

Veterinary Policy Research Foundation

Annual Report October 2024 – September 2025



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Veterinary Policy Research Foundation
Published September 2025

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ACRONYMS

AGM	Annual General Meeting
AHDB	Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board
AJT	Alexander John Trees (Lord Trees)
AMR	Antimicrobial Resistance
AMS	Academy of Medical Sciences
APHA	Animal and Plant Health Agency
APGAW	All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare
APPG	All-Party Parliamentary Group
APPMG	All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases
AR	Anthony Ridge
ASC	Animal Sentience Committee
ASPA	Animals in Scientific Procedures Act
ASRU	Animals in Science Regulation Unit
AWC	Animal Welfare Council
BBSRC	Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
BEIS	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
BSAVA	British Small Animal Veterinary Association
BVA	British Veterinary Association
CASC	Companion Animal Sector Council
CAWF	Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation
CP	Catrina Prince
CVO	Chief Veterinary Officer
Defra	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
DIT	Department for International Trade
DNDi	Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative
DoL	Demonstration of Life
ECC	Environment and Climate Change Select Committee
ELHF	Establishment Licence Holders Forum
EMS	Extra-Mural Studies
FAO	The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FSA	Food Standards Agency
FST	Foundation for Science and Technology
FVE	Federation of Veterinarians Europe
GAVI	GAVI Vaccine Alliance
GL	Gabrielle Laing
HD	Harriet Davenport

HJ	Hannah Jordan
HoL	House of Lords
IHA	Innate Health Assessment Tool
LSTM	Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine
MP	Member of Parliament
NFU	National Farmers Union
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NOAH	National Office of Animal Health
NTD	Neglected Tropical Disease
NZ	New Zealand
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OV	Official Veterinarian
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
PSTIF	Parliamentary Science and Technology Information Foundation
PVI	Parliamentary Veterinary Intern
QSD	Question for Short Debate
RCVS	Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
REACH	Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals Regulations
RSPCA	Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
SCIF	Schistosomiasis Control Initiative Foundation
SMArt	Safe Medicines for Animals through regulatory training
SoS	Secretary of State
TB	Tuberculosis
UAR	United Against Rabies
UKRI	UK Research and Innovation
VMA	Veterinary Marketing Association
VMD	Veterinary Medicines Directorate
VPHA	Veterinary Public Health Association

INTRODUCTION TO THE VETERINARY POLICY RESEARCH FOUNDATION

To be effective, contributions to House of Lords' business must be well researched and supported by evidence. Peers appointed to the House of Lords are not provided with research assistance nor allowances to employ a researcher. The Veterinary Policy Research Foundation (VPRF) was set up by Lord Trees to provide a legal and financial vehicle which was transparent, subject to good governance and independent of Lord Trees's finances, with the purpose of employing an intern/researcher. It appears to be a novel if not unique initiative in the House of Lords. The Parliamentary Veterinary Intern's output is therefore invaluable, and the impact of Lord Trees's speeches, questions and publications attests to their worth.

Through the activities of Lord Trees in Parliament, the VPRF aims to inform, advise, revise, and perhaps initiate, UK policy and legislation relevant to the veterinary profession.



The VPRF is a not-for-profit company registered with Companies House and is funded entirely by donations. In addition to providing research and administrative support to Lord Trees, it is intended that the internship provides a career development opportunity for vets, as well as providing EMS opportunities for veterinary students.

In October 2024, the Parliamentary Veterinary Internship entered its 12th year. Funding for the internship is gratefully received from seventeen sponsors, and spending is overseen by the Board of Directors. The internship pays over the London Living Wage on a pro-rata basis and runs for one year from October to September with a possibility of a renewal for one further year. The role was most recently advertised in April 2025. Thirty-two candidates applied, of whom eight were interviewed. As a result, Martha Rushbrooke was appointed to start in October 2025 for one year in the first instance.

The work of the VPRF focuses on areas relevant to [Lord Trees's expertise and interests](#), including animal health and welfare; veterinary matters; agriculture, food and rural affairs; higher

education; climate change mitigation in the veterinary industry; international development; professional regulation; science and technology; One Health and tropical medicine.

VPRF AIMS

To support Lord Trees to:

- i) scrutinise, revise, and improve legislation,
- ii) raise awareness and inform discussions amongst Members of Parliament and Peers of issues relating to Lord Trees's registered interests in an objective, evidence-based way through oral and written questions, debates, All-Party Parliamentary Groups, committees and directly contacting Ministers, and
- iii) enhance the profile of the veterinary profession, veterinary science and veterinary industry in Parliament and the public arena.

And to:

- iv) ensure the VPRF website and its communications are available for parliamentarians, stakeholders and the wider public and to produce 'FactFiles' and information on aspects of public and animal health and welfare, veterinary science and related industries better to inform opinion and debate,
- v) document and disseminate the activities of the VPRF,
- vi) provide feedback to the veterinary profession on the development of policy and the importance and means of influencing it, and
- vii) create work experience opportunities and outreach work, to contribute to leadership training and widening participation across all levels of the profession and its related industries.



