



BVRSMA November News Letter Autumn 2013

Paraprofessionals

The controversial role of paraprofessionals in the treatment of animals has continued to be debated throughout 2013. Earlier this year, Lowri Davies represented BVRSMA in a meeting held at Lantra House and attended by a diverse group of animal therapists ranging from members of ACPAT to Body Workers and massage Therapists. Representation was also made by the RCVS (in an observation capacity) and BEVA.

The meeting served to highlight the vast chasm that exists between the education, skill and governance of groups such as ACPAT and other individuals that often appeared to operate in ignorance of the Veterinary Surgeons act.

The outcome of the meeting was relatively unanimous support for the development of an umbrella organization to act as a regulatory body for all allied animal health professionals. The body would hear complaints from the general public and have the ability to sanction its members in situations of deemed malpractice. Following on from the initial meeting, several subgroups were set up including the physiotherapy group, the manipulative therapy group and massage therapy group to name but a few. Lowri Davies was asked to chair the physiotherapy group which has subsequently met twice. The outcome of these meetings has been for the animal physiotherapists whether members of ACPAT, IRVAP or NAVP to agree in principle to standardizing educational requirements and codes of conduct. Whilst the talks remain in their infancy, the hope is that within the next few years the individual groups will be able to raise the standard of education within their given field. It is also to be hoped that a regulatory framework and protect members of the public and their pets from inappropriate and often damaging treatment at the hands of inadequately trained individuals can be achieved.

BVRSMA at BSAVA

BVRSMA have been working with BSAVA to develop a rehabilitation stream for Veterinary Surgeons at Congress in 2015. The day will be dedicated to the theme of Chronic Pain and how to improve its management in practice. This represents a fantastic opportunity to raise the profile of veterinary rehabilitation in the UK.

Committee

As usual we make our annual call for any enthusiastic individual that can be duped into joining the committee.

Future Meetings

Please let us know any suggestions you might have regarding themes for future meetings