

Summary of Council Meeting – 17 June 2015

The Council met on 17 June 2015 from 10.30 to 14.15. There were 12 items on the agenda and 12 pieces of correspondence were tabled for consideration. Some items were deferred to the next Council meeting due to the necessity to attend the UCD graduation ceremony at 15.00.

The Council considered reports from the Veterinary Education and Training Committee, the Legislation and Ethics Committee, the Practice Premises Committee, the Conjoint Committee and the Preliminary Investigation Committee.

The Veterinary Education and Training Committee

The VETC met on 20 May 2015 from 11.00am to 12.30pm. There were 11 items listed on the agenda and there were two items of correspondence for consideration.

The Committee discussed the modules available as part of the Level 6 QQI animal science award which can only be provided by accredited education institutions as part of a veterinary nursing qualification. Changes to the RCVS veterinary nursing registration requirements were noted. The BSc in Veterinary Nursing course provided in UCD gained reaccreditation following a visit in late 2014.

A paper co-authored by the Veterinary Council Education Trust Newman Scholar, Dr Manuel Sant'Ana, titled 'What do European veterinary codes of conduct actually say and mean? A case study approach.' was tabled and noted.

Two candidates had sat the Council's registration examination. One candidate had passed and will be permitted to register and the second candidate had failed.

The Legislation and Ethics Committee

The LEC met on 21 May 2015 from 14.00 to 16.30. There were 9 items listed on the agenda and eleven items of correspondence were considered.

The key topics for discussion included elective reproductive surgery, certification, tail docking and scanning. The Council also considered S.I. No. 63 of 2015 Microchipping of Dogs Regulations 2015 and accepted that inserting a microchip is no longer deemed an act of veterinary medicine.

It was noted that the Council's view on bull fertility testing had been communicated to each of the cattle breeding societies i.e. a lay person may take a semen sample from a bull and analyse it regarding enumeration and its characteristics, however, the evaluation, interpretation, diagnosing and certification of that semen and the animal it came from are acts of veterinary medicine and can only be done by a veterinary practitioner.

Ms Aoife Joyce RVN was co-opted onto the committee.

The Practice Premises Committee

The PPC met on 4 June 2015 from 10.30am to 15.30. There were 12 items tabled on the agenda and there were two items of correspondence for consideration.

In respect of new COS applications, the Council agreed a “fast-track system” where in circumstances where there is a waiting period of more than 2 months, the PPC may consider new applications electronically and a recommendation will be reported by the Chairperson of the PPC to Council who will make a decision on the application.

Eleven premises had passed their revisit assessment and it was agreed that four new premises could be granted a COS. Ms Celine Walsh RVN was co-opted onto the committee. The committee discussed a number of other issues all of which are ongoing matters.

The Conjoint Committee

The Conjoint Committee met on 27 May 2015 to discuss the agenda for the FVE meeting scheduled to take place on 5 and 6 June 2015. The minutes of that meeting were noted by the Council.

Disciplinary Matters

Five applications for a Fitness to Practise Inquiry involving five practitioners were considered. Two decisions to hold inquiries into the Fitness to Practise of two veterinary practitioners were notified to the Council.

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 7 new entries to the Register and 10 names restored to the Register under section 49(2) of the Act. The names of 6 veterinary practitioners were erased from the Register under section 33 (4) for the non-payment of the 2015 Licence to Practise fee.

Register of Veterinary Nurses – It was reported that there are 5 new entries to the Register under section 95 of the Act and 1 name restored to the Register under section 49(2) of the Act. It was agreed to remove from the Register the name of the 1 veterinary nurse who had made application to do so under section 49 of the Act. The name of 1 veterinary nurse was removed from the Register under section 33 (4) for the non-payment of the 2015 Licence to Practise fee.

It was reported that the death of 2 veterinary practitioners had occurred since the last Council meeting –John Michael Cogavin (68/60) and Owen Stephen O’Neill (51/63). A minutes silence was observed in their honour.

Date of Next Meeting

The next Council meeting is scheduled to take place on Thursday, 16 July 2015 @ 10.30am.