PARLIAMENTARY VETERINARY INTERNS

Hannah Haque née Jordan	October 2013 – October 2015
Anthony Ridge	October 2015 – October 2017
Gabrielle Laing	October 2017 – October 2019
Catrina Prince	October 2019 – October 2021
Harriet Davenport	October 2021 – October 2023
Fiona Shuttleworth	October 2023 – October 2025*
Martha Rushbrooke	October 2025* - October 2026

The latest intern will be Martha Rushbrooke, who has just graduated from the University of Cambridge. She will attend a two-week handover period alongside Fiona, denoted by the * in the table above.



Picture 1: Celebrating choosing the new intern with drinks on the Lord's terrace. From left, Dr Danny Chambers, Fiona Shuttleworth, Hannah Haque and Lord Trees

Following their internships, the PVIs have gone on to a range of roles, as detailed below:

- **Hannah Haque née Jordan** worked as a Policy Officer for the BVA for two years before becoming Assistant Private Secretary to the Special Advisors of the Defra Secretary of State (Michael Gove) in July 2017. She then worked as Defra Policy Team Lead in Future Farming and Animal Welfare and in September 2020 accepted a job as Strategic Policy Advisor to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (George Eustice MP). After a period

of maternity leave she returned to serve Steve Barclay in that capacity. She has recently joined the FCDO on secondment. She assisted this year's selection of the PVI.

- **Anthony Ridge** joined the civil service in 2017 as a Senior Veterinary Inspector for the Animal and Plant Health Agency. In 2019 he moved to work on international trade and is currently a veterinary advisor for trade facilitation in Defra.
- **Gabrielle Laing** joined SCIF (now Unlimit Health) as their One Health Policy Advisor. Unlimit Health is an international NGO working to end parasitic diseases in humans.
- **Catrina Prince** joined the Veterinary Medicines Directorate as an Antimicrobial Use, Stewardship and Stakeholder Engagement Manager.
- **Harriet Davenport** recently completed a Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care internship at Advanced Vetcare in Melbourne, Australia and now works as a poultry veterinarian and regulatory assistance for Scolexia Pty – a veterinary consultancy business specialising in the intensive livestock sector.

VPRF DIRECTORS

NAME	ORGANISATION	ROLE
Professor the Lord Trees	HoL Crossbenches	Chair
Mr. D Calpin	BVA	Director
Dr. W Harrison	Unlimit Health (formerly SCIF)	Director
Ms. D Howard	NOAH	Director
Ms. E Lockett	RCVS	Director
Mr. B Pound	Independent	Director

THE VETERINARY POLICY RESEARCH FOUNDATION OVERVIEW

Objectives

In order to operate most effectively we are required to respond to new political or professional developments that arise throughout the year. As such, most of our work is reactive and the extent to which we are able to plan the year's activities in detail is limited.

The work of the VPRF aims:

- i. to prepare research briefings and provide administrative support to aid Lord Trees's contributions to parliamentary business
- ii. to raise awareness of, and engagement with, veterinary political issues
- iii. to update social media and outreach within the veterinary community
- iv. to update current, and create new FactFiles and briefings and post them on the VPRF's website
- v. to help support the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW)
- vi. to host and facilitate Parliamentary events on behalf of veterinary organisations and other relevant bodies and interests
- vii. to provide EMS opportunities in veterinary policy for veterinary undergraduates

Current Priorities

In the coming year we will continue to seek opportunities to contribute to parliamentary business on matters relevant to animal health, animal welfare, the veterinary profession and One Health. Current work includes but is not limited to:

- i. veterinary workforce issues
- ii. welfare at slaughter, including fish
- iii. antimicrobial resistance
- iv. the role of livestock in environmental sustainability, biodiversity and climate change
- v. the future of food and farming in the UK, including technological advances
- vi. global health and health security issues including rabies, neglected tropical diseases and pandemic prevention.
- vii. trade, trade agreements including veterinary medicine supply to Northern Ireland and implications for animal health and welfare and the environment
- viii. animal welfare legislation



SPONSORSHIP

Table 1: VPRF's sponsors and their contributions from 2013 to September 2025

Donor	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total Donated
BSAVA	5000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	15,000
BVA	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	44,000
CVS UK Ltd	2500	2500	2500	2500	n/a	n/a	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	22,500
Glasgow Veterinary School	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	1000	1000	n/a	1000	1000	1000	1000	7,000
Goddard Veterinary Group	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	3000	3000	3000	17,000
Hird and Partners Ltd	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	1000	1000	1000	4,000
IVC Evidensia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	20,000
Liverpool Veterinary School	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	500	20,500
Professor the Lord Trees	1000	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	16,000
Medivet	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	27,500
NOAH	5000	5000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	46,000
Nottingham Veterinary School	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	11,000
Pets at Home Group	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	35,000
RCVS	10000	10000	10000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	94,000
Royal Veterinary College	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	17,000
Vet Partners	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	11,000
XL Vets Ltd	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	1000	1000	1000	2000	2000	2000	10,000
Total received (£)	36,000	32,500	31,500	30,500	34,000	35,000	41,500	43,500	46,500	46,500	45,000	417,500

Lord Trees would like to express his gratitude to all of our sponsors and directors who have made the Veterinary Policy Research Foundation and the Parliamentary Veterinary Internship possible. Since the initial launch of VPRF we have not solicited further sponsors but are delighted to say that others have made kind offers to join as sponsors. These include the BSAVA in 2013, XL Vets and Pets at Home in 2017, IVC Evidensia in 2020 and Hird and Partners in 2021. We are also very grateful for CVS UK Ltd recommitting their sponsorship in 2020, and for Goddard Veterinary Group and XL Vets for increasing their sponsorship in 2021/22. In addition, Lord Trees would like to thank Douglas and Pippa Hutchison for their very kind and generous contribution to publish this year's Annual Report.



