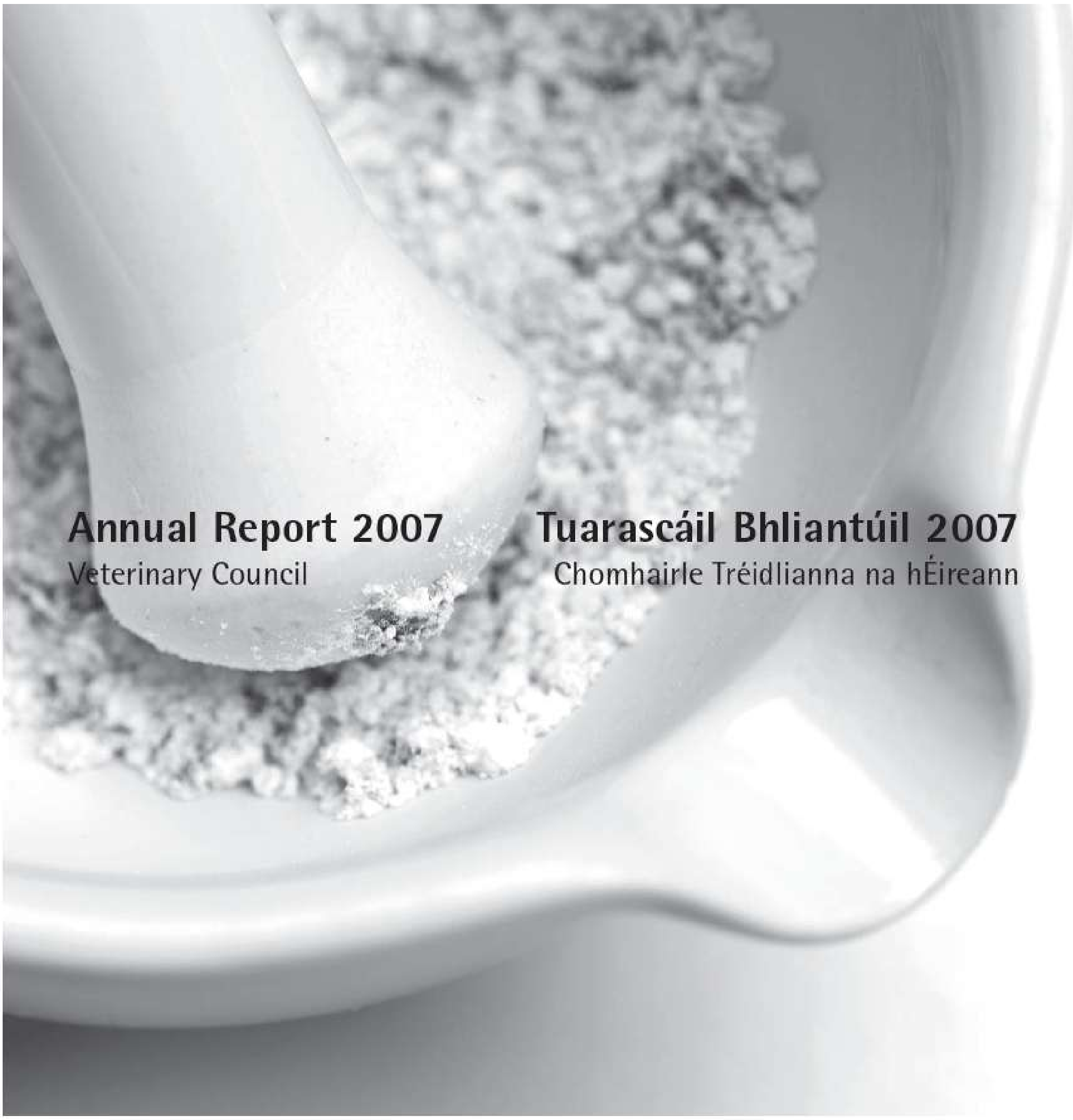

# Annual Report 2007
Veterinary Council

# Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2007
Chomhairle Tréidlianna na hÉireann

## Réamhrá

Ceann de fheidhmeanna thábhachta na Comhairle Tréidliachta faoin Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005 is ea tuarascáil bhliantúil dá himeachtaí a sholáthair. Go dtí seo ba "ar chúla téarmaí" a dhéarnadh cuid mhaith d'obair na Comhairle Tréidliachta agus tugann an Tuarascáil seo deis sochrach an tAire Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia, an lucht cláraithe agus an mórphobal a chuir ar eolas faoi raon agus réimse imeachtaí na Comhairle.

Is ar bhonn deonach a oibríonn baill na Comhairle, idir tofa agus ceapaithe, d'fhonn gairm na tréidliachta a riar chun leasa an phobail. Is é a suim agus a a ndíograis gan staonadh, leis an uile ghné den tréidlaicht, maraon len a stuaim agus a neamhclaontacht, a chinntíonn an deismireacht len a bhfuil an obair seo á dhéanamh.

