.

Yours sincerely

Owen Waite
Project Manager





3 May 2016

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS
COUNCIL ELECTION 2016**

Our report of voting for the above election, which closed at 5pm on Friday 29 April 2016, is as follows:

Number of eligible voters:	28,251
Votes cast by post:	3,161
Votes cast by online:	1,242
Total number of votes cast:	4,403
Turnout:	15.59%
Number of votes found to be invalid:	12
Total number of valid votes to be counted:	4,391

Result (6 to elect)

BARKER, Christopher	2,838	ELECTED
BOAG, Amanda	2,689	ELECTED
STURGESS, Kit	2,586	ELECTED
DONALD, Melissa	2,532	ELECTED
MAY, Stephen	2,452	ELECTED
GOODWIN, Lucie	2,307	ELECTED
SCUDAMORE, Cheryl	2,103	
LONSDALE, Thomas	446	

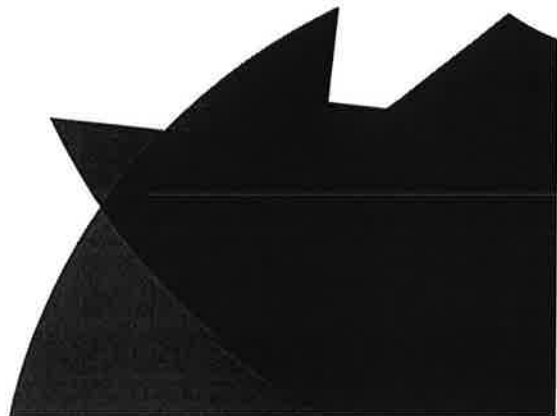
Electoral Reform Services can confirm that, as far as reasonably practicable, every person whose name appeared on the electoral roll supplied to us for the purpose of the ballot:

- a) was sent the details of the ballot and
- b) if they chose to participate in the ballot, had their vote fairly and accurately recorded.

All voting material will be stored for six months.

Yours sincerely

Elin Hearn
Senior Consultant



ROYAL COLLEGE OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2017

CLOSE OF VOTING: 5PM ON FRIDAY 28 APRIL 2017

RCVS COUNCIL ELECTION 2017

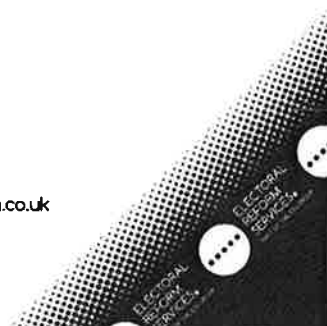
RESULT*		6 to elect
ALLEN, Dr Caroline	3,073	ELECTED
BROWN, Miss Sarah	2,799	ELECTED
CHAMBERS, Mr Danny	2,634	ELECTED
TUFNELL, Dr Christopher	2,430	ELECTED
SCUDAMORE, Dr Cheryl	2,087	ELECTED
PEATY, Mr Martin	1,909	ELECTED
WITTE, Dr Thomas	1,833	
LEICESTER, Mr David	1,756	
PLUMTREE, Mr Matthew	1,648	
WHITBREAD, Dr Trevor	1,594	
YEATES, Mr James	1,549	
STACEY, Dr Huw	1,449	
WATTS, Mr Kevin	1,229	
GRAY, Dr Chris	977	
LONSDALE, Dr Tom	496	
DAVIES, Mr John	428	

TURNOUT		
Number of eligible voters		29,769
Number of votes cast online:		4,548
Number of votes cast by post:		2,237
Total number of votes cast:		6,785
Turnout:		22.79%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		54
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		6,731

* results confirmed by a re-count.

VN COUNCIL ELECTION 2017

RESULT		2 to elect
JEFFERY, Mrs Andrea	1,293	ELECTED
HOWARTH, Mrs Susan	1,064	ELECTED
RIPPINGALE, Miss Marie	648	
BORRALHO, Mr Miguel	288	




TURNOUT		
Number of eligible voters		14,411
Number of votes cast online:		1,280
Number of votes cast by post:		812
Total number of votes cast:		2,092
Turnout:		14.52%
Number of votes found to be invalid:		22
Total number of valid votes to be counted:		2,070

Electoral Reform Services can confirm that, as far as reasonably practicable, every person whose name appeared on the electoral roll supplied to us for the purpose of the election:

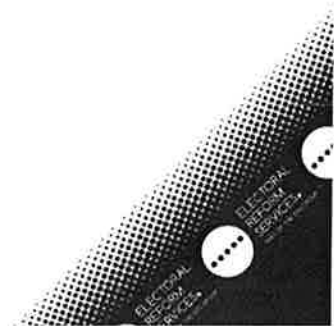
- a) was sent the details of the election and
- b) if they chose to participate in the election, had their vote fairly and accurately recorded

All voting material will be stored for 12 months.