Picture 2: Photo of Lord Trees, Fiona Shuttleworth and all the sponsors who attended the VPRF's 2024 annual dinner.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

ATTENDANCE

October 2024 was the beginning of Lord Trees's twelfth year in the House of Lords and the start of the eleventh year of the Internship. Lord Trees usually attends Parliament from Tuesday to Thursday when the House is sitting (the House does not normally sit on Friday).

AJT attended: 79/142 (56%) possible attendances from October 2012-2013
 76/139 (55%) possible attendances from October 2013-2014
 73/136 (54%) possible attendances from October 2014-2015*
 75/146 (51%) possible attendances from October 2015- 2016
 48/100 (48%) possible attendances from October 2016-2017*
 86/160 (54%) possible attendances from October 2017-2018
 98/151 (65%) possible attendances from October 2018- July 2019
 81/124 (65%) possible attendances from October 2019 – July 2020*
 58/149 (39%)¹ possible attendances from October 2020 – September 2021
 93/153 (61%) possible attendances from October 2021 – September 2022
 95/153 (62%) possible attendances from October 2022 – September 2023
 81/134 (60%) possible attendances from October 2023 – September 2024*
 112/161(70%) possible attendances from October 2024 – September 2025

PVI attended: 103 working days over 39 weeks from October 2013 - 2014 (HJ)
 102 working days over 31 weeks from October 2014 - 2015 (HJ)*
 117 working days over 37 weeks from October 2015 - 2016² (AR)
 116 working days over 35 weeks from October 2016 - 2017 (AR)*
 135 working days over 38 weeks from October 2017 - 2018 (GL)
 142 working days over 37 weeks from October 2018 - July 2018 (GL)
 120 working days over 30 weeks from October 2019 - July 2020 (CP)*
 151 working days over 38 weeks from October 2020 - 2021 (CP)
 135 working days over 35 weeks from October 2021 - 2022 (HD)
 137 working days over 36 weeks from October 2022 – July 2023 (HD)
 108 working days over 33 weeks from October 2023 – September 2024 (FS)*
 142 working days over 36 weeks from October 2024 – September 2025 (FS)

¹ This appears low as during COVID attendance was registered only for debate contributions, but PVI and AJT continued to work online.

² PVI working week changed from three to four days per week in May 2016.

* Election year

HOUSE OF LORDS BUSINESS

There are several ways in which a member of the House of Lords can exert influence on government and legislation. These include speaking in debates; initiating debates; tabling written questions; asking oral questions and participating in committee business. In addition, there are informal means of influence such as private meetings with Ministers, participating in All-Party Parliamentary Groups, writing articles in appropriate publications, and writing letters to Ministers. Parliamentary bills pass through five stages – 1st and 2nd reading, Committee stage, Report stage and 3rd reading before they are granted Royal Assent by the King. Debates fall into three main types: debates on government legislation, Questions for Short Debate (QSDs) and debates on Select Committee reports. Only QSDs can be initiated by individual Peers. In addition, secondary legislation (Statutory Instruments) are subject to debate but are not amendable or put to a vote. At the start of each day in the House of Lords there are four Oral Questions, submitted by Peers a month in advance, on various topics. These questions are used to hold the government to account and for a ten-minute period Peers have the opportunity to stand up and contribute short supplementary questions on the topic, should they so wish. Below is a summary list of Lord Trees's parliamentary contributions to the chamber but see Appendix I for the full list of Lord Trees's and the PVI's other meetings, events, and non-parliamentary roles this year.

Lord Trees's Parliamentary Business - Direct Contributions to the Chamber and Written Questions (Oct 2024 – Sep 2025)

DATE	CATEGORY	DETAILS
05/11/2024	Statutory Instrument Speech	Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Enforcement Regulations 2024
05/11/2024	Statutory Instrument Speech	The Ivory Act 2018 (Meaning of 'Ivory' and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2024
26/11/2024	Supplementary Oral Question	Solar Farms and Food Production
12/12/2024	Supplementary Oral Question	Avian Influenza, Bluetongue and bTB outbreaks and the resource of the APHA
16/12/2024	Supplementary Oral Question	Domestic animal welfare - brachycephaly
04/02/2025	Second Reading	Renters Rights Bill - Pets and Insurance
12/02/2025	Supplementary Oral Question	Solar Farms and Food Security
28/04/2025	Supplementary Oral Question	Land-use Framework
06/05/2025	Supplementary Oral Question	Import of Electricity
06/05/2025	Committee Stage	Renters Rights Bill - Pets and Insurance
06/05/2025	Grand Committee	Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Regulations 2025

