

**Annual Report 2009**  
Veterinary Council

**Tuarascáil Bhliantúil 2009**  
Chomhairle Tréidlianna na hÉireann





## Réamhrá

Phlé an Chomhairle le hualach trom oibre le linn 2009, ag teacht le ceile i lán-sheisiún ocht n-uaire agus neart oibre ar bhun earharu i geruinthe choiste. Tá obair na geoisti éagsúla leagtha amach sa Tuarascáil Bhliantúil atá le seo. Is mian liom buíochas a gabháil le baill na Comhairle, idir t'hréidianna, thuatai agus iad súid atá ina mbaill de shainghairmeacha eile. Tá buíochas tuille freisin ag an gCláráitheoir, Valerie Beaty, agus ag foricann na Comhairle, Karen Bonner, Regina Cogan agus Yvonne Reville.

Idir 1 Lúnasa 2010 agus 31 Iúil 2011 a bhéas an téarma deireanach chun an t-íoschaighdeán Oiliúna Treidlaichta Leanúnach (CVE) a chómhlionadh. Moltar do thréidianna agus do d'altraí araon réamhulmhachán a dhéanamh chun a chintíú go mbainfeadh an t-íoschaighdeán amach i rith an téarma. Beidh sé riachtanach athbhreithniú a dhéanamh, i bhfad roimh deireadh an téarma i mí Iúil, ar na pointaí CVE atá cnuasaithe agus ní mór a chintíú, ar shuíomh ghréasáin na Comhairle, gur chuireadh pointí chun socair le haghaidh gach cúrsa a fhreastalaíodh.

Ní mór tagairt don Tábla Dháileadh Sochair CVE, toisc go ndáiltear sochar ar imeachtaí CVE leithéidí pléghrúpaí gairmiúla agus maoirseacht focheimithe faoi 'Thathai Chlachtadh'. Tugtar creidiúint do léamh ag baile ar ábhair gairmiúla, léamh reachtaíochta san áireamh.

Ceapadh cúrsa ar líne, atá maoinithe ag an gComhairle, chun gur féidir le haltraí atá ar an gelár sealadach an caighdeán a bhaint amach chun iontrála i bpríomh chlár alrtanas treidliachta. Lár-Cholaiste Eoin i gCorcaigh, le hionchur ó Choláiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath, a chuirfidh an cúrsa ar fail.

Tá an próiseis chun an dá Chód um Iompair Gairmiúil a leasú ag dul ar aghaidh agus is i dtaca le comarsáid margaidh, agus leis an ceart an pobal a chuir ar eolas faoi na seirbhísí atá á thairiscint, atá an t-athrú is sontasaí.

Tá athchóiriú déanta ar oifig na Comhairle chun na caighdeáin reatha shláinte agus shábháilteachta a shású. Tá idirbheartaíocht ar siúl chun ruileas an ghabháilais a cheannach.

Chriochnaigh cead téarma ceithre bhlianna na Comhairle, a bhunaíodh faoi Acht 2005, ag deireadh 2009. Is mian liom buíochas a gabháil leis na baill cheapaithe seo leanas a ghníomhaigh i rith an téarma sin; an Dr Deirdre Campion, an tUas. Diarmuid Dooge, an Dr Clodna Foley-Nolan agus an tUas. Frank Gallagher. Chriochnaigh duine den chúigear bhall tofa atá ag dul as oifig, an tUas Frank O'Leary, téarma fada foirfe in ar fheidhmigh sé mar Uachtarán, mar Chláráitheoir, mar bhall de chomhairle RCVS agus mar chathaoirleach ar rionnt choistí. Ba dhomheasta an chomaoin a chuir sé ar an gComhairle.



Patrick J Talty  
Uachtarán



## Introduction

Council dealt with a heavy workload in 2009, meeting in full session eight times while there was much work done in committee meetings in between. The work of the various committees is outlined in the Annual Report attached. For the hard work that has gone into this committee work, I thank the members of Council veterinary, lay and those who are members of other professions. Much thanks are also due to the Registrar, Valerie Beatty, and the Council staff, Karen Bonner, Regina Cogan and Yvonne Reville.

The final term for compliance with the minimum Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE) requirements for registration in 2012 runs from 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011. Both vets and nurses are advised to plan ahead to ensure that the essential minimum is reached during the term. It is essential to review the CVE points accrued well before the end of term in July, and the Council website should be used to check that points have been credited for all courses attended.

The CVE Credit Allocation Table should be consulted by all as, in addition to courses and seminars, etc., credit is allocated for such CVE activities as professional discussion groups and supervision of undergraduates 'Seeing Practice'. Credit is allowed for home reading on professional matters, including legislation.

