

# Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Sheep Veterinary Society

## Teams Meeting

Tuesday 2 August 2023

The meeting convened at 13h00.

Minutes kept by R Reichel

**Present:** David Wilson, Rebecca Mearns, Hazel Rice, Ed Hill, Heidi Svensgarde, Jon Higgins, Kevin Harrison, Leanne forde, Rudolf Reichel, Phillipa Page, Jonathon Hobbs, Tricia Sutton, Stephanie Winslow

**Apologies:** Joe Henry, Miranda Timmerman, Shona Mouncey

## Previous Outstanding Action Points

No	Description	Responsible	Completed?
1	Rams' teeth at sales – JH ongoing	J Hobbs	Ongoing
2	Circulate the EMA consultation.	HR	Completed
3	RCVS guidance on “under care” and “clinical assessment.”		Completed
4	Members can respond individually or DW suggested members to have a look and email any thoughts to him directly by 31st of March.	All	Completed

## Discussion of previous action points/matters arising

1. Ram's teeth at sales. RM has looked at the previous emails on the topic. It resulted from pressure on private practitioners to examine ram's teeth at sales. Various bits of guidance exist but need to be compiled into one document.  
**AP** – RM will collate and circulate the available info on the topic and JH to complete a guidance document with feedback from members.

## Agenda items

1. **BCVA Sheep stream.** RM- we have been given a 1-hour slot on the Saturday. It would be good if in future we can get more time for the sheep stream and for it to be integrated within the cattle stream. The conference will take place in October in Telford. RM will attend and plan to cover the Pathway for about 20 minutes. EH and PP also plan to attend the conference and may contribute 20 minutes talks each to fill the hour slot.
2. **Pathway update.** RM - still attending monthly pathway meetings. Adjustments had to be made to cope with initial problems regarding the worming treatment check. Advice and guidance on websites had to be tweaked. There is an increase in uptake of the available grants. RM and Lesley from SCOPS organised webinars to increase awareness and to discuss best practise regarding the worming treatment check.
3. **Conference update.** PP - the programme has been finalised with just one slot to fill. a suggestion was for Al Nisbet to do a talk on louping ill vaccine. He is however already talking on vaccines. Remaining slot may be filled with a talk on lymphnode dysplasia in lambs.  
**RM** - asked if the mental health awareness training should go ahead? At least 12 people are required.  
**AP** – RM to find out if 12 people are interested to ensure the course can be booked.

**DW** - asked if there were space for a talk on lymph node dysplasia? **PP** - a slot can be created.

4. **Ovine ET/RSPCA.** **DW** - we have received an e-mail regarding embryo transfer in sheep and related welfare concerns, to which we have not yet responded. Issues around this were discussed and the following points were raised that could be used for feedback: it is practised by a small number of specialised veterinarians, and only after additional training. it is done on a small scale and a small number of flocks. it is only done in special cases where there is an advantage do the flock.

**AP**- **DW** will respond to the email.

5. **Louping ill vaccine support letter –**

This item was in the NSA email alerts.

Louping Ill Vaccine – urgent appeal for support letters:

Last week, Moredun highlighted the positive news of a Louping Ill Virus (LIV) prototype vaccine showing efficacy that can go forward to further development and commercialisation. Moredun has approached the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) to establish Limited Marketing Authorisation (LMA), which replaces the former EU Minor Use Minor Species regulations and should be a quicker, simpler and cheaper option to obtain regulatory approval to sell the LIV vaccine product. The VMD are asking for a dossier for them to consider, which would have greater impact if more letters of support were provided. Phil Stocker comments: “NSA, alongside other industry groups have already provided a letter of support but the more evidence we can collate to demonstrate the need and urgency for this vaccine, gives us a higher chance of success. If any of our members are part of a group of farmers, industries associations or moorland groups I’d urge you to send a support letter to Moredun”. Please email your letter to Beth Wells (Beth.Wells@moredun.ac.uk). It will greatly improve the chance of approval for the much-needed vaccine.