13/05/2025	Grand Committee	Debate on the House of Lords Select Committee on Environment and Climate Change Report on Methane
03/06/2025	Supplementary Oral Question	Trade and GHG emissions
18/06/2025	Supplementary Oral Question	GAVI Vaccine Alliance Replenishment
07/07/2025	Third Reading	Renters Rights Bill - Pet Deposit
08/07/2025	Supplementary Oral Question	Procurement of Goods and Deforestation
05/09/2025	Second Reading	Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill
05/09/2025	Second Reading	Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Bill
17/09/2025	Supplementary Oral Question	Deforestation caused by beef importation

Lord Trees's Parliamentary Business – Significant Parliamentary Meetings and Correspondence (Oct 2024 – Sep 2025)

DATE	CATEGORY	DETAILS
09/10/2024	Letter	Support of ad-hoc Select Committee on the Agriculture Act 2020
10/10/2024	Letter	To Andrew Mitchell MP re Officer role on the APPG Malaria and NTDs
29/10/2024	Letter	To George Freeman MP re Officer role on the APPG Malaria and NTDs
05/11/2024	Meeting	Danny Chambers MP - Electric Shock Collars, Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets Bill
13/11/2024	Meeting	Baroness Young of Old Scone and Lord Curry - RVC President Candidates
19/11/2024	Meeting	Baroness Bennett and bTB stakeholders
21/11/2024	Meeting	Cabinet Office Working Group - Veterinary Medicines in Northern Ireland
23/11/2024	Letter	To FCDO Minister Anneliese Dodds MP to invite to be a speaker at the WHO World Malaria Report reception and the World NTD Day reception
23/11/2024	Letter	To FCDO Minister Lord Collins on behalf of the APPG Malaria and NTDs
23/11/2024	Letter	To FCDO Minister Catherine West MP re the APPG Malaria and NTDs
11/12/2024	Letter	To Minister of State (Science) Lord Patrick Vallance re the APPG Malaria and NTDs
10/12/2024	Meeting	Danny Chambers MP, Neil Hudson MP and members of the British Poultry Council re impact of veterinary issues in Parliament
06/01/2025	Letter	To Defra Minister Daniel Ziechner on the implementation of the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act
08/01/2025	Written Question	To Defra Minister Baroness Hayman on the implementation of the SI relevant for the Genetic Technology (Precision Breeding) Act
14/01/2025	Meeting	Baroness Hayman about pressing animal welfare issues of the current Government
23/01/2025	Letter	To Baroness Hayman on the urgent need for veterinary legislative reform
06/02/2025	Letter	To Dr Anthony Solomon, Dr Sahar Bakhiet, Dan Izzett, Mulkiat Okanlawon and Dr Wendy Harrison thanking them for their contribution to World NTD Event in the River Room
11/02/2025	Letter	To Prime Minister (Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer), FCDO Minister Dodds and Foreign Secretary Rt Hon David Lammy - Global Fund Replenishment
11/02/2025	Letter	To Prime Minister (Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer), FCDO Minister Dodds and Foreign Secretary Rt Hon David Lammy - GAVI Replenishment
24/02/2025	Meeting	Lord Kinnoull + Lead Civil Servants - Renters Rights Bill, pet provisions

25/02/2025	Meeting	Minister Daniel Zeichner, Gideon Henderson, AJ Coulter - Bovine tuberculosis control policy and veterinary legislative reform
03/03/2025	Letter	Letter Sir Charles Godfray Government bTB policy re-review
04/03/2025	Meeting	Cabinet Office Working Group - Veterinary Medicines in Northern Ireland
05/03/2025	Letter	Welcome letter FCDO Minister Chapman on behalf of APPG Malaria and NTDs
12/03/2025	Meeting	APGAW meeting with Minister Baroness Hayman
20/03/2025	Letter	Minister Hayman on Sheep Scab as an urgent animal welfare issue
28/04/2025	Meeting	Earl of Kinnoull and Renters Rights Bill
14/05/2025	Meeting	Minister of Health Botswana, Dr Lauren Sullivan, APPG Malaria and NTDs
10/06/2025	Meeting	Cabinet Office Working Group - Veterinary Medicines in Northern Ireland
10/06/2025	Meeting	Minister Baroness Hayman on Sheep Scab alongside Lesley Stubbings, Phil Stocker, Rachel Mallet and Jill Hewitt
17/06/2025	Meeting	Minister Baroness Chapman with APPG SDGs and MNTDs on results of aids cuts
25/06/2025	Meeting	Minister Hayman on Animal Welfare Enforcement, APGAW meeting
15/07/2025	Meeting	Baroness Fookes and Baroness Hodgson on Non-stun Slaughter
16/07/2025	Meeting	Minister Baroness Hayman on the puppy smuggling bill
17/07/2025	Meeting	Lord Lindsay on Non-stun Slaughter
17/07/2025	Letter	Minister Baroness Hayman on APPG on UK Food Security visit to Dover Port
02/09/2025	Meeting	Dr Danny Chambers MP on Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill
03/09/2025	Briefing	Minister Hayman and other Peers on Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill

Committees in the House of Lords investigate policy recommendations, proposed laws and the activity of the government for a specific policy area. They consist of a small group of appointed peers who meet regularly in both private and public meetings to investigate and produce a report on a particular topic. Lord Trees currently serves on the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Select Committee and has contributed to two full report publications, the first in December 2024 titled '*Methane: keep up the momentum*' and the second in July 2025 titled '*Nitrogen: time to reduce, recycle, reuse*'. The Committee are currently taking evidence for a mini-inquiry on illegal waste disposal.