'Siad a coistí a déanann chuid mhaith d'obair na Comhairle. Is ball de dhá choise ar a laghadh gach ball den Chomhairle. Le linn 2007, bhí 34 cruinithe idir ocht gcoiste na Comhairle, agus tháinig an Chomhairle iomlán le céile seacht n-uaire. Tá téarmaí tagarthe faoi leith ag gach coiste agus léirítear seo in san obair a dhéanann siad. Lena cois sin déanfaidh coiste comhfhreagras agus ceisteanna, a mbaineann len a fhaidhm, a mheas agus déanfaidh sé freagra nó ráiteas seasaimh a dhreáchtú le chuir faoi bhráid na Comhairle chun a dhaingnithe. San Tuarscáil seo tá tuairisc faoi leith ó ghach coiste ag léiriú na ceisteanna tábhachta a phléadar le linn 2007.

Gan tacaíocht riarachán suntasach an Chláraitheora, Valerie Beatty, agus a cúntóirí riaracháin, Karen Bonner agus Aneta Hawrot, ní bheadh an obair seo indéanta. Is acusan a mbíonn plé díreach leis an mhórphobal agus leis an ngairm tréidliachta agus is minic gurb iad cead phointe teagmhála na Comhairle. Is le tuiscint, discréid agus gairmiúlacht millteanach a gcomhlíonann siad an fheidhm seo.

Mar focal scoir, is mian liom moladh a thabhairt do bheirt bhall den Chomhairle a beas ag éirí as ag deire 2007. D'fhóin Frank McRory ar an gComhairle ón ar toghadh i 1994 é. Le linn a thrí bhlianna déag ar an gComhairle bhí sé ina Uachtarán ó 2000 go 2002, agus ina Chisteóir/Leas Uachrarán ó 2002, go dtí gur éirigh sé as an gComhairle. Rinne Frank cion dochuimsithe in obair na Comhairle agus ba le barr ionracais agus le díograis iomlán a fhreastal sé ar an gComhairle. D'fóin Boyd Jones ar an gComhairle ó 2002 ar cheapachán an Aire. Thug Boyd tacaíocht mór d'obair na Comhairle, go mór-mhór i réimse an oideachais, áit a raibh doimhneacht agus leithne a eolais domheasta.

Meta Osborne
Uachtarán

## Introduction

Under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 one of the important functions of the Veterinary Council is to produce an Annual Report of its activities. Much of the work of the Veterinary Council had previously gone on 'behind closed doors' and this report provides a welcome opportunity to inform the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, registered persons and the general public of the range and scope of the Council's activities.

Members of the Council, both elected and appointed, work in a voluntary capacity to regulate the veterinary profession in the public interest. Their unfailing interest and enthusiasm for all matters veterinary, coupled with wisdom and impartiality, has ensured that this work has been carried out in an exemplary manner.

Much of Council's work is carried out by its committees: each Council member is a member of at least two committees. During 2007 there were a total of 34 committee meetings ranging across the eight committees of Council, while Council met in full session seven times. Each committee has specific terms of reference and this is reflected in the work that they do; in addition a committee will consider correspondence and queries related to its function and formulate a reply or a position statement which is presented to Council for ratification. Included with this report are individual reports from each committee highlighting important issues dealt with during 2007.

None of this work would be possible without the considerable administrative support provided by the Registrar, Valerie Beatty, and her administrative assistants, Karen Bonner and Aneta Hawrot. They also deal directly with members of the public and the veterinary profession and are often the first contact point for the Council: they carry out this role with tremendous tact, discretion and professionalism.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to two members of Council who retire at the end of 2007. Frank McRory has served on the Council since his election in 1994. During his 13 years on Council he served as President between 2000 and 2002, and as Treasurer/Deputy President from 2002 until his retirement from Council. Frank's contribution to the work of the Council has been immeasurable. He has served the Council with the utmost integrity and complete dedication. Boyd Jones retires having served on Council since 2002 as a Ministerial appointee. Boyd greatly supported the Council in its work, particularly in the field of education, where his depth and breadth of knowledge were invaluable.

