

Welcome

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Welcome to the May issue of VNJ. Thank you for your fantastic feedback on the new-look March issue. Do stay in touch; this is your journal and your input is invaluable.

As you know, BVNA represents the veterinary nursing profession in specific working groups, but what does that mean and how does it affect you?

The BVNA feels it's important for veterinary nurses to have a voice at pivotal meetings, to ensure our role is considered in forthcoming changes or campaigns within the profession. This has proven worthwhile on many occasions, such as when meetings attended by BVNA Council members were found to be focused solely on veterinary surgeons. The Council members highlighted the impact of the issues being discussed on veterinary nursing and made suggestions that incorporated the whole vet-led team.

Here's an overview of the groups and campaigns we're involved with to make a difference on your behalf. We'll be looking at these, and others, in more detail in future issues.

RCVS Advanced Practitioner Status Group evaluates how Advanced Practitioner status in veterinary nursing can be achieved.

VetLife is a free service from an independent organisation which provides a 24-hour confidential helpline and support for veterinary professionals.

Animal Behaviour and Training Council (ABTC) is the regulatory body that represents animal trainers, training instructors and animal-behaviour therapists.

VN Futures looks at the future of veterinary nursing, in order to create a more diverse and sustainable workforce, and a structured, rewarding career for veterinary nurses.

VN Futures Diversity, Inclusion and Widening Participation Group (DIWP) actively addresses diversity and inclusivity in veterinary nursing.

RCVS Diversity and Inclusion Group addresses diversity and inclusivity, and mainly consists of veterinary surgeons with BVNA input relating to veterinary nurses.

The Links Group raises awareness of the link between the abuse of people and animals, through support, training and inter-agency working.

RCVS Mind Matters Initiative (MMI) aims to improve the mental health and wellbeing of veterinary teams, including students, nurses, surgeons and practice managers.

Vet Team in a Box is a programme that engages with Year 9 children (through the school curriculum) and encourages them to join the veterinary profession.

British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the representative body of veterinary surgeons in the UK. Its charity, **Animal Welfare Foundation**, uses veterinary knowledge to improve animal welfare through science, education and debate.

Vet Sustain champions sustainability in veterinary practice. BVNA represents veterinary nurses on the **Greener Veterinary Practice** working group, which is part of Vet Sustain.

Scottish Animal Health and Antimicrobial Resistance (SAHAMR) helps stakeholders develop and deliver a coordinated, quality-driven approach that combines human health, farm and companion animals, wildlife, the environment, food and water.

RCVS Practice Standards Scheme working group (PSSwg) is a voluntary initiative which promotes and maintains high standards of veterinary care. RVNs have recently been authorised to become PSS inspectors.

If you're interested in finding out more or have a question for a Council member, contact BVNA Council: council@bvna.co.uk

The annual BVNA Council elections will be held in June; look out for an email about this. The successful candidates will be announced after May's Council meeting. You'll be able to access their manifestos on our website and vote for your favourite from 1 June 2022.

Scan the QR code to access the digital version of VNJ with hyperlinked websites and references (where available).