Lord Trees's Parliamentary Business – Select Committee Meetings Attended (Oct 2024 – Sep 2025)

DATE	CATEGORY	DETAILS
04/09/2024	Environment and Climate Change	Every Wednesday ongoing
27/11/2024	Environment and Climate Change	Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Defra, evidence session

21/01/2025	Environment and Climate Change	Ed Miliband, Secretary of State for DESNZ evidence session
30/04/2025	Environment and Climate Change	Holland Field Trip
22/05/2025	Environment and Climate Change	Steve Reed, Secretary of State for Defra, evidence session

PUBLICATIONS AND EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES

Publications

In 2024/2025, both Fiona and Lord Trees have submitted articles and publications in the Vet Record and In Practice. Links to these articles can be found below:

Vet Record

- **Expectations from a New Government** – Veterinary Record, Volume 195, Issue 1, Published October 2024
- **Good Things Come in Threes!** – Veterinary Record, Volume 195, Issue 9, Published November 2024
- **Winds of Change in Westminster** – Veterinary Record, Volume 195, Issue 12, Published December 2024
- **Renters' Rights Bill** – The Hidden Issue of Pets – Veterinary Record, Volume 196, Issue 8, published in April 2025
- **Goodbye to the Kept Animals Bill** – Veterinary Record, Volume 196, Issue 12, published 20th June 2025

In Practice

- **Methane and Net Zero Part I - An Introduction to Net Zero, Methane, Metrics and Ruminants** – In Practice, August 2025
- **Methane and Net Zero Part II - A Review of Ruminant Methane Mitigation Strategies and their Contextualisation** – In Practice, coming soon!



Veterinary EMS

The fourth year of our Policy EMS stream jointly run with the RCVS, which gives students a one week placement to give an insight into the role that vets play in policy and leadership positions, was met with positive feedback. Students who undertook placement in 2023-2024 were:

- **Faynowsh Ghani**, Royal Veterinary College – December 2025
- **Joseph Marriott**, Royal Veterinary College – March 2025 (rearranged from January due to illness)
- **Phoebe Sussmann**, University of Bristol – May 2025
- **Ryan Lee**, University of Edinburgh – July 2025

Occasionally, the VPRF takes vets and students for work experience outside this scheme.

Participants this year were as follows:

- **Martha Rushbrooke**, University of Cambridge – November 2024



Picture 3: From left, Lord Trees, Jamila Gordon from Lumachain, Fiona Shuttleworth and Joseph Marriott (EMS student) at the Meat Business Women Parliamentary Event.

SUMMARY OF KEY OUTCOMES IN 2024-2025

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

In August 2024 the Government announced a desire for a '*significant step change in approach*' to bovine tuberculosis (bTB) control in the UK and commissioned a second review by Sir Charles Godfray. For a long time, we have been meeting with leading livestock veterinarian Dick Sibley to discuss approaches which he has implemented at Gatcombe farm Devon (a bTB hotspot) which focus on reducing cow-to-cow transmission. Subsequently, we made a submission to the new Godfray review and lobbied Minister Zeichner to visit Gatcombe farm in July. We look forward to Government support for a new and more successful approach to bTB control. See more on page 44 *et seq.*

NEW VETERINARY LEGISLATION

We have been supportive of the RCVS and the BVA to engage the new government in prioritising veterinary legislative reform. Amongst other things, we sponsored a roundtable event in Westminster in December 2024 led by Pets at Home Group and we wrote to Minister Hayman on the matter. All the collective efforts from the veterinary community appear to be bearing fruit with Defra now actively working with the RCVS on new legislation which may be included within the third King's speech (2027-28). See more on page 53 *et seq.*

THE END TO LEAD SHOT

For many years, Lord Trees has campaigned in Parliament to end to the use of lead shot in game shooting through the work of the APPG on Lead shot. The APPG did not reform after the general election, but its efforts were not fruitless. In July, the Government announced they will be implementing a ban on lead-based pellets and bullets for almost all uses – improving both animal health and environmental contamination. See more on page 33 *et seq.*

VPRF'S VET INDUSTRY PROJECT

As you are all aware we have commissioned BiGGAR Economics to assess the economic contribution of the veterinary sector in terms of Gross Value Added to the UK economy, the number of people employed in the sector and wellbeing benefits. We are due to receive the final

report in October which we will make freely available to highlight the significant contribution of our relatively small sector to the UK economy. See more on page 50 *et seq.*

KEPT ANIMALS BILL COMPLETION

The end of this parliamentary session will hopefully result in the passing of the final components of the Kept Animals Bill – two Private Members Bills, one on livestock worrying and one on puppy smuggling. Lord Trees is sponsoring the puppy smuggling component through the Lords which cleared 2nd reading on the 5th September with full support and unanimity that no amendments shall be brought to imperil its passage. We hope it will become law before the end of the parliamentary session. See more on page 33 *et seq.*