An online course for nurses on the provisional register funded by Council has been designed to allow those nurses on the provisional register to attain the standard required to enter the main veterinary nursing register. This course will be delivered by St John's College, Cork, with input from UCDC.

The process of reforming the two Codes of Professional Conduct has continued and the most significant change has been in relation to marketing communication and the right to inform the public of services offered.

The Council offices have been renovated to bring them in line with current health and safety standards. Negotiations also commenced to purchase the freehold of the property.

The first four-year term of Council set up as a result of the 2005 Act ended at the end of 2009. I wish to thank the following appointed members: Dr Deirdre Campion; Mr Diarmuid Dooge; Dr Cliodna Foley-Nolan; and, Mr Fergus Gallagher, who served during the term. One of the five outgoing elected members, Mr Frank O'Leary, ended a long and distinguished term of service to the Council having served as President, Registrar and RCVS council member, and having chaired a number of committees. Frank's contribution to the Council has been immeasurable.



Patrick J Talty  
President



Airítear naoi mball déag ar an gComhairle, ar a bhfuil deichniúr tofa ón ngairm féin agus naonúr ceapaithe. Toghadh P Talty mar Uachtarán ar Eanáir 17, 2008. Toghadh M Osborne mar Leas-Uachtarán é ar Eanáir 17, 2008. Coinnoidh siad na hoifigi sin go dtí Mí na Nollag 31, 2009.

Baill Tofa	Tofa go dtí 31 Mí na Nollag:
W Cashman	2011
J. Cassidy	2011
D Connolly	2011
T Hanley	2009
S Ó Laoide	2009
M O'Donoghue	2009
F O'Leary	2009
M Osborne	2009
P J Talty	2011
L Vaughan	2009

Baill Ceapaithe (Beidh deireadh len a dtearma cheapacháin ar 31 Mí na Nollag 2009)

**Ceapaithe ag an Aire Talmhaíochta agus Bia.**

B Bent  
D. Campion (ainmnithe ag Ollscoil na hÉireann)  
D Dooge  
C Foley-Nolan (ainmnithe ag Údarás Sabháilochta Bia na hÉireann)  
F Gallagher  
G Mulcahy (ainmnithe ag an Aire Oideachais agus Eolaíochta)  
F Mulligan (ainmnithe ag Ollscoil na hÉireann)  
J O'Rourke  
S Quinn

## Coistí Reachtúla na Comhairle:

### An Coiste um Oideachas agus Oifúint Tréidliachta (VETC)

D. Campion, W Cashman, J. Cassidy, G Mulcahy, F Mulligan, M O'Donoghue, J O'Rourke, M Osborne, P Rogan, PJ Talty, L Vaughan (Cathaoirleach)

### An Coiste Réamhfhiosraithe (PIC)

B. Bent, F Gallagher, T Hanley, S Ó Laoide

### An Coiste um Fheiliúnacht chun Chlachtadh (FTPC)

D Dooge, C Foley-Nolan, G Mulcahy, F Mulligan, S Murphy (Cathaoirleach Neamhspléach), F O'Leary, S Quinn

## Coistí Eile:

### An Coiste Airgeadais

D Connolly, F Gallagher, M Osborne (Cathaoirleach)

### An Coiste Reachtaíochta agus Eitice (LEC)

B Bent, J Cassidy, C Foley-Nolan, F Gallagher, T Hanley (Cathaoirleach), F Mulligan, S Ó Laoide, J O'Rourke, M Osborne, P Rogan

### An Coiste um Áitreabh Chleachtaidh (PPC)

W Cashman, D Connolly (Cathaoirleach), G Mulcahy, M O'Donoghue, F O'Leary, J O'Rourke, M Osborne, S Quinn

### An Coiste Idirchaidreamh Tréidliachta

B Bent, D Campion, W Cashman (Cathaoirleach), C Foley-Nolan, S Ó Laoide, F O'Leary, S Quinn

### An Coiste Comhcheangailte

T Hanley, S Ó Laoide (Cathaoirleach), L Vaughan  
J Horan, P Nowlan – Veterinary Ireland  
M Lyons – Veterinary Officers Association





The Council comprises 19 members, ten of whom are elected from amongst the profession and nine who are appointed. P Talty was elected President on 17 January 2008, and M Osborne was elected Deputy President on 17 January 2008. They hold these positions until 31 December 2009.

