

## Vet Futures Action Group

In November 2015 RCVS and BVA launched the Vet Futures report “Taking charge of our future: A vision for the veterinary profession for 2030” – the culmination of a yearlong project designed to help the profession prepare for, and shape, its own future. The report set out 34 recommendations under six ambitions.

Under “next steps” the report stated that members of the professions would be invited to join a Vet Futures Action Group to ensure that there is buy in from across the profession and to drive forward workstreams of activity.

### Terms of reference

- To consider collectively the recommendations in the Vet Futures report in order to prioritise activity and allocate workstreams
- To take individual responsibility for progressing specific recommendations within defined workstreams\*
- To undertake/commission further desk-based research as required
- To identify individuals and organisations that could provide additional expertise or information, potentially through select committee style hearings or smaller meetings
- To agree mechanisms to communicate with the wider veterinary community and encourage ongoing feedback from members of the profession
- To turn the recommendations into a set of clear actions
- To identify and invite individuals and organisations to take lead responsibility for delivering specific actions
- To develop a clear timetable for undertaking and completing the actions and a mechanism for reporting and monitoring progress
- To promote the Vet Futures project and engage with the wider veterinary community

\* Workstreams: the Vet Futures Action Group will be tasked with grouping recommendations into workstreams, based on the six ambitions and the cross cutting issues of education and regulation

### Membership

The Vet Futures Action Group comprises:

- BVA President (co-chair)
- RCVS President (co-chair)
- 7 x veterinary surgeons – ideally one person with particular experience/expertise in each of the six themes/ambitions plus one working within veterinary education
- One veterinary nurse
- BVA Junior Vice President
- RCVS Junior Vice-President

The Vet Futures Action Group is supported by BVA and RCVS staff.

## Role profile for members of Vet Futures Action Group

### Key responsibilities

- To take responsibility for progressing the recommendations within a defined workstream, working with staff to identify research gaps, attending meetings, contributing to discussions, and making recommendations to the group
- To bring expertise, experience and knowledge to Vet Futures Action Group discussions
- To identify and engage with individuals and organisations that could provide additional expertise/information or lead on implementing specific recommendations
- To contribute to Vet Futures communications with the wider veterinary community eg by writing blogs or articles
- To work within the Vet Futures Action Group to develop clear actions, invite individuals and organisations to take responsibility for actions and agree a timetable
- To be a champion for the Vet Futures project and engage with the wider veterinary community

Vet Futures Action Group members are not expected to “represent” or report back to any particular organisation and should act as independent members who bring expertise, knowledge and experience.

### Knowledge, skills, expertise

We are looking for individuals who have the enthusiasm to drive forwards the aims of the project and a combination of the following:

- Specific expertise, experience and knowledge in relation to at least one of the Vet Futures ambitions\* or veterinary education/veterinary nursing
- Experience of working as an active member of a group or committee engaging in discussions and/or delivery of a project
- Experience of project work, either as an individual or part of a group
- Ability to deliver, engage and inspire others
- Ability to work effectively within a team
- A strong commitment to advancing the veterinary profession

\*The Vet Futures ambitions are:

1. **Animal health and welfare:** That veterinary professionals are seen as a leading force for animal health and welfare science, policy and practice throughout society, and our unrivalled expertise and evidence base is valued by government, the public and other stakeholders
2. **Veterinary professionals’ wider roles in society:** That the veterinary professions are clear and assertive about their wider roles in society, including in public health and environmental sustainability, and the critical importance of our scientific expertise is recognised and valued both within our professions and by the public
3. **The health and wellbeing of veterinary professionals:** That all members of the veterinary team are confident, resilient, happy, healthy and well-supported
4. **Diverse and rewarding veterinary careers:** That our diverse veterinary professionals enjoy a broad range of exciting career paths, each one offering stimulating and well-rewarded work
5. **Sustainable businesses and user-focused services:** That a range of business models exists in a diverse and thriving marketplace, in an environment that nurtures innovation and choice. That high quality services are fairly priced and responsive to client needs while always promoting the best interests of animals

6. **Leadership:** That the whole veterinary community benefits from exceptional leadership, that we develop the next generation of leaders, and that we strive to speak with one voice

### **Time commitment**

We expect the time commitment to total approximately seven days between February and June 2016.

Vet Futures Action Group members will be required to attend three all-day Action Group meetings in London and an all-day Vet Futures Summit on the following dates\*:

Tuesday 9 February  
Thursday 17 March  
Thursday 12 May  
Monday 20 June – Vet Futures Summit

\*Please indicate in your application if you are unable to make any of these dates.

In addition to the four days of meetings we expect members of the Vet Futures Action Group to be prepared to undertake approximately three additional days' worth of work (potentially including research, meetings, and contributing to email discussions).

### **Expenses**

Vet Futures Action Group members will be reimbursed for reasonable travel and subsistence expenses but a day rate/loss of earnings will not be available for this role (unless there are exceptional circumstances).

### **Applications and next steps**

To apply to join the Vet Futures Action Group please provide the following information:

- Name
- Address, phone and email
- Current position and recent employment history
- Information on any other relevant roles or posts held
- A statement on how you meet the criteria for the role and outlining your expertise or experience in one of the Vet Futures themes/ambitions or veterinary education/veterinary nursing (no more than 500 words)
- Indication of which theme(s)/ambition(s) you are particularly interested in working on (you may list up to three)
- Commitment that you are available on the meeting dates

Please complete and submit your application to Sally Burnell at BVA [sallyb@bva.co.uk](mailto:sallyb@bva.co.uk) by 12 noon, **31 December 2015**.

The Vet Futures Project Board will review all applications and select members of the Vet Futures Action Group at a meeting in early January.

If you have any questions please contact Sally Burnell on 020 7908 6341 or [sallyb@bva.co.uk](mailto:sallyb@bva.co.uk) or Lizzie Lockett on 020 7202 0725 or [l.lockett@rcvs.org.uk](mailto:l.lockett@rcvs.org.uk)