

BVA and BVNA Memorandum of Understanding: Working together for the veterinary professions

This Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is made between the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and the British Veterinary Nursing Association (BVNA) to reaffirm a strategic alliance between the leading representative bodies for the veterinary professions in the UK. Our strategic alliance is established to enable BVA and BVNA to work together for the benefit of both organisations and our members.

Historically we have enjoyed a close and supportive working relationship. We share common aims and objectives to support and champion our members and the wider veterinary professions, and to help our members throughout their careers for the good of animal health and welfare and public health. In addition, since February 2015 registered veterinary nurses (RVNs) have been formally regulated by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) under the new Royal Charter, meaning that both veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses are now regulated by the RCVS.

In 2017 we signed the first Memorandum of Understanding to build on our existing relationship and formalise our ways of working together for the good of both professions. This MoU is a restatement of our commitment to work together.

The Vet Futures and VN Futures projects (undertaken jointly with BVA, BVNA and the RCVS in 2014-16) firmly established veterinary surgeons and veterinary nurses as two separate professions and we intend to maintain our strong identities as two distinct and separate organisations with our own memberships of veterinary surgeons (BVA) and veterinary nurses (BVNA). However, we agree that we achieve far more for both professions through closer collaboration and joint working.

This MoU sets out our renewed intention to work together in good faith and in a spirit of mutual cooperation.

This MoU is a formal recognition of our strategic alliance. We agree to:

- Identify opportunities to work together to strengthen the representation of the views of vets and vet nurses to the media, policymakers, the general public, and the RCVS
- Identify opportunities for joint campaigns and member engagement activities on areas of mutual interest
- Support one another to achieve our individual and shared priority aims and objectives, in particular activities to raise the profile of vets, vet nurses and the wider veterinary team
- Maintain regular two-way communications to identify opportunities and keep one another informed of major activities
- Agree annual priorities for joint campaigns, events, and other initiatives
- Identify opportunities to provide/extend member resources and benefits, and/or support to one another's members

- Consider new opportunities to develop our strategic alliance in ways that benefit both organisations, for example through shared services or using our combined buying power to secure good value member benefits and services

This MoU is agreed for a period of three years (to end September 2024) and in that time our strategic alliance will be kept under regular review to ensure it is fit for purpose and continues to provide value for both organisations.

Signed on Saturday 4 October 2021 at the BVNA Congress by:

Justine Shotton MRCVS on behalf
of the British Veterinary Association

Jo Oakden RVN on behalf of the British
Veterinary Nursing Association

James Russell MRCVS on behalf of
the British Veterinary Association

Alex Taylor RVN on behalf of the British
Veterinary Nursing Association