Elected members:	Elected until 31 December
W Cashman	2011
J Cassidy	2011
D Connolly	2011
T Hanley	2009
S Ó Laoide	2009
M O'Donoghue	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  
D Campion (NUI nominee)  
D Dooge\*  
C Foley-Nolan (Food Safety Authority nominee)  
F Gallagher  
G Mulcahy (Minister for Education & Science nominee)  
F Mulligan (NUI nominee)  
J O'Rourke  
S Quinn

\*appointed in August 2009 following resignation of P Rogan

## Statutory Committees of Council:

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

**Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC)**  
B Bent, F Gallagher, T Hanley, S Ó Laoide

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

## Other committees:

**Finance Committee**  
D Connolly, F Gallagher, M Osborne (Chair)

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

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

**Veterinary Liaison Committee (VLC)**  
B Bent, D Campion, W Cashman (Chair), C Foley-Nolan, F O'Leary, S  
Quinn

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



## An Clár

Buaíodh 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 gcleachtóirí tréidliachta ar an gelár ar 31 Mí na Nollag 2009 ná 2,506. Bhí 120 cláraithe nua i rith na blianna. Bhain 124 a n-ainmneacha den chlár go deonach. Scroiseadh 17 agus cuireadh 19 bhás in iúl don Chomhairle. Cuireadh 19 ainmneacha thar n-ais i ndiaidh a mbainte dheonaigh agus cuireadh 7 n-ainmneacha thar n-ais ndhiadh a seriosta.

## Básanna

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

Barrett, R	Barnes, T	Callan, D
Canavan, J	Cunningham, B	Dowling, J
Feeney, I	Hatton, RD	Knightly, M
Loughlin, D	McGrath, MJ	Ó Nualláin, T
Ó Scanaill, T	O'Brien, P	O'Donnell, O
O'Hare, C	O'Rourke, D	Parkhill, E
Shiel, J		

## Tuarascálacha na gCóistí

### An Coiste Airgeadais

*Ballraíocht an Choiste – leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascál*  
Tháinig an coiste le céile trí huairt i rith na blianna. Tháinig sé le céile arís go luath in 2010 chun chuntais iniúchta na Comhairle don bhliain 2009 a chur faoi bhráid.

Le cois athbheithnithe na gcúntais banaistíochta ráithe, a ullmháidh don Chomhairle, breathnaigh an Coiste ceisteanna faoi tháilli agus faoi mhaoiniú agus phléadar riachtanaisí tairisceanna agus maoinithe le haghaidh athchóiriú fhoirgnimh na Comhairle agus ceannach rúleas an fhoirgnimh.

Iarcheangailte le seo tá cuntais iniúchta Chomhairle Tréidlianna na hÉireann don bhliain 2009. Leiríonn figiúirí 2009 gur tháinig an t-

ioncam go €320,466, agus an caiteachas go €598,675. Bhí dhá mhéadú shuntasach i rith na blianna a bhain le cuairteanna leanúnacha PAS agus le costais dlí ó Fhiosrúchán Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh. Leiríonn an clár comhardaithe infheistiú suntasach i bhfoirgneamh na Comhairle agus i mbonneagar na teicneolaíochta fáisnéisele le linn 2009.

Iarcheangailte leis an dTuarascál seo freisin tá cuntais iniúchta Iontaobhas Oideachais na Comhairle Tréidliachta do 2009.

### An Coiste Réamhfhiosraithe

*Ballraíocht an Choiste – leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascál*

Le linn 2009 fuair an Chomhairle 33 hiarratais le haghaidh iniúchadh feiliúnachta chun chleachtadh faoi Alt 76 den Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005. Is méadú mór é seo ar na uimhir 'sna blianta roimhe, 17 n-iattatas in 2007 agus 11 iattatas in 2008. Tháinig an Coiste Réamhfhiosraithe (PIC) le céile 11 uaire le linn 2009 agus phléadar 20 de na chásanna san iomlán. Tá an chuid eile ag dul ar aghaidh. Bhain na cásanna seo le madraí (sé), le cait (aon), le muca (trí), le heachai (trí), le cogais (trí), le sárú CPC (aon), le deimhniú (aon), le conrathai (aon) agus le bréachaint (aon). Tarchuireadh sé chás achu chun an Choiste Fheiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh le hiniúchadh. Ins na chásanna eile chinn an Coiste nach raibh dóthan fianaise ann chun a mholadh go gcuirfí na gearáin faoi bhráid An Choiste Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh le hiniúchadh. Ghlac an Chomhairle leis na moltaí sin.

Ag súil leis an phróiseas ghearánta a caighdeánú agus le cuidiú le gearánaigh, tá foirm ghearáin cheaptha ag an Chomhairle agus iarrtear ar gach gearánaí é a chomhlánú mar chuid den phróiseas ghearánta. Len a cois sin tá roinnt ceisteanna coitianta (FAQ) tiomsaigithe agus cuirtear iad sin freisin chuig na gearánaithe. Tá an foirm ghearáin agus na FAQ, araon le fail ar shíomh gréasain na Comhairle.