**AP** – **DW** will investigate this and compile a support letter.

6. **Vaccine supply.** There are longstanding and ongoing problems in the supply of animal vaccines. **RM** - this should be raised at the BVA joint offices meeting and SVS needs to be more vocal about this, not just leave it to the NSA and join forces with them as it is a big priority. The various issues and problems, related to vaccine supply, were discussed and the general agreement from the members are that this is a big priority.

**AP**- Subgroup to investigate this issue with **JH**, **PP**, **HS**, **DW** and **KH** as members. group need to decide on suitable comms and where that should go.

7. **Veterinary Surgeons Act Reform.** **RM** - has attended the meeting and circulated notes to members of the committee. Issues discussed included renaming unqualified persons as allied professionals. Attending these meetings provide a good opportunity for input and **DW** will attend the next one. OPA scanning will need to be raised at the next meeting. **RM** has mentioned OP dipping at the meeting and felt that the focus was too much on mutilations and perhaps too little on medicines. **LF** asked if blood sampling, sponging and scanning were on the agenda and if it should be?

8. **Veterinary export declaration update.** It was discussed if private practitioners were aware of the latest guidance and requirements on this? it was agreed that further guidance and communications need to be issued by SVS.

**AP** – **LF** to compile a few lines to go with the link to the government website and online template.

9. **Newcastle University/Animal Welfare Foundation project.** **DW** - received an e-mail from these two institutions do ask for input from SVS regarding the reasons for culling sheep. **DW** ask the members if they agree SVS should support this request and be involved? The consensus was that we should.

10. **Junior Vice President. still needs to be finalised.**

**AP**- ALL. any suggestions for this position please e-mail **DW**

11. **Feral sheep St Kilda.** **DW** provided an update. It is a complicated situation and **DW** has discussed it with BVA and SRUC. The view from Scottish government is that these are wild animals and not managed. **RM** mentioned that welfare is devolved and mentioned a similar situation in England where intervention to supply food at certain times are allowed.

**AP-** DW to send a response.

**12. BVA regional reps.** TS has been the representative for Wales but has now stepped down. DW thanked TS for her contribution. DW will become the Scottish representative once finished as SVS president.

**AP** -Mention at the AGM that we are looking for a representative for the Welsh BVA board.

**13. AOB –** RM mentioned the release of the draft Sheep Welfare Strategy by the RH&WG and that it was discussed at the last meeting. Further meetings to discuss it will take place.

**AP**-All to let HR or DW know if they are aware of anyone that wants to join the committee.

**14. Date of next meeting.** Next meeting will be the AGM at the autumn conference and possibly a short committee meeting also at the conference.

## New Action Points

No	Description	Responsible	Completed?
1	RM will collate and circulate the available info on the topic of Ram's teeth examination at sales, and JH to complete a guidance document with feedback from members.	RM&JH	
2	Ovine ET/RSPCA email. Requires a response.	DW	
3	Louping Ill vaccine support letter. DW will investigate this and compile a support letter.	DW	
4	Create a subgroup to investigate the issue regarding vaccine supply with JH, PP, HS, DW and KH as members. group need to decide suitable comms and where that should go.	JH, PP, HS, DW & KH	
5	Veterinary Export Declaration. LF to compile a few lines to go with the link to the government website and online template. This to go on the SVS website?	LF	
6	Junior Vice President. Any suggestions for this position please e-mail DW	All	
7	Feral Sheep St Kilda. Request to support petition. DW to send a response.	DW	
8	BVA regional rep for Wales. Add to the agenda for the next AGM that we are looking for a representative for the Welsh BVA board.	RR & DW	
9	To let HR or DW know if they are aware of anyone that wants to join the committee	All	
10	Mental health awareness training at the next conference. Are there 12 people signed up to book the course?	RM	

## End of meeting:

Dave thanked those that attended, and the meeting ended at 14h10