

Summary of Council Meeting – 16 July 2015

The Council met on 16 July 2015 from 10.30am to 4.30pm. There were 12 items on the agenda and 4 pieces of correspondence were tabled for consideration.

The Council considered reports from the Audit and Finance Committee and the Preliminary Investigation Committee.

The Audit and Finance Committee (AFC)

The AFC met on 6 July 2015 from 09.30am to 1.00pm. The three months accounts, April to June 2015, together with the first quarter figures and the budgetary comparisons were reviewed. The Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in respect of the three corner stones of the regulatory work of the Council were reviewed. The Council achieved 100% compliance with its prompt payments obligations in the second quarter of the year.

Disciplinary Matters

The Council noted two reports, per section 76 (2) (b) of the Act, summarising for the period 1 January 2015 to 1 July 2015, the number of queries and the number of applications received concerning a registrants fitness to practise veterinary medicine/ veterinary nursing.

Two decisions to hold inquiries into the fitness to practise veterinary medicine of two veterinary practitioners was notified to the Council.

Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS) Matters

The Committee proposed, and the Council agreed, to issue certificates of suitability to 2 newly registered premises and agreed to renew certificates of suitability for 63 premises.

The Council agreed to set a standard under the PAS for a Registered Mobile Veterinary Unit (RMVU). The RMVU must comply with all PAS standards 1 - 12 and may also have, as a scope of practice option, standards 13 – 18. A RMVU is a mobile unit appropriately equipped and registered with the Council at which, one or more registered veterinary practitioners practise veterinary medicine. In addition, a RMVU must be associated with a Registered Veterinary Clinic (RVC) or a Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) and must have a separate Certificate of Suitability (COS) for each location where the service is being offered.

Changes to the Registers

The Council confirmed the changes to both Registers which had taken place since the last meeting.

Register of Veterinary Practitioners - It was reported that there are 57 new entries to the Register and 4 names restored to the Register under section 49(2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 2 veterinary practitioners who had made application to do so under section 49 of the Act.

Register of Veterinary Nurses – It was reported that there are 29 new entries to the Register under section 95 of the Act and 3 names restored to the Register under section 49(2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the names of the 2 veterinary nurses who had made application to do so under section 49 of the Act.

Veterinary Council Election

The term of office of four elected members of Council ends on 31 December 2015. An election will be held to elect four registered veterinary practitioners to be chosen for appointment to the Council under Section 16 (1) (h) of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, as amended. The Council agreed the Rules for the Election and agreed to appoint John Magee (23/73) as returning officer. The election process commences with the posting of nomination papers on 27 August 2015.

Newman Scholar

The Newman Fellow, Manuel Magalhaes Sant'Ana, commenced his fellowship on 6 January 2014 and has been working on his project 'Exploring Current and Future Ethical Issues Facing the Veterinary Profession in Ireland'. Copies of two papers from Manuel Magalhaes Sant'Ana, titled "What do European Veterinary Codes of Conduct actually say and mean? A case study approach" and "Do codes of conduct matter" were considered at the meeting.

Salpingectomy

The Council agreed that the performance of salpingectomies and vasectomies on pre-pubescent and post-pubescent dogs for commercial breeders is unethical and it agreed to communicate a statement on elective reproductive surgery in the autumn newsletter and on the website.

Tail Docking

The Council considered S.I. No. 128 of 2014 Prohibition on Tail Docking and Dew Claw Removal (Dogs) Regulations 2014 and agreed to communicate an advice note on the prophylactic tail docking of dogs in the autumn newsletter and on the website.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 17 September 2015 @ 10.30am.