METHANE PAPERS

In spite of the huge importance of climate change, and within this methane emissions from ruminants, there is a remarkable lack of involvement of the veterinary profession. To address this, we have produced two papers published in *In Practice* in summer and autumn 2025. The articles aim to help veterinarians understand the climate impacts of, and the methane mitigation methods available within, agriculture. Given the role of vets in herd health management and their crucial relationship with farmers, understanding the role of ruminants in global warming and the mitigation tools which can be implemented on farm will help farmers reduce emissions whilst providing possible financial, animal health and welfare benefits, and help safeguard UK food security. See more on page 40 *et seq.*

GAVI REPLENISHMENT

GAVI, the Vaccine Alliance, is a public-private global health partnership with the goal of increasing access to human immunization in developing countries. Its funding was subject to renewed international donations this year and working through the APPMG we have actively lobbied the Government, which had already severely cut Overseas Development Assistance, to maintain a strong contribution to the fund. We were pleased when in June 2025, the Government pledged £1.25 billion to the fund, which was only slightly less than the previous contribution. Working with United Against Rabies forum of WHO/WOAH/FAO we had previously successfully lobbied for GAVI to fund rabies human post-exposure vaccine in eligible countries. See more on page 32 *et seq.*

SALMON SLAUGHTER

Aquaculture, particularly salmon farming, has come in for considerable criticism both for environmental and animal welfare reasons, and has been a subject of interest for APGAW. After focusing on fish welfare at slaughter we are pleased to see that the Scottish Government, working alongside Salmon Scotland and the Government's Chief Vets office, have published statutory guidance for the humane slaughter of farmed salmon. Although not mandatory, with this guidance humane stunning and slaughter of farmed salmon is arguably as good, if not better, than systems we have in place for terrestrial animals.

EXTREME CANINE CONFORMATION AND THE INNATE HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOL

The Innate Health Assessment (IHA) tool has been developed and recently launched by the Brachycephalic Working Group, APGAW, Dan O'Neill from the RVC and others, to address the serious health issues caused by extreme breed conformations. The voluntary assessment tool will allow breeders as well as enforcement officers to select healthier animals for breeding in order to return extreme phenotypic characteristics back to more healthy conformations. See more on page 24 *et seq.*

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

APPG for Animal Welfare

Lord Trees has served as co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) since July 2017. In October 2024, he was joined in the role by Dr Neil Hudson MP, a fellow veterinary surgeon. APGAW prides itself on transparency, evidence and actionable results, and meets regularly to discuss key animal welfare issues. Over the past year, APGAW has continued work on canine conformation-related health issues, enforcement of welfare legislation and the impacts of intensification in animal agriculture.



Following the general election, all APPG's were disbanded and had to be reconstituted. At APGAW's inaugural meeting in October 2024, Lord Trees was formally re-elected as co-chair alongside the newly elected Dr Neil Hudson MP. The other two officers include the newly elected Liberal Democrat, Danny Chambers MP, who is the third vet in Parliament, and Johanna Baxter MP, a Scottish Labour MP.



Picture 4: The three vets in Parliament. From Left, Dr Danny Chambers, Lord Trees, Dr Neil Hudson.

Despite the Labour Party's manifesto making no pledges to animal welfare, the new Government has consistently responded to oral and written questions about animal welfare with the commitment to '*introduce the biggest boost in animal welfare for a generation*'. Taking into account this commitment, and given that the new Minister for animal welfare, Baroness Hayman of Ullock sits in the House of Lords, Lord Trees personally invited her to address APGAW in March. The meeting was well attended by a diverse group of stakeholders and allowed the Minister to outline the Government's animal welfare agenda and hear first-hand the sector's most urgent concerns. Topics discussed included the welfare at slaughter (both terrestrial and aquatic species), extreme canine conformations, illegal puppy imports, the disposal of spent sheep dip and the challenges in enforcement of animal welfare legislation. The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to avoiding the introduction of superficial or 'virtue signalling' animal welfare legislation, instead prioritising evidence-based policy interventions. To support this aim, the Government has established a series of specialised task groups focussing on distinct sectors, such as companion and farm animals, with the goal of facilitating open dialogue between stakeholders and policymakers to identify priority areas for the improvement of animal welfare.

Extreme conformation of dog breeds leading to chronic ill health problems has been a major concern of APGAW and the VPRF (see the FactFile on our website). This parliamentary session saw the release of two relevant reports on the extreme breeding of dogs, commissioned by the Government. The first report was Defra's post implementation review of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 (LAIA), published in January 2025. While the review acknowledges improvements since the legislation's introduction, it highlighted several areas for improvement, including:

- a lack of regulatory oversight of practices outside the scope of the regulations, such as canine fertility clinics,
- poor enforcement of Schedule 6, Condition 6; '*no dog may be kept for breeding if it can be reasonably expected, on the basis of its genotype, phenotype or state of health that breeding from it could have detrimental effect on its health or welfare or the health or welfare of its offspring*'
- variable but generally inadequate resources for local authorities to manage the licensing burden.

Recommendations included introducing 'fitness-to-breed' certification and increasing the administrative capacity within local councils to cope with the administrative burden of licensing.