### An Coiste Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh ("Coiste")

*Ballraíocht an Choiste – leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascál*  
Rinne an Coiste Feiliúnachta chun Chleachtadh iniúchadh amháin faoi ceithre chleachtóirí le linn 2009. Tá an t-iniúchadh ag dul ar aghaidh agus tá súil le tuarascáil a chuir chun na Comhairle i 2010.



## The Registers

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 2009 was 2,506. New registrations for the year amounted to 120. A total of 124 voluntarily removed their name, 17 were erased and 19 deaths were notified to Council in the year. Restorations following voluntary removal amounted to 19 and seven 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.

Barrett, R	Barnes, T	Callan, D
Canavan, J	Cunningham, B	Dowling, J
Feeney, I	Hatton, RD	Knightly, M
Loughlin, D	McGrath, MJ	Ó Nualláin, T
Ó Scanaill, T	O'Brien, P	O'Donnell, O
O'Hare, C	O'Rourke, D	Parkhill, E
Shiel, J		

## Committee Reports

### Finance Committee

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*  
The Committee met on three occasions during the year, and in early 2010 to consider the audited accounts for 2009. Apart from reviewing the quarterly management accounts prepared for Council, the Committee also considered fee and funding queries and dealt with the tendering and financing requirements for renovations to the Council building and for the purchase of the freehold of the building.

The Veterinary Council's audited accounts for 2009 are appended to this Report. The 2009 figures show that income amounted to €1,320,466 and expenditure amounted to €698,675. Two significant increases in expenditure during the year related to the ongoing PAS

visits and the legal expenses associated with Fitness to Practise inquiries. The Balance Sheet reflects significant investment in the Council building and IT infrastructure in 2009.

The Veterinary Council's Education Trust Fund audited accounts for 2009 are also appended to this Report.

### Preliminary Investigation Committee

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*  
The Council received 33 applications in 2009 for inquiries into fitness to practise under section 76 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. This number is a considerable increase on the number in previous years: there had been 17 applications in 2007 and 11 application in 2008. The Preliminary Investigation Committee (PIC) met on 11 occasions in 2009 and dealt with 20 of these cases in total; the remaining are ongoing. The subject of these cases concerned dogs (six), cats (one), pigs (three), equine (three), medicines (three), breaches of the Code of Professional Conduct (one), certification (one), contracts (one) and slander (one). Six of these cases have been referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee for inquiry. In the remaining cases the Committee concluded that there was insufficient evidence to recommend that the complaints be referred to the Fitness to Practise Committee for inquiry. These recommendations were accepted by Council.

In an effort to standardise the complaints process and assist complainants, the Council has designed a complaints form, which each complainant is requested to complete as part of the complaints process. In addition, a number of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) have been compiled, which are also sent to complainants. Both the complaints form and the FAQs are available on the Council's website.

### Fitness to Practise Committee

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*  
The Committee conducted one inquiry in 2009 into four veterinary practitioners. This inquiry is ongoing and a report is expected to be forwarded to the Council in 2010.





## An Coiste Reachtaíochta agus Eitice

*Ballraíocht an Choiste - leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascáil*  
Tháinig An Coiste Reachtaíochta agus Eitice le céile cúig huairé i 2009. Lean an Coiste leis an t-athbhreithniú agus leis an t-uasdáitú ar an dá Chód um lompair Ghairmiúl. Le margaiocht shirbhísi tréidliachta a bhain an t-athrú ba mhó, ag maolú na srianta. Ar an suíomh idirlíon tá cáipéis, a bhéas uasdátaithe mar is gá, ag taispáint na haithrithe atá dheánta i ngach leagan den dá chód.

Chuidigh an Coiste leis an gComhairle chun diríú ar cheist rialaithe 'na bparaghairmeach' i ndiaidh cinneadh na Roinne Talmaíochta, lasaigh agus Bia leasú ar an Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005 a lorg le rialú dá leithéid a cheadú. Chuir an Chomhairle in iúl go raibh sí in aghaidh rialú dá leithéid a chuir isteach san Acht.

D'ullmhaigh an Coiste dhá cháipeis rialachais do bhaill na Comhairle, ar ghlach an Chomhairle leo mí Iúil 2009 – Ráiteas Rialachais agus Cód lompair do Bhaill na Comhairle. D'ullmhaíodh na cáipéisí de réir riachtanais aitheanta rialachais do chomhlachais phoiblí.