Meta Osborne

Meta Osborne
President

Áirítear naoi mball déag ar an gComhairle, ar a bhfuil naonúr tofa ón ngairm féin agus deichniúr ceapaithe. Go dtí gur toghadh M Osbourne mar Uachtarán ar Iúil 12, 2006, bhí T Hanley ag gníomhú mar Uachtarán sealadach. Gníomhaigh F McRory mar Leas-Uachtarán sealadach go dtí gur toghadh mar Leas-Uachrarán é ar Iúil 12, 2006. Coinnoidh siad na hoifigí sin go dtí Mí na Nollag 31, 2007.

| Baill tofa: | Tofa go dtí Mí na Nollag 31: |
|---|---|
| W Cashman | 2011 |
| D Connolly | 2011 |
| T Hanley | 2009 |
| F McRory | 2007 |
| S Ó Laoide | 2009 |
| F O'Leary | 2009 |
| M Osborne | 2009 |
| P J Talty | 2011 |
| L Vaughan | 2009 |

Baill ceapaithe (beidh deireadh len a dtearmaí cheapacháin ar Mí na Nollag 31, 2007)

Ceapaithe ag an Aire Talmhaíochta agus Bia:
B Bent
C Foley-Nolan (ainmnithe ag Údarás Sabháltachta Bia na hÉireann)
F Gallagher
B Jones (ainmnithe ag Ollscoil na hÉireann)
G Mulcahy (ainmnithe ag an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta)
F Mulligan (ainmnithe ag Ollscoil na hÉireann)
M O'Donoghue*
J O'Rourke
S Quinn
P Rogan

*ceapaithe go dtí go mbeidh toghchán i measc na n-altraí tréidliachta cláraithe.

## Coistí Reachtúla na Comhairle:

**An Coiste um Oideachas agus Oiliúint Tréidliachta (VETC)**
W Cashman, B Jones, G Mulcahy, F Mulligan, M O'Donoghue, J O'Rourke, P Rogan, PJ Talty, L Vaughan (Cathaoirleach)

**An Coiste Réamhfhiosraithe (PIC)**
F Gallagher, T Hanley, S Ó Laoide, J O'Rourke

**An Coiste um Fheiliúnacht chun Chlachtadh (FTPC)**
C Foley-Nolan, F McRory, G Mulcahy, F Mulligan, S Murphy (Cathaoirleach Neamhspléach), F O'Leary, S Quinn

## Coistí Eile:

**An Coiste Airgeadais**
D Connolly, F Gallagher, F McRory (Cathaoirleach)

**An Coiste Reachtaíochta agus Eitice (LEC)**
B Bent, C Foley-Nolan, F Gallagher, T Hanley (Cathaoirleach), F McRory, F Mulligan, S Ó Laoide, J O'Rourke, P Rogan

**An Coiste um Áitreamh Chleachtaidh (PPC)**
W Cashman, D Connolly (Cathaoirleach), G Mulcahy, M O'Donoghue, F O'Leary, J O'Rourke

**An Coiste Idirchaidreamh Tréidliachta**
B Bent, C Foley-Nolan, B Jones, S Ó Laoide, F O'Leary (Cathaoirleach), S Quinn

**An Coiste Comhcheangailte**
T Hanley, PJ Talty (Cathaoirleach), L Vaughan
J Horan, S Ó Laoide, P Nowlan – Veterinary Ireland
M Lyons – Veterinary Officers Association

The Council comprises 19 members, nine of whom are elected from amongst the profession and 10 who are appointed. T Hanley was Interim President until the election of M Osborne as President on 12 July 2006, and F McRory was interim Deputy President until he was elected Deputy President on 12 July 2006. They hold these positions until 31 December 2007.

| Elected members: | Elected until 31 December: |
|---|---|
| W Cashman | 2011 |
| D Connolly | 2011 |
| T Hanley | 2009 |
| F McRory | 2007 |
| S Ó Laoide | 2009 |
| F O'Leary | 2009 |
| M Osborne | 2009 |
| P J Talty | 2011 |
| L Vaughan | 2009 |

Appointed members: (period of appointment expires on 31 December 2009)

Appointed by the Minister for Agriculture and Food:
B Bent
C Foley-Nolan (Food Safety Authority nominee)
F Gallagher
B Jones (NUI nominee)
G Mulcahy (Minister for Education & Science nominee)
F Mulligan (NUI nominee)
M O'Donoghue*
J O'Rourke
S Quinn
P Rogan

* Appointed until elections held among registered veterinary nurses.

## Statutory Committees of Council:

**Veterinary Education and Training Committee (VETC)**
W Cashman, B Jones, G Mulcahy, F Mulligan, M O'Donoghue, J O'Rourke, P Rogan, PJ Talty, L Vaughan (Chair)

**Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)**
F Gallagher, T Hanley, S Ó Laoide, J O'Rourke

**Fitness to Practise Committee (FTPC)**
C Foley-Nolan, F McRory, G Mulcahy, F Mulligan, S Murphy (Independent Chair), F O'Leary, S Quinn

## Other committees:

**Finance Committee**
D Connolly, F Gallagher, F McRory (Chair)

**Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC)**
B Bent, C Foley-Nolan, F Gallagher, T Hanley (Chair), F McRory, F Mulligan, S Ó Laoide, J O'Rourke, P Rogan