As part of this process, Defra commissioned the Animal Welfare Committee (AWC) to undertake a broader review of canine breeding practices. The AWC's report highlighted that current penalties are too low to act as a deterrent for those carrying out poor-welfare breeding practices and that existing laws offer insufficient protection against the hereditary health conditions passed onto offspring.

'...progeny are insufficiently protected from avoidable hereditary health and welfare conditions by current legislation. This is due both to the limited scope of national animal activity licensing regulations and to the inadequate enforcement of those regulations...'

*Animal Welfare Committee Opinion on the welfare implication of specialised canine reproductive practices
December 2024*

The Innate Health Assessment (IHA) tool, developed by the Brachycephalic Working Group, chaired by Dr Dan O'Neill from the RVC, which has been developed to address these issues, has undergone further development and refinement. The IHA assesses an animal's ability to perform typical activities needed for its wellbeing of which all animals, regardless of breed, should be capable. The tool is designed to shift canine breeding practices toward healthy norms and reassure prospective pet owners that their future pet's welfare has not been compromised by its conformation and poor breeding. The second IHA pilot took place at Battersea Dogs and Cats home in February 2025, with active participation from NGO's, academics and Defra officials. A subsequent APGAW roundtable in July 2025, chaired by Lord Trees, offered stakeholders an update on the tool's progress and its potential application to improve breeding standards and facilitate enforcement under LAIA Schedule 6.

'My Lords, we are undoubtedly a nation of animal lovers, but some of the UK's major animal welfare issues are in plain sight and affect some of our most popular pets. I refer to extreme conformations..., but particularly to the problem of flat-nosed dogs – so called brachycephalic breeds – which suffer or are highly predisposed to ill health virtually all their life, with breathing, whelping, ocular and skin difficulties, and reduced lifespan. Legislation exists to deter the breeding of such animals, should that lead to a detriment to the health and welfare of the bitch or her offspring. Why has there not been a single prosecution under legislation, given that this is a serious welfare issue?'

*Lord Trees, Monday 16th December 2024
Oral Question*



Picture 5: APGAW Meeting on IHA in July 2025, from left Ryan Lee (EMS), Vanessa Barnes (APGAW secretariat), Dan O'Neill (Lead Veterinarian on IHA), Lord Trees, Marisa Heath (APGAW Secretariat), Fiona Shuttleworth and Neil Hudson MP

Enforcement of animal welfare legislation remains a key priority for APGAW. Without effective enforcement, even the best legislation cannot deliver improvements. Following the publication of two new reports of animal welfare enforcement, one from the Animal Sentience Committee and the other from the Animal Law Foundation, and building on APGAW's 2019 report, a roundtable was held and attended by Minister Hayman in June 2025. The meeting brought together animal welfare charities (including FOUR PAWS and the RSPCA), local authorities, Defra officials and the BVA. Local authorities outlined the challenges they face, including underfunding and lack of specialised animal welfare training for complex welfare cases. Relocating animals while court hearings are pending can cost over £100,000 and take several years, with the eventual sentences often failing to match the severity of the offence, for example, just a two-year suspended licence after which reoffending is likely. Three key requests were made to the Minister:

1. that enforcement be placed front and centre in Defra's upcoming Animal Welfare Strategy,
2. the formation of a small, focused task group to identify priority areas and potential legislative changes,
3. a review of LAIA to improve enforceability and application, including consideration of registration systems to enable easier enforcement.

Another important strand of APGAW's work this year has been focused on animal welfare in the context of intensification, particularly in broiler chicken production. A roundtable was held early

in the year to explore this issue, with attendants including poultry vets, representatives from the British Poultry Council, NGOs such as Compassion in World Farming, and parliamentarians. Chicken meat is one of the most affordable and accessible protein sources in the UK. However, there are concerns about the welfare of broiler chickens in more intensive systems. The meeting sought to take a balanced, evidence-based approach to the concerns within the industry. While input measures i.e., stocking density, are commonly used as welfare indicators, with UK legislation stipulating minimum requirements, they do not always correlate with welfare outcomes, which are largely determined by management practices which vary across farms of any size. Like most production animal welfare issues, there is potential trade-off between animal welfare and economic viability as margins tend to be small. However, larger farms do not inherently mean poorer welfare and there are negative animal welfare connotations with certain language such as 'intensive farming' and 'factory farming' which may not be accurate. Farmers have strong incentives to maintain healthy animals, as poor health directly impacts productivity and thus income. Labelling has been suggested as a possible solution to allow consumer choice over the welfare of animal produce they buy. Consumer demand has driven widespread adoption of free-range egg production, aided by clear and easy-to-understand labelling. However, labelling for chicken meat is more complex and it is more difficult for the public to understand what 'slower growing' and 'increased space' means for animal welfare as well as the cost of the chicken they buy. Encouragingly, some supermarkets are beginning to label meat as 'better welfare' and are voluntarily adopting lower stocking densities.

APPG for Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases



**Malaria & Neglected
Tropical Diseases**

In 2024, Lord Trees was re-appointed as co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (APPMG), a forum dedicated to addressing the challenges and advancing solutions in the fight against malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). Following the general election, previous co-chair Catherine West MP transitioned to a Ministerial role at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, with Dr Lauren Sullivan MP, Labour MP for Gravesham in Kent, succeeding her as co-chair.

