

Many practices need to put houses in order

Dear Editor,

Regarding the letter from Russ King (June 18 issue), it isn't just sociologists and politicians who are fussing about new graduates moving jobs. The BVA new graduate network is hearing some horrendous stories about the treatment of new graduates.

If young graduates choose to move jobs because they feel they have made a mistake, or that an area isn't the right place for them and their friends are in other parts of the country, fine – those are completely appropriate and reasonable factors.

If a young graduate moves jobs after three months because there is no support, he or she is belittled when asking for help with difficult cases, the boss never acknowledges the amount of work the graduate does, the rota turns out not to be what the new vet was expecting, he or she is doing open surgeries until nine every night and never has any time off or pay in lieu, and he or she is on the point of a nervous breakdown, perhaps it is acceptable for the profession to look at putting its house in order.

There are many brilliant, supportive, exciting and happy practices, but there are also some that aren't those things. I don't believe in an "I had to cope, so why shouldn't they" philosophy. I want members of our profession to move on and be more caring and compassionate towards each other, as well as our patients and clients.

Yours faithfully,

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