## An Coiste um Oideachas agus Oiliúint Tréidliachta (VETC)

Ballraíocht an Choiste – leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascáil  
Tá VETC ar cheann de thrí choiste reachtúil a bhunaíodh faoin Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005. Tá a chead cheithre bhliain díreach curtha isteach aige. Ceithre phríomh ábhar is cuais don choiste: (1) Clárú; (2) Clár Speisialtóirachta; (3) Altranais Tréidliachta; agus, (4) Oiliúint Tréidliachta Leanúnach. Tuairiscíonn VETC don Chomhairle chun a chinnte a dhaingniú.

### 1. Clárú

Dob é 2,420 an meán uimhir chleachtóirí tréidliachta á geur leis an gClár gach bliain idir 2006 agus 2009. Rinne an fochoiste athbhreithniú ar na n-iarraitais faoi alt 44 den Acht um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta 2005, maraon le hiarratais chun chlárúithe theoranta agus chuir moltaí chuig an Chomhairle. In 2008 cuireadh tús le scrúdú chlárúithe bhliantúil. Tugann seo deis do na iarraitasóirí sin, nach mbeadh cáilithe chun clárúithe ina éagmais, dul faoi scrúdú agus, má éiríonn leo, chuirfí a n-ainmneacha ar an

gClár. Mhol an Coiste don Chomhairle go leanfaí leis na socráithe aithaiteantais frithpháirteacha a comhaontaigh an Chomhairle roimhe seo le húdrais chlárúithe tréidliachta san Astráil agus sa Nua-Shealainn. Ó 20 Meán Fómhair 2007 aithníonn an Chomhairle chun clárúithe freisin ceimithe ó choláistí i Mheiriceá Thuaidh, atá creidiúnaithe ag AVMA. Tá socrúithe idir lámha le haghaidh cuairt chigireachra ar Scoil na Tréidliachta i gColáiste Ollscoile Bhaile Átha Cliath atá beartaithe in 2010.

### 2. An Clár Speisialtóirachta

Tá clár do speisialtóirí bunaithe.

### 3. Altranais Tréidliachta

Bunaíodh Clár na nAltraí Tréidliachta in 2008. Cuireadh 324 altraí tréidliachta ar an gClár in 2008. Bhí 66 clárúithe nua in 2009. Bunaíodh clár sealadach freisin in 2008 dóibh siúd nach bhfuil cáilithe don phríomh chlár. Ní mór dos na haltraí sin cáilíocht ionclárúithe a bhaint amach roimh 31 Mí na Nollag 2012. Tá dlús á chur le clár oiliúna le deis a thabhairt d'altraí tréidliachta, atá clárúithe go sealadach, teacht i dtídlí lánchlárúithe. Tá bailíocht bainte amach ag trí chúrsa oiliúna i ndiaidh cúairteanna cigireachta. Tugadh cuairteanna réamhbhailíochta ar dhá chúrsa eile.

### 4. Oiliúint Tréidliachta Leanúnach (CVE)

Beidh Oiliúint Tréidliachta Leanúnach eigeantach do ghach daoine clárúithe ó 2012 amach. 'Se is bri le seo ná, nach mór do chleachtóirí tréidliachta 20 creidiúint CVE a bhaint amach i rith na blianna 1 Iúna 2010 agus 31 Iúil 2011 chun a bheith i dtídlí ceadúnas chun chleachtadh a fháil at 1 Eanáir 2012 agus nach mór d'altraí tréidliachta 12 chreidiúint a bhaint amach sa thréimhse chéanna chun a bheith i dtídlí ceadúnas chun chleachtadh a fháil at 1 Eanáir 2012. Beidh seo ina riachtanas bliantúil do ghach cleachtóir tréidliachta agus do ghach altra tréidliachta. Tá rialacháin CVE dréachtaithe agus athbhreithnithe. Bhíodas i gcomhairle le páirtithe leasmhara agus tá foram náisiúnta CVE bunaithe. Leanann an coiste ar aghaidh le hiarratais formheasasa ó sholáthraithe chúrsaí a bheithníú.





## Legislation and Ethics Committee

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*  
The Legislation and Ethics Committee (LEC) met on five occasions in 2009. The Committee continued to review and update both Codes of Professional Conduct: the major change which was introduced concerned the marketing of veterinary services where restrictions have been relaxed. The website contains a document, which will be updated when necessary, showing the changes that have been made in each version of each Code.

The Committee assisted the Council in addressing the issue of the regulation of 'para-professionals' following the decision of the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food to seek to amend the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 to allow for such regulation. The Council has indicated its opposition to incorporating such regulation into the Act.

