

Proposed veterinary union

Waking up to the recent 'significant level of correspondence in the veterinary press' on the 'need for a veterinary union', the BVA is intending to discuss 'whether' it 'could provide its members with services more traditionally provided by unions' (VR, April 25, 2009, vol 164, 538).

Regarding the proposed union for vets, the letter says that 'this is not a new concept and is one that the BVA has discussed in the past'.

This is an unwittingly honest acknowledgement of the fact that in spite of vets raising concerns with the BVA in the past, it has always been incapable of addressing their concerns.

It needs to be recognised that this time round, disillusioned with the existing veterinary bodies, the vets airing their concerns in the veterinary press are seeking to set up a complementary new organisation to help them.

Isn't it ironic that when vets wish to unit to resolve their problems, the BVA is trying to murk the waters?

The BVA should continue to look after the external affairs of the profession, where its performance is not bad, and leave the internal affairs, where it has been totally ineffective, to the proposed new British veterinary union, which will not only address the problems of vets as individuals but also work towards an internal reformation of the profession.

The fear is that by trying to repeat its history, BVA might only end up denting its credibility further.

Shams Mir, 17 Harding Road, Burscough,
Lancashire L40 7UJ
e-mail: vets4bvu@hotmail.co.uk

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