**Practice Premises Committee (PPC)**
W Cashman, D Connolly (Chair), G Mulcahy, M O'Donoghue, F O'Leary, J O'Rourke

**Veterinary Liaison Committee (VLC)**
B Bent, C Foley-Nolan, B Jones, S Ó Laoide, F O'Leary (Chair), S Quinn

**Conjoint Committee**
T Hanley, PJ Talty (Chair), L Vaughan
J Horan, S Ó Laoide, P Nowlan – Veterinary Ireland
M Lyons – Veterinary Officers Association

## An Clár

Bhualodh Clár na gCleachtóirí Tréidliachta ar 29 Meitheimh 2006 de bhun Alt 43 (2) den Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005. Foilsítear an Clár ar shuíomh idirlín na Comhairle. Dob é uimhir iomlán na gcleachtoirí tréidliachta cláraithe sa clár ar 31 Mí na Nollag 2006 ná 2,427. Bhí 150 cláraithe nua i rith na blianna. Bhain 101 a n-ainmneacha den chlár go deonach. Scroiseadh 19 agus cuireadh 19 bhás in iúl don Chomhairle. Cuireadh 18 ainmneacha thar n-ais i ndiaidh a mbainte dheonach agus chuireadh 13 ainmneacha thar n-ais i ndhiadh a scriosta.

## Básanna

Is cúis aiféala don Chomhairle básanna na mball chlaraithe seo leanas, a cuireadh in iúil i rith na blianna, a tabhairt le fios. Déanann an Chomhairle comhbhrón a baill agus na gairme lena muintir.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Adams, EK | Coman, NA | Corcoran, JF |
| Coyle, PJ | Cunniffe, FE | Dolan, MM |
| Dolan, TT | Duane, J | Grealy, JF |
| Jameson, JG | Jones, AR | Lee, DC |
| McCormack, PT | O'Neill, P | O'Shaughnessy, TN |
| Phelan, NP | Ryan, MA | Sheehan, DP |
| Thornton, E | | |

## Tuarascálacha na gCóistí

### An Coiste Airgeadais

Tháinig an coiste le céile trí huaire i rith na blianna agus arís i Mí Márta 2008 chun chuntais iniúchta na Comhairle don bhliain 2007 a chuir faoi bhráid. Le cois athbhreithnithe na gcúntais banaistíochta ráithe, a ullmhaíodh don Chomhairle, d'aontaigh an Coiste ar bhuiséid faoi leith chun an Scéim Creidiúnithe Áitreamh (PAS) éigeantach a chuir i bhfeidhm, le costaisí clóbhualadh cháipéisí agus teastais feiliúnachta, costaisí phoist agus costaisí a bhain le hearcú Measúnóirí Áitreamh, san áireamh.
Iarcheangailte le seo tá cuntais iniúchta Chomhairle Tréidliachta na hÉireann don bhliain 2007. Leiríonn figiúirí 2007 gur tháinig an ioncam go ?1,118,035, ina n-áirítear ioncam na Scéime Creidiúnithe Áitreamh agus an t-ardú sa táille bliantúil de réir an chostais mharachtála. Dob iad na príomh réimsí caiteachais i rith na blianna ná pá agus tuarastal agus costaisí a bhain leo, costaisí na Comhairle, infheistíocht leanúnach sa Teicneolaíocht Fáisnéise, maraon le costaisí clóbhualadh agus coistaisí dlí a bhain le Fhiosriúchán Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh a shuí i mí na Samhna agus Mí na Nollag 2007. Iarcheangailte leis an dTuarascál seo freisin tá cuntais iniúchta Iontaobhas Oideachais na Comhairle Tréidliachta do 2007. Cuireadh airgead ón gCiste seo chun tacaíochta le seimineáir ar leas ainmhithe a d'eagraigh an Coiste Idirchaidreamh Tréidliachta.

### An Coiste Réamhfhiosraithe

Tháinig an Coiste Réamhfhiosraithe le céile seacht n-uaire le linn 2007 agus phléadar seacht gcás déag. Chuireadh dhá chás achu chun an Choiste Fheiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh le hiniúchadh. Níl a thuarascál fós cuirthe faoi bhráid na Comhairle ag an gCoiste. In ocht gcinn de na chásanna eile chinn an Coiste nach raibh dóthan fianaise chun a mholadh go gcuirfí an gearán faoi bhraid an Choiste Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh le hiniuchadh. Ghlac an Chomhairle leis na moltaí sin. Tá na gearáin eile ag dul ar aghaidh.

### An Coiste Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh

Tháinig an Coiste Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh le céile dhá uair le linn 2007 chun iniúcgadh a dhéanamh ar fheiliúnacht duine cláirithe chun chleachtadh. Tá a thuarascáil ar an gcás á hulmhú.