The Committee prepared two governance documents for members of the Council, which were accepted by the Council in July 2009 – a Statement of Governance and a Code of Conduct for Council Members. The documents were prepared in line with the accepted governance requirements of public bodies.

## Veterinary Education and Training Committee (VETC)

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*  
The VETC is one of three statutory committees set up under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005. It has just completed its first four years in existence. The committee is concerned with four main areas: (1) registration; (2) specialist registration; (3) veterinary nursing; and, (4) continuing veterinary education. Decisions of the VETC are reported to Council for ratification.

### 1. Registration

The average number of veterinary practitioners entering the register annually during the period 2006-2009 was 2,420. The committee reviewed applications for admission to the register made under section 44 of the Veterinary Practice Act 2005 as well as applications for limited registration and made recommendations

to Council. In 2008, an annual registration examination was initiated. This offers an opportunity to those applicants who would not otherwise qualify for registration to sit this examination and, if successful, have their name entered into the register. The committee recommended to Council that the mutual recognition agreement entered into with the Australian and New Zealand veterinary registration bodies by the previous Council be continued. The Council also recognises graduates from AVMA-accredited colleges in North America for registration from 20 September 2007. Preparatory work is underway for a visitation of The School of Veterinary medicine, UCD, which is scheduled to take place in 2010.

### 2. Specialist registration

A register for specialists has been set up.

### 3. Veterinary nursing

The Register of Veterinary Nurses was established in 2008. In 2008, 324 veterinary nurses entered the register. In 2009 there were 66 new registrations. A provisional register was also set up in 2008 to cater for those who do not qualify for entry to the main register; these nurses must have gained a registrable qualification by 31 December 2012. A programme of education is currently being finalised to provide a mechanism for provisionally registered veterinary nurses to become eligible for full registration. Three veterinary nursing courses have received visitations and been validated. A further two courses have received pre-validation visitations.

### 4. Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE)

Mandatory CVE will become a requirement for all registered persons from January 2012. This means that veterinary practitioners must achieve 20 CVE credits in the credit year 1 August 2010 to 31 July 2011 to be eligible to receive a licence to practise on 1 January 2012 and veterinary nurses must achieve 12 CVE credits in the same period to be eligible to receive a licence to practise on 1 January 2012. This will be a yearly requirement for every veterinary practitioner and veterinary nurse. CVE regulations



Abhar suntais eile don choiste ná taifeadadh agus cothabháil sonraí CVE.

## An Coiste um Áitreamh Chleachtaithe

### *Ballraíocht an Choiste – leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascál*

Ar cheann de na dhúshláin ba mhó do Chomhairle Tréidlianna na hÉireann bhí teacht i bhfeidhm na Scéime Creidúnithe Áitreamh (PAS) i Mí Eanáir 2007. Cuireadh idir am agus dícheall i bhforbairt na caighdeán agus na rialacháin i 2006, i dtabhairt isteach na scéime in Eanáir 2007, i gclárú na n-iarraitais agus in earcú measúnóirí. Bhí gá le breis foirne agus le suiteáil chorais nua fáisnéise eolais chun na sonraí a rianú ag 53 Bóthar Lansdúin. Cláraíodh cleachtóirí de réir a rogha caighdeán faoi deireadh an tréimse rialacháin i 2007 agus seo leanas iomlán na n-áitreamh a phróisiú:

Cleachtadh Tréidliachta Cláraithe (RVP)	198
Lialann Tréidliachta Cláraithe (RVS)	163
Clinic Tréidliachta Cláraithe (RVC)	169
Ospidéal Tréidliachta Cláraithe (ainmhithe cuideachta) (RVH) (CA)	101
Ospidéal Tréidliachta Cláraithe (ainmhithe feirme) (RVH) (FA)	8
Ospidéal Tréidliachta Cláraithe (eachaí) (RVH) (EQ)	18

Thosaíodh ar earcú measúnóirí ag deireadh 2007 agus faoi Eanáir 2008 bhí painéil tofa agus meitheal thosaigh bunaithe, de naonúr measúnóirí, measúnóir ceannais san áireamh. Tugadh oiliúint iarthogha san Aibreán agus i mBealtaine tosaíodh ar an obair. Faoi lár Dheireadh Fómhair bhí 428 iniúchadh críochnaithe agus 157 socráithe. Tá thart fá 100 áitreamh fós ar na bacáin.