The APPMG brings together parliamentarians, academics and sector professionals to discuss these pressing issues which disproportionately affect some of the world's most vulnerable

populations and have devastating impacts globally. In an increasingly unstable world – facing the existential threat of climate change, heightened geopolitical volatility and major reductions in aid from major donors, such as the US – the significant progress in combating malaria and NTDs is under threat. NTDs are a group of 21 diseases, some of which are zoonotic, which affect over 1.65 billion people in the most impoverished communities in the world. These conditions lead to significant suffering, often life-long disability and disfigurement, and even death. Remarkable progress has been made against NTDs, as of 2024, 54 countries have eliminated at least one NTD and 843 million people received treatment for an NTD in 2022, in many cases receiving repurposed veterinary antiparasitic drugs. Despite malaria being an entirely preventable and treatable disease, a child dies every minute from contracting malaria – a disease which disproportionately affects children and pregnant women. It places undue burden on developing countries healthcare systems – accounting for up to 40% of hospital admissions in some regions. However, UK research and development has been critical in the fight against malaria – with two vaccines now developed under British scientists – as well as aiding the development of novel diagnostics and treatments.

These so-called ‘tropical’ diseases are no longer confined to tropical regions. Climate change has expanded the range of disease vectors into more northern latitudes, as seen in 2023 with three autochthonous cases of dengue fever, transmitted by *Aedes aegypti*, near Paris. Additionally, the speed and interconnectedness of global travel enables infectious diseases to spread vast distances before symptoms emerge. Continued investment and raised awareness of malaria and NTDs are essential not only for controlling these diseases in endemically infected countries, but also for preventing their establishment in new regions as vector habitats and human movement expand. Over the past year, the APPG has continued to raise awareness of malaria and NTDs within Parliament, while emphasising the economic return on UK aid investments, relevant given the further reduction of the UK official development assistance (ODA) budget from 0.5% to 0.3% of GDP.

On January 30th, World NTD Day, the APPG for Malaria and NTDs held a parliamentary reception sponsored by Lord Trees. The event brought together various stakeholders, including MPs, academics, journalists, global health organisations and industry representatives and aimed to raise the profile of NTDs amongst parliamentarians. Key speeches were given by the then Minister for Development, Anneliese Dodds MP, Dr Sahar Bahkiet an academic in Sudan on mycetoma and

Dr Anthony Solomon, Chief Scientific Officer at the World Health Organisation. There were powerful speeches given by Mulikat Okanlawon, a noma survivor and advocate who currently works as a health promotion officer at the Noma Hospital in Nigeria and named as one of TIMES top 100 individuals most influential in global health last year, and Dan Izzet, sharing his experience of contracting leprosy and advocating for others affected by the disease. The event called on UK policy makers to champion the adoption of strategies and increase funding to continue the fight to eliminate NTDs which disproportionately affect developing countries and marginalised communities.



Picture 6: Lord Trees pictured with Mulikat Okanlawon, noma survivor and advocate who gave a speech at the event.

Straight after the event in the Lords, Lord Trees hopped on his usual flight to Edinburgh to attend the *Amplifying Affected Voices: Neglected Tropical Diseases* event, hosted by Uniting to Combat NTDs, The Royal Society of Edinburgh and the University of Edinburgh in commemoration of World NTD day. The theme of the day was ‘*Unite. Act. Eliminate.*’ and the event featured powerful portraits of people affected by NTDs in Zimbabwe. Delegates from around the world attended, including Dr Isatou Touray, former Vice President of Gambia and key academics from the University of Edinburgh. During the event, Lord Trees delivered a pre-dinner speech on his work with onchocerciasis (African River Blindness) and the devastating impacts of NTDs for the poorest communities in the world.



Picture 7: Lord Trees with delegates from around the world at the World NTD Event in Edinburgh

A similar event was held in Parliament, hosted by Malaria no More and sponsored by the APPMG, in April 2025 to commemorate World Malaria Day 2025. The event shone a light on the incredible partnerships which have been established over the last few decades between UK and African Governments, science and research institutions, healthcare workers and affected communities, as they work tirelessly to end one of the world's oldest and deadliest diseases. UK innovation through improved diagnostics, vaccinations and gene-drive technology enables healthcare workers in endemically infected countries to save more lives – reducing disease burden and driving economic growth, both in Africa and in the UK. The event heard from a range of speakers, including the new Minister for Development, Baroness Chapman, Botswana's High Commissioner, a healthcare worker with experience of malaria and representatives from the Global Fund and Gavi.



Picture 8: Lord Trees pictured with the new Minister for Development, Baroness Chapman

In May 2024 the APPG hosted a meeting in Parliament to discuss recent research done by the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and Impact Global Health showing the return on investment to the UK economy generated by UK aid. The event raised awareness of the benefits of UK aid ahead of the upcoming Spending Review and budget decisions around ODA. The research revealed that by 2024, the £3 billion of global health R&D funding invested by the United Kingdom since 1994 will have saved 1.43 million lives and prevented 183 million cases of disease. Sustained investment has the potential to generate a global societal return of £1.39 trillion, with nearly £7.7 billion of additional economic activity in the UK alone, catalysing more than £4.