### An Coiste Reachtaíochta agus Eitice

Tháinig an Coiste Reachtaíochta agus Eitice le céile sé huaire i 2007. Lean an Coiste leis an obair chun an Treoir um Iompair Ghairmiúl a leasú chun dáta. Athainmnighiú an Treoir mar an Cód um Iompair Ghairmiúl i gcomhar leis an ainm atá ag Coimisiún an Aontas Eorapaigh ar cháipéisí dá leithéid, agus leis an dtidil atá in úsáid do cháipéisí dá leithead i ndlísní eile. Nuashonraíodh na gcaibidlí seo leanas i rith na blianna: Caibidil 1, 'Leas Ainmhithe'; agus, Caibidil 4, 'Caidreamh Gairmiúil idir Lucht Cleachtadh Tréidliachta'. Leasaíodh Caibidil 6, 'Fógraíocht agus Bolscaireacht' freisin chun dearcadh na

## The Register

The Register of Veterinary Practitioners was established on 29 June 2006, pursuant to section 43 (2) of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. The Register is published on the Council's website. The total number of registered veterinary practitioners on the Register at 31 December 2007, was 2,427. New registrations for the year amounted to 150. A total of 101 voluntarily removed their name, 19 were erased and 19 deaths were notified to Council in the year. Restorations following voluntary removal amounted to 18, and 13 names were restored following erasure.

## Obituaries

It is with regret that the Council records the deaths of the following registered members notified to it during the year. Council extends the sympathy of its members and of the profession to their families.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Adams, EK | Coman, NA | Corcoran, JF |
| Coyle, PJ | Cunniffe, FE | Dolan, MM |
| Dolan, TT | Duane, J | Grealy, JF |
| Jameson, JG | Jones, AR | Lee, DC |
| McCormack, PT | O'Neill, P | O'Shaughnessy, TN |
| Phelan, NP | Ryan, MA | Sheehan, DP |
| Thornton, E | | |

## Committee Reports

### Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on three occasions during the year and in March 2008 to consider the audited accounts for 2007. Apart from reviewing the quarterly management accounts prepared for Council, the Committee also agreed specific budgets for the implementation of the mandatory Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS) to include the cost of printing documentation and certificates of suitability, mailing costs and costs associated with the recruitment of premises assessors.

The Veterinary Council's audited accounts for 2007 are appended to this Report. The 2007 figures show that income amounted to €1,118,035, which reflects PAS income and a cost of living increase in annual fees. The key areas of expenditure during the year were in wages and salaries and associated costs, council expenditure, ongoing IT investment, and printing and legal expenses associated with a Fitness to Practise Inquiry held in November and December 2007.

The Veterinary Council's Education Trust Fund audited accounts for 2007 are also appended to this Report. Funds from the Trust Fund were used to support animal welfare seminars organised during the year by the Veterinary Liaison Committee.

### Preliminary Investigation Committee

The Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) met on seven occasions in 2007 and dealt with 17 cases. Two of these cases were referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee for inquiry. The Fitness to Practise Committee has not as yet submitted its report on these cases to the Council. In eight of the other cases the Committee concluded that there was insufficient evidence to recommend that the complaints be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee for inquiry and these recommendations were accepted by Council. The remaining complaints are ongoing.

### Fitness to Practise Committee

The Fitness to Practise Committee met on two occasions in 2007 to conduct an inquiry into the fitness to practise of a registered person. Their report on this case is being prepared.

### Legislation and Ethics Committee

The Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC) met on six occasions in 2007. The Committee continued its work updating the Guide to Professional Behaviour. The Guide was renamed the 'Code of Professional Conduct' in line with the name which the EU Commission uses for such documents and with the title used for similar documents in other jurisdictions. The following chapters were updated during the year: Chapter 1 entitled 'Animal Welfare'; and Chapter 4 on 'Professional Relationships between Veterinary Practitioners'. Chapter 6 on 'Advertising and Promotion' was also amended to clarify the Council's position on the subject of touting.