De gnáth, glacadh go maith le cuairteanna na measúnóirí ar na n-áitreamh. Dob é gnáthamh na gcuairteanna ná, cruinniú tosaigh le sealbhóir an teastais, camchuairt an tsuíomh agus, ag deireadh, an mheasúnacht. Cruthaítear an tuarascáil agus an mheasúnacht ag dul ar aghaidh. Plétear agus réitítear aon neamh-chomhréirigh sar a shíniú an sealbhóir teastais agus an measúnóir an tuarascáil. Cuirtear na tuarascálacha comhlánaithe ar aghaidh chun na Comhairle, déantar iad a phróisiú, athbhreithníonn an measúnóir

ceannais iad agus cuirtear taifead ar mháistirdhearbhú PAS. De réir chláir ama a reitítear ceisteanna fuilligh agus neamh-chomhréirithe agus deimhnítear iad le cinntiú seriofa. Tá iniúchadh randamach ar na deimhnithe seo ag dul ar aghaidh.

Sáraíonn an dul chun chinn go dtí seo a rabhathas ag súil leis. Tá moladh tuille acu siúd a raibh bainnt acu leis, ach go mór ag an mbainisteoir oifige, Karen Bonner, as an obair a bain le seo agus as an eileamh breise feidhmiúcháin ag 53 Bóthar Lansdúin, in ainneoin na mór-athnuachana ar an fhoirgneamh le linn 2009. Tá athbhreithniú le déanamh ar na gcaighdeán, agus súil len a críochnú faoi Mheitheamh 2010. Ar scrúdú na measúnaithe chríochnaithe agus ar idirchaidreamh le Veterinary Ireland agus le husáideoirí na seirbhíse, a bheidh an t-athbhreithniú bunaithe. Pléfead treoirilinte ar réimsí suntais le Veterinary Ireland. Sé an aidhm ná go mbeidh na caighdeán athbhreithnithe agus nuashonraithe roimh an chead lucht iniúchadh eile, a thosnóidh in Eanáir 2011.

## An Coiste Idirchaidrimh Tréidliachta

*Ballraíocht an Choiste – leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascál*  
Ba cúram don Choiste Idirchaidreamh Tréidliachta i rith na bliana ná cuidiú leis an gComhairle a dearadh a leiriú faoin dhá ábhar faoi leith, i rialú na bparaghairmeach agus cleachtadh citicíul tréidliachta maidir le Seideal B de na Rialacháin um Leigheasanna Ainmhithe 2007.

Maidir leis na bparaghairmigh rinne an Coiste taighde ar fhioraithe rialacháin ó dhlínsí eile, a bfeidir a mbeadh áisiúil i geomhtéasc na hÉireann. Chuireadh an taighde ós comhair na Comhairle, áit ar chinneadh gurb é an bille atá beartaithe um Leasa Ainmhithe, in áit an Achta um Chleachtadh Tréidliachta, an módh reachtach is oiriúnaí chun paraghairmaigh, atá ag soláthair seirbhíse sláinte ainmhithe, a rialú. Mhol an Coiste freisin go nglacadh an Chomhairle páirt i ngrúpa ad hoc, á thoghaire ag an Roinn Talmhamiúchta, lasaigh agus Bia, le meicníocht praiticiúil agus éifeachtach a dhearadh chun pharaghairmaithe shláinte ainmhithe a rialú.





have been devised and reviewed. Consultation with stakeholders has taken place and a national CVE forum has been established. The committee continues to review applications by course providers for approval. The recording and maintenance of CVE data is also an area of interest for the committee.

## Practice Premises Committee

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*

The introduction of the Practice Premises Accreditation Scheme (PAS) in January 2007 was one of the bigger challenges for the Veterinary Council of Ireland. Developing the standards and regulations during 2006 and introducing the scheme in January 2007, registering the applications and recruiting assessors, all took time and effort. The administration of the data at 53 Lansdowne Road required additional staff and the installation of new IT systems. Practitioners were registered to a standard of their choice by the end of the regulatory period in 2007 and the following were the numbers of premises processed:

Registered Veterinary Practice (RVP)	198
Registered Veterinary Surgery (RVS)	163
Registered Veterinary Clinic (RVC)	169
Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) Companion Animal (CA)	101
Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) Food Animal (FA)	8
Registered Veterinary Hospital (RVH) Equine (EQ)	18

Recruitment of assessors began in the latter end of 2007 and by January of 2008 a panel had been selected and an initial working group of nine assessors, including a lead assessor, was established. Post-selection training took place in April and work began in May.

By mid October 2009, 428 inspections had been completed and 157 were scheduled. Approximately 100 premises remain to be assessed.

The visits by the assessors to each premises were generally well received. The routine of each visit consists of an initial meeting with the certificate holder, a site tour and then the assessment. The report is created as the assessment proceeds. Any non-conformances are discussed and agreed prior to the signing of the report by the

certificate holder and the assessor. Completed reports are forwarded to Council, processed, reviewed by the lead assessor and entered on the master PAS declarations. Close out of outstanding issues and non-conformances are time scheduled and verified by written confirmation. Random audits of these verifications are ongoing.

