

Royal Counties Veterinary Association

www.RCVA.co.uk

Autumn 2011

Dear Colleague,

Calling all Vets, Vet-Nurses, Practice Managers and other Veterinary Professionals!

I am writing to you because of your role within the veterinary profession in the counties of Buckinghamshire, Berkshire or Oxfordshire. Membership of The Royal Counties Veterinary Association (RCVA) is available to you and will hopefully meet your needs.

I want to take the opportunity to let you know about the benefits membership of the RCVA offers, to keep you abreast of some recent changes and to ask you more about the services you want the RCVA to provide for you in the future. In particular I hope you know about or will be interested to learn about the affordable CPD provision at local level.

What is the RCVA?

In existence for over 100 years the RCVA was originally established as a territorial division of the BVA to encourage collaboration and communication amongst veterinary colleagues in our region. Today membership is open to both veterinary surgeons and other veterinary colleagues (e.g. practice nurses, practice managers, veterinary physiotherapists, veterinary students etc.)

- **You do NOT have to be a member of BVA to benefit from associate membership of RCVA**
- **Non-vets can apply for affiliate membership of RCVA, with all the CPD benefits**
- **Veterinary and veterinary nursing STUDENTS are eligible for FREE membership**
- BVA members can become full members of RCVA and can vote and be elected to council

CPD at the RCVA

CPD sessions are often expensive, far away and difficult to get to after a busy day at work. The RCVA aims to provide affordable CPD in local surroundings that fit easily into everyone's schedules. In previous years the RCVA has sponsored a series of evening meetings throughout the three counties covering a wide range of topics and species. Although this has lapsed a little in 2011 we would like to reintroduce it in 2012 if there is enough interest. Meanwhile we are very proud of the popular **Oxfordshire CPD club** – a successful CPD meeting based in **Bicester** focusing on small animal practice. Initiated by local practitioner Lucy Howard (now RCVA meetings secretary), speakers are invited from specialist areas to provide evening sessions on the first Wednesday of each month. A flavour of recent meetings is included with this letter. We would love to see similar enterprises established across the 3 counties. It is possible that some of the Bicester meetings could be repeated in another royal county if there is sufficient interest. Inevitably such an enterprise involves some local initiative. If you have any interest in seeing a similar enterprise established near you please contact us and we will give all the support we can. The RCVA has also sponsored two meetings of "**Pub CPD**" - equine CPD based in **Donnington**, and provided access for our members to several **free webinar** events – enjoyed from the comfort of your **own home**.

As mentioned in 2012 the RCVA hopes to sponsor and arrange quarterly meetings throughout the 3 counties covering a range of topics, beginning early on **Wednesday 7th December 2011** with the joint **AHVLA / Southern Counties Veterinary Society / Royal Counties Veterinary Association Farm Animal** meeting - with talks on dairy herd health, pheasant poults, plus the Annual Clinical Club Quiz – all with festive goodies! Flyer attached. Visit www.RCVA.co.uk for more details on any and all these events

Social events and Young Vets Network: Recent social events have included a visit to the Wolf Sanctuary near Reading and a trip to the Chiltern Valley Winery for tour and tasting. As well as these summer "President's Evenings" other social events could be considered if there is demand. Let us know your thoughts.

We are very keen to support new graduates and would welcome suggestions on social or CPD events that might be of interest. Fancy archery in Aylesbury, clay-pigeon shoots in Chieveley or just a pub- outing or quiz with like-minded colleagues? Or perhaps a young grads “How-To” night, where more seasoned practitioners could give their top-ten tips on subjects of your choosing? And are you prepared to help make it happen? The position of regional Young Vet Network rep. is currently vacant – so if you feel inspired to make things happen for young vets in the region (whatever your age) let us know. It would be great to see more young vets on Council to join Lucy and the others.

BVA representation: Joe Sprinz, regional representative for the South-East, is a member and past president of RCVA. He is keen to hear and represent our views so please feel free to contact him at joevet911@gmail.com. Next BVA council meeting is 7th Dec – details on the BVA website

The RCVA is here for its members, so we are hoping you will take this opportunity to join us or re-new your membership, and help influence the decisions we make.

What to do! Membership is currently a very affordable **£10.00 per annum**: To become a member, please complete the [application form](#) and [standing order form](#) and return a hard copy of both documents to me at the address below. The standing order can be cancelled by you at any time by writing to your bank.

We would be grateful if all current members would also take a moment to return both forms, as we wish to update all our records for 2012.

What do I get for my money! As well as the social benefits RCVA members benefit from at least **50% off CPD meeting fees and FREE entry to fully-sponsored meetings.**

Non members are also welcome to attend any of our CPD meetings – but will be asked to pay full price – normally around £10-£15 per meeting depending on the level of sponsorship.

We do ask that those who already attend CPD regularly but are not members please consider joining the society which will save you a considerable amount over the year. Practices that pay for their staff CPD may also wish to bear this in mind, since encouraging or paying for RCVA membership may save you in the long run!

We are really keen that more veterinary professionals across the 3 counties become involved in the RCVA, and we are also looking for support on the council as new positions, including president, become vacant in 2012. If you think you can help – and especially if you want to make a difference in your area – please let us know. Without your support the RCVA cannot continue.

In order to gauge the level and areas of interest I would be very grateful if you could complete the enclosed questionnaire – which is also available on the RCVA website www.RCVA.co.uk, along with copies of the application form, standing order form, and all the other details you may want to know about council positions, membership categories and including contact details if you have more questions. I would be delighted to hear from anyone with additional ideas about how the RCVA can better support them or their area of interest.

Please **pass on this information and photocopy this questionnaire to anyone in your practice or business that we have missed** and that you think may be interested.

Please reply by e-mail or post the forms back to me in the enclosed envelope **ASAP** – ideally by Saturday 10th December.

Thank you very much. I look forward to hearing your views soon,

Caroline Blundell

President of the Royal Counties Veterinary Association 2010-2012
31 High Street Culham Oxon OX14 4NA