Comhairle ar stocaireacht a léiriú. Tá na caibidil ar 'Seirbhís Díreacha don Phobal', 'Prionsabail Eiticiúla', agus gcomhdhlútú agus foilseófar iad le linn 2008. Beidh roinn sa Chód freisin ag tabhairt treoir do chleachtóirí tréidliachta ar abhair suime faoi leith, mar shampla, fianaise a thabhairt i gcúirt agus coinneáil taifid scríofa. Tá Cónaidhm Tréidlianna na hEorpa (FVE), ina bhfuil an Chomhairle ina ball, ag dréactú Cód Iompair agus ag lorg barúla ós na baill ar an ndréachtchód seo. Ghlach FVE le roinnt moltaí ón gCoiste seo.
Fuair an Coiste roinnt iarrtais díreacha ar chomhairle faoi léirmhíniú ar ranna éagsúla den Chód. Díriú roinnt n-uaire ar cheist an sciotadh eireaball, gnás a mheasann an Chomhairle a bheith neamh eticiúl ach amháin ar chúis teiripach. Ar mholadh an choiste scríobh an Chomhairle chuig Gadharchumman na hÉireann ag achaini air diúltú, chun cláraithe nó chun taispeántais, do mhadraí le heirabaill scoite. Fuarathas freagra neamhcheangaileach.
An Coiste a dhréact freagra na Comhairle dos na haithrithe i Sceideal 8 de na Rialachain um Leigheasanna Ainmhithe, a bhaineann le smachtú maistitís. Bhí ionchur ón Ollamh Simon Moore, an Ollamh Mícheál Ó Dochartaigh agus an Dr Finbar Mulligan, ó Choláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath, mar chuid den fhreagra.
Phlé an Coiste ceist sainaithint fhormálte ainmithe sa Stáit. Scríobh an Chomhairle chuig na hAirí ábhartha ag moladh go mbeadh gach ainmhí sa Stáit inaitheanta. Mholadh go gcuirfí micrishlis i n-ainmhithe chuideachta (capaill san áireamh), go gcuirfí an t-eolas i dtaisce i mbunacar sonraí náisiúnta, go gcuirfí córas ar bun chun go mbeadh athrú seilbhe i gcás ainmhithe chuideacta (capaill san áireamh) infógartha, agus go gcoinneófaí taifid an aithrithe sa mbunacar sonraí náisiúnta.

**An Coiste um Oideachas agus Oiliúint Tréidliachta**

Tháinig an Coiste um Oideachas agus Oiliúint Tréidliachta (VETC) le céile sé huaire le linn 2007. Ceithre fho-coiste a thugann aire do mhórchuid d'obair an Choiste. Is iad sin: 1. Oiliúint Tréidliachta Leanúnach; 2. Clárú; 3. Clár Speisialtórachta; agus, 4. Altranas Tréidliachta. Tuairiscíonn an Coiste don Chomhairle, áit a ndeangainítear a chinnte.

1. Oiliúint Tréidliachta Leanúnach (CVE). Tá an fochoiste ag scrúdú na ceisteanna a n-éiríonn ó chinneadh na Comhairle, Oiliúint Tréidliachta Leanúnach a bheith eigeanntach ó 2012 amach. Leis an cheist sin a phlé agus le haontú ar stráitéis cumarsáide, bhí cruiniú le Veterinary Ireland, le Veterinary Officers Association, agus le hionadaithe ón Roinn Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia.
2. Clárú. Rinne an fochoiste athbhreithniú ar ghach iarratas le haghaidh cláraithe teoranta agus, freisin, ar roinnt iarratais faoi Alt 44 den Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005. Bí teagmháil ag an gComhairle le Dáimh na Tréidliachta i gColáiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath chun scrúdú cláraithe a dréachtú agus a riar, scrúdú a ceadódh doibh súid nach gcáilíonn chun cláraithe ina héagmais, an scrúdú a sheasamh agus, má éirighíonn leo, a bheith i dteideal cláraithe a iarraidh. Ullmhaíodh cáipéis, ar ghlac an Chomhairle leis, ag léiriú na scileanna agus an inniúleacht a mbeifear ag tomhas sa scrúdú agus ag leagan síos an proiséas measúnachta. Sa céad leath de 2008 a bhéas an chéad scrúdú.
3. An Clár Speisialtórachta. D'ullmhaigh an fochoiste na cáipéisí agus na gnásanna a mbeadh riachtanach uathu siúd ar mhian leo a bheith ar an gClár Speisialórachta, agus ghlac an Chomhairle leo. Seoladh foirmeacha iarratasa chun cláraithe chuig gach ball cláraithe i Mí Méan Fomhar 2007.
4. Altranas Tréidliachta. Bunaíodh coiste faoi leith, an Coiste um Oideachas Altranas Tréidliachta agus Bhaillocht Oiliúna, chun cuairteanna bailiochta a thabhairt orthu súid sa Stáit ar mhian leo go n-áireófí a gcúrsaí oiliúna altranais tréidliachta mar cháilíochtaí ionchláraithe chun iontrála i gClár na nAltraí Tréidliachta. Cuirfear tús leis an gClár i Mí Eanáir 2008. Chuir trí sholáthróir chúrsa iarratais ar bhaillocht a gcúrsaí isteach. Bhain an Dioplóma in Altranas Tréidliachta ó Choláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath bailíocht amach agus tá an dá sholáthróir eile fós gabhtha sa phróiséis.

Leasaíodh Altanna 43 agus 95 den Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005 chun áird a thabhairt ar Threoir nua an Aontais Eorpaigh um Aitheastas Frithpáirteach Cáilíochtaí. Tá sonraí na leasaithe ar fáil ar shíomh idirlín na Comhairle – www.vci.ie.

The chapters on 'Direct Services to the Public', 'Ethical Principles', and 'Clients' Interests' are being consolidated and will be published in 2008. The Code will also contain a section providing guidelines to veterinary practitioners on particular issues of interest, for example, giving evidence in court and maintaining written records.
The Federation of Veterinarians of Europe (FVE), of which the Council is a member, is drafting a Code of Conduct and requested comments on this drafted Code from members. A number of amendments were suggested by the LEC and accepted by the FVE.
The Committee received a number of direct requests for advice on the interpretation of various sections of the Code. The issue of tail docking, which the Council considers unethical unless done for therapeutic reasons, was addressed a number of times. Council, on the recommendation of the Committee, wrote to the Irish Kennel Club requesting it to refuse to register or show dogs whose tails have been docked. A non-committal reply was received.
The LEC drafted the Council's response to proposed changes to Schedule 8 of the Animal Remedies Regulations, which relates to mastitis control. Input from Professor Simon More, Professor Michael Doherty and Dr Finbar Mulligan of UCD was incorporated as part of this response.
The issue of the formal identification of animals in the State was discussed by the LEC. Council wrote to the relevant Ministers recommending that all animals in the State should be identifiable. In the letter, it was proposed that companion animals (including horses) should be microchipped and this information stored on one national database, and that a system should be put in place whereby the transfer of ownership of companion animals (including horses) be notified and recorded on a national database.

### Veterinary Education and Training Committee

The Veterinary Education and Training Committee (VETC) met on six occasions in 2007. Four sub-committees carry out the major work of the Committee. These sub-committees are: (1) Continuing Veterinary Education; (2) Registration; (3) Specialist Registration; and, (4) Veterinary Nursing. The VETC reports to Council, where its decisions are ratified.

1. Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE). Following the decision of Council to introduce mandatory CVE from 2012, the sub-committee is exploring the issues arising from this decision. A meeting with Veterinary Ireland, the Veterinary Officers Association and representatives from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food took place to discuss these issues and agree a communications strategy.
2. Registration. The sub-committee reviewed all applications for limited registration and also a number of applications made under section 44 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. The Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in UCD has been contracted by the Council to design and run a registration examination which would allow those who do not otherwise qualify for registration to sit this examination and, if successful, be eligible to apply for registration. A document outlining the skills and competences which will be tested by the examination and setting down the assessment process was produced and agreed by Council. The first examination will take place in the first half of 2008.
3. Specialist Register. The sub-committee prepared and got the agreement of Council to the documentation and procedures required from those wishing to be included in the Specialist Register. Application forms for registration were sent out to all registered members in September 2007.
4. Veterinary Nursing. A separate committee, the Veterinary Nursing Education and Training Validation Committee, has been set up to carry out validation visits to course providers in the State wishing to have their veterinary nursing course accredited for inclusion as a registrable qualification for entry to the Register of Veterinary Nurses. This register will commence in January 2008. Three course providers have applied for validation of their qualification. The Diploma in Veterinary Nursing from UCD has been validated, the other two providers are currently going through the process.

Sections 43 and 95 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 have been amended to take account of the new EU Directive on the Mutual Recognition of Qualifications. Details of the amendments can be found on the Council's website – www.vci.ie.

**An Coiste um Áitreamh Chleachtaithe**
Tháinig an Coiste um Áitreamh Chleachtaithe le céile cúig huaire le linn 2007. Mar a éilíonnan an Achta um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005, tháinig an Scéim Creidiúnithe Áitreamh (PAS) i bhfeidhm ar an 1ú Eanáir 2007. Cuireadh gach cleachtóir tréidliachta ar eolas faoin a ndualgaisí faoi PAS. Thoinóil Veterinary Ireland agus an Chomhairle tráthnónaí eolais i gcúig honaid ar fud na tíre agus foilsíodh alt ar an Scéim in Iris Tréidliachta Éireann (IVJ). Seo leanas iomlán na n-áitreamh a chláraíodh faoin Scéim:

| | |
|---|---|
| Cleachtadh Tréidliachta Cláraithe (RVP) | 198 |
| Lialann Tréidliachta Cláraithe (RVS) | 163 |
| Clinic Tréidliachta Cláraithe (RVC) | 169 |
| Ospidéal Tréidliachta Cláraithe (ainmhithe chuideachta) (RVH) (CA) | 101 |
| Ospidéal Tréidliachta Cláraithe (ainmhithe feirme) (RVH) (FA) | 8 |
| Ospidéal Tréidliachta Cláraithe (capaill) (RVH) (Eq) | 18 |

Bhí fógra in Iris Tréidliachta Éireann i Mí Méan Fhomhar 2007 ag lorg iarrtaisí ó chleachtóirí tréidliachta cláraithe le dul ar phainéil measúnóirí áitreamh a bheadh freagrach as measúnacht a dhéanamh ar ghach clachtadh sa Stáit.
D'ollmhaigh an Coiste aighneacht a chuireadh chuig an Roinn Talmhaíochta, Iascaigh agus Bia i dtaobh tachaíocht airgeadais chun cuir ar chumas cleachoirí forálacha na Scéime éigeantaigh a chómhlíonadh.