Progress to date is beyond expectations. The work involved and the extra demands on the administration at 53 Lansdowne Road, despite major renovations of the building in 2009, merits praise to those concerned but especially to Karen Bonner, the office manager. A review of the standards is to be undertaken and is due to be completed by June 2010. This review will be informed by a survey of completed inspections, and liaison with Veterinary Ireland and the users of the services. Guidelines on areas of interest will be pursued with Veterinary Ireland. The intent is to have the standards reviewed and updated prior to the next tranche of inspections beginning in January 2011.

## Veterinary Liaison Committee

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*

The Veterinary Council Liaison Committee concerned itself during the year with assisting the Council in defining its position on two particular areas, i.e., the regulation of paraprofessionals and ethical veterinary practice in relation to Schedule 8 of the Animal Remedies Regulations (ARR) 2007.

In relation to paraprofessionals the Committee researched regulatory templates from other jurisdictions that might prove useful in the Irish context. This research was presented to Council, which concluded that the proposed Animal Welfare Bill, rather than the Veterinary Practice Act, is the most appropriate legislative means through which paraprofessional animal health service providers should be regulated. The committee also proposed that Council contribute to an ad hoc group, convened by DAFF, to design a practical and effective mechanism to regulate animal health paraprofessionals.

Council was concerned that confusion existed regarding the interpretation of the Code of Professional Conduct (CPC)





Ba chás don Chomhairle go raibh mearbhall ann faoi léiriú an Chóid um Iompair Ghairmiúil (CPC) i leith an tsainmhíniú ar eint 'bona fide' agus faoi na srianta ar thréidlianna agus iad ag soláthair oideas, go mór mór le haghaidh frithbheathaigh ionmhamach, faoi fhorálacha Scidil 8 de na Rialacháin um Leigheasanna Ainmhithe 2007.

Mhol an Coiste go n-úsáideadh an Chomhairle, i ngach cás, an léiriú traidisiúnta de CPC agus iad ag breithniú na geaighdeáin eticiúla a n-éilítear ar chleachtóirí thréidliachta atá ag soláthair oideas. Glach an Chomhairle leis an ndearcadh seo agus leis an gcáipéis mhínithe, atá le scaipeadh go luath in 2010.

### An Coiste Comhcheangailte

*Ballraíocht an Choiste – leagtha amach i rannóg eile den Tuarascáil*  
Diríonn an Choiste Comhcheangailte ar phlé le cúrsaí thréidliachta náisiúnta agus Eorpacha agus taraingíonn a bhallraíocht ón gComhairle, ó Veterinary Ireland agus ó Veterinary Officers' Association.

Bhí dhá chruiniú ag an gcoiste i rith na bliana. D'fhreastail S Ó Laoide agus V Beatty ar dhá Ollthionóil Ginearálta de chuid FVE, i mí Bhealtaine agus Mí na Samhna, mar ionadaithe ó Chomhairle Teidlianna na hÉireann. Lena cois sin, d'fhreastal baill an Choiste Comhcheangailte, mar bhrathnóirí, ar chruiníthe Chomhairle Náisiúnta Veterinary Ireland.

Mar fhoram cadareagraise, phlé an coiste freisin tabhairt isteach CVE éigeantach in 2012, fadhb dhearbhu ainmhithe a bheith in inmhe iompair agus tachaíocht le chlár bhainistíochta struis sa ghairm tríd síos.



surrounding the definition of 'bona fide' clients and the restrictions on veterinary practitioners when issuing prescriptions, especially intramammary antibiotics, under the terms of Schedule 8 of the ARR 2007.

The Committee proposed that Council should use its traditional interpretation of CPC when adjudicating on the ethical standards required of prescribing veterinary practitioners in all cases. Council accepted this view and approved an explanatory document for circulation to all registered practitioners in early 2010.

### Conjoint Committee

*Membership of Committee – listed in another section of the Report*

The Conjoint Committee concentrates on addressing national and European veterinary matters and draws its membership from the Council, Veterinary Ireland and the Veterinary Officers Association.

The committee held two meetings during the year. S O'Laoide and V Beatty attended the two FVE General Assembly meetings in May and November 2009 representing the Veterinary Council. In addition, the general council meetings of Veterinary Ireland were attended by members of the Conjoint Committee as observers.

The committee as an inter-organisation forum also discussed the introduction of mandatory CVE in 2012, the problem of the certification of animals as fit for transportation, and support for the introduction of a profession-wide stress management programme.