

## BVU : AP List & Post-nominals



From: **British Veterinary Union - BVU** (bvuhotmail@hotmail.co.uk)  
Sent: 02 June 2014 12:30:00  
To: f.andrews@rcvs.org.uk (f.andrews@rcvs.org.uk)

Mrs Freda Andrews

Director of Education

RCVS

Dear Freda

The BVU welcomes the RCVS decision to review the issue of post-nominals in the RCVS members' register. However, the BVU suggests that there is an even more important need to review the process proposed for creation of the Advanced Practitioners list.

Addressing the above mentioned issues, the BVU submits the following observations & recommendations:

### **Advanced Practitioners List**

- The BVU does not see any issue with any *reasonable* demands on the requirements for continuing to stay on the Advanced Practitioners list, but considers that the back-dated requirement of 250 hours of CPD (with 125 hours in the chosen speciality in the past 5 years) to get on to the Advance Practitioners list is unjustifiable and unlikely to stand a test on legal grounds.
- Whereas the potential merits of the "A module" required for the new CertAVP need not be questioned, the BVU considers this requirement on existing Certificate holders for admission to the list of Advanced Practitioners again as unjustifiable, on the grounds that whereas the so far limited number of new CertAVP may be equipped with the knowledge of the "A module", the existing Certificate holders in comparison have applied knowledge and practical skills which stretch over a number of years depending on how long ago the Certificate was obtained. It is our view that this experience cannot be simply disregarded as against the knowledge provided by the study of an academic module.

*Consequently, the BVU recommends that all existing Certificate holders should unconditionally be incorporated on the first list of Advanced Practitioners.*

*To stay on the list for the future, reasonable requirements developed in consultation with all certificate holders (old and new) should be uniformly applied.*

## Post-nominals

In response to the 2011 consultation on Specialisation in Veterinary Profession, the BVU then raised issue with the proposition of the removal of the post-nominals and argued that the post-nominals be allowed to continue as before. Unfortunately, the concerned working party ignored the BVU's plea.

The objective of the proposed changes has been to make it simple for the public and the profession to identify a specialism as perceived by the RCVS.

Addressing this issue, the BVU submits the following observations and recommendations: -

- The RCVS projection of the problem appears to be mainly based on Professor Lowe's *personal* perception about the subject of "Specialism" in the veterinary profession. This states: *"One of the more surprising things that I have learned about the veterinary profession is the way that veterinary specialism is defined and recognised. Despite several attempts to have the profession's approach explained to me, I have struggled to make sense of it."*
- *No evidence whatsoever has ever been presented to demonstrate that the RCVS proposal regarding the post-nominals is based on any actual survey conducted amongst the members of the public using veterinary services.*
- Contrary to the RCVS projection of the problem, we cannot find any evidence that the veterinary surgeon members in BVU have come across members of the public who complain that the post-nominals used are confusing. In addition, they believe, that there is no evidence to suggest that members of the public access the RCVS directory of members to look for specialist vets.
- The BVU considers that rather than the public, the RCVS register is more consulted by veterinary surgeons to identify other veterinary surgeons with further qualifications for the purpose of referrals. The existence of post-nominals helps them to identify the level of academic involvement and achievements and thereby the level of expertise for the purpose of referrals.
- The post-nominals help the general practitioners to explain to the clients the level of expertise of the veterinary surgeon they are going to be referred to and this we think is the perhaps one of the best ways that the public can benefit from the RCVS register of advanced practitioners.

*On the above grounds, the BVU recommends that the post-nominals should be retained on the RCVS register.*

Best regards,

Shams

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