**An Coiste Idirchaidrimh Tréidliachta**
Bhí an Coiste Idirchaidreamh Tréidliachta páirteach i dtrí himeachtaí i rith na blianna, ag cómhlíonadh a dhualgais chun malartaithe eolais idir iad súid atá gafa i gclachtadh na tréidliachta, nó an altranais tréidliachta, agus iad súid a bhaineann fónamh as seirbhisí tréidliachta a éascú. I Mí Eanáir 2007, thug an Coiste cuireadh do pháirtithe leasmhara chun ceist leasa chapall a phlé. I ndiaidha an chruinnithe seoladh litir chuig an Phríomh Oifigeach Tréidliachta ag iarraidh go gcuirfidh ionaid cigireachta ar bun ag calafoirt chun pasanna capall, atá ag fágáil na tíre, a iniúachadh agus ag iarraigh go n-eagrófaí nós imeachta le haghaidh marglanna agus díolacháin eile capall. Bí dhá sheminéar eagraithe, le tachaíocht ón gComhairle, ag an Dr Alison Hanlon i gColáiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath, agus leas ainmhithe mar ábhar orthu, le béim faoi leith sa tarna cheann ar ainmhithe chuideachta. Glachadh go fonnmhar leis an dá sheminéar.

**An Coiste Comhcheangailte**
Is é feidhm an Choiste Chomhcheangailte ná cleachtadh na tréidliachta a chothú agus, go háirithe, deileáil le cúrsaí tréidliachta náisiúnta agus Eorapacha. Ionadaithe ó thrí eagríocht atá ina mbaill den choiste – T Hanley, PJ Talty agus L Vaughan, ó Chomhairle na Tréidlianna, J Horan agus P Nowlan ó Veterinary Ireland, agus M Lyons ó Veterinary Officers Association.
Dhá chruiniú a bhí ag an gCoiste i rith na blianna. D'fhreastail P Talty agus V Beatty (an Claraitheóir) ar dhá Ollthionóil Ginerálta de chuid FVE, i mí Meitheamh agus Mí na Samhna mar ionadaithe ó Chomhairle na dTeidlianna. Len a cois sin, d'fhreastal baill an Choiste Chomhcheangailte, mar brathnóirí, ar chruinithe Chomhairle Náisiúnta Veterinary Ireland.

**Practice Premises Committee**

The Practice Premises Committee met on five occasions during the year. The Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS) came into force on 1 January 2007, as required by the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. All veterinary practitioners were informed of their obligations under PAS. Veterinary Ireland and the Council held information evenings in five venues around the country and an article on the Scheme was published in the Irish Veterinary Journal (IVJ). The following are the numbers of premises which have been registered under the Scheme:

| | |
|---|---|
| Registered Veterinary Practice (RVP) | 198 |
| Registered Veterinary Surgery (RVS) | 163 |
| Registered Veterinary Clinic (RVC) | 169 |
| Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) (CA) | 101 |
| Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) (FA) | 8 |
| Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) (Eq) | 18 |

An advertisement appeared in the IVJ in September 2007 inviting applications from practising veterinary practitioners to join a panel of premises assessors who would be responsible for carrying out assessments of each premises in the State.

The Committee prepared a submission, which was sent to the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, concerning financial support for practices to enable them to comply with the mandatory PAS.

**Veterinary Liaison Committee**

The Veterinary Council Liaison Committee was involved in three events during the year in fulfilment of its role as facilitating the exchange of information between those engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine or veterinary nursing and those who avail of veterinary services. In January 2007, the Committee invited interested parties to a discussion on equine welfare in Ireland. Following the meeting a letter was sent to the Chief Veterinary Officer requesting that inspection points be set up at ports to check the passports of horses leaving the country and requesting that a code of practice be developed for marts and other equine sales. Two seminars were supported by the Council and organised by Dr Alison Hanlon in UCD, both on the topic of animal welfare, with particular emphasis in the second seminar on companion animals. Both seminars were well received.

**Conjoint Committee**

The function of the Conjoint Committee is to promote the practice of veterinary medicine and in particular to deal with national and European veterinary matters. The members of the committee represent three different organisations – T Hanley, P Talty (Chair) and L Vaughan of the Veterinary Council, J Horan and P Nowlan of Veterinary Ireland and M Lyons of the Veterinary Officers Association.

The committee held two meetings during the year. P Talty and V Beatty (Registrar) attended the two FVE General Assembly meetings in June and November 2007 representing the Veterinary Council. In addition, the general council meetings of Veterinary Ireland were attended by members of the Conjoint Committee as observers.