Yours sincerely



Elin Hearn
Senior Advisor



Hein Le Roux

Subject: FW: Correspondence with Danny Chambers with reference to amending his video.

From: Luke Bishop
Sent: 28 March 2017 09:16
To: 'Danny Chambers' <danny.chambers@live.com>
Cc: Ian Holloway <i.holloway@rcvs.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Feedback on RCVS Council election video

Hi Danny,

Apologies for not getting back to you but I was off sick yesterday.

Eleanor was OK'd the video so will publish forthwith.

Best wishes,

Luke

From: Danny Chambers [<mailto:danny.chambers@live.com>]
Sent: 27 March 2017 16:01
To: Luke Bishop <l.bishop@rcvs.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Feedback on RCVS Council election video

Hi Luke, all okay with the latest video?

Best wishes,

Danny

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From: Luke Bishop <l.bishop@rcvs.org.uk>
Sent: Friday, March 24, 2017 5:25:04 PM
To: Danny Chambers
Cc: Ian Holloway
Subject: RE: Feedback on RCVS Council election video

Hi Danny,

Video safely received. I will get Eleanor to listen to it on Monday and hopefully we can get it uploaded ASAP on that day.

Thank you for this.

Best wishes,

Luke

From: Danny Chambers [<mailto:danny.chambers@live.com>]
Sent: 24 March 2017 15:57
To: Luke Bishop <l.bishop@rcvs.org.uk>
Cc: Ian Holloway <i.holloway@rcvs.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Feedback on RCVS Council election video

Updated video being transferred as we speak... Devon Internet speeds awful - 32 mins transfer time remaining!

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: Luke Bishop <l.bishop@rcvs.org.uk>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 3:08:46 PM
To: . Danny Chambers
Cc: Ian Holloway
Subject: RE: Feedback on RCVS Council election video

Thanks for this Danny – appreciated all round.

Hope this doesn't cause too much inconvenience.

Best wishes,

Luke

From: Danny Chambers [<mailto:danny.chambers@live.com>]
Sent: 23 March 2017 15:06
To: Luke Bishop <l.bishop@rcvs.org.uk>
Subject: Re: Feedback on RCVS Council election video

Hi Luke,

I am on call tonight but will try and redo the video, and if I don't get time this evening I will definitely have some time to put to it tomorrow afternoon.

Just for the record, BAHVS have case reports of homeopathy curing cancer on their website, and attached is a screenshot of the aerobic oxygen from www.naturalhealingsolutions.co.uk showing how it treated lung cancer - I will make the changes but I don't want you to think I hadn't chosen my words carefully!

Kind regards,

Danny

Danny Chambers BSc MSc MRCVS
danny.chambers@live.com
07736473702
@DannyVet

From: Luke Bishop <l.bishop@rcvs.org.uk>
Sent: 23 March 2017 13:04:24
To: Mr Danny Chambers
Cc: Ian Holloway
Subject: Feedback on RCVS Council election video

Dear Danny,

Thank you for submitting your video for the RCVS 2017 Council elections. These have now been reviewed by the Registrar, Eleanor Ferguson, and the Assistant Registrar, Corrie McCann for content

Broadly the video is fine – we have just one area that causes some concern. This is the section around 1minute 22s into the video where you say that vets are selling a number of implausible treatments 'to cure everything including cancer'. The way this comes across is that all of those listed are claiming to cure cancer. As far as we are aware no such claims have been made in respect of 'Russian healing blankets, aerobic oxygen drops and bio-resonance devices'. So this is an area that would require amendment.

Also, while there is no problem in criticising homeopathy and other alternative treatments in general terms, we felt that referencing the three items above potentially strayed into singling out an identifiable individual for criticism as it seems to reference the recent Disciplinary Committee hearing into Roger Meacock. Taken with the comments above this would also require amendment.

Could we ask that you edit your video and resend the video to me at the earliest opportunity. Apologies for the delay in getting back to you on this and any inconvenience this may cause.

Best wishes,

Luke Bishop
Senior Communications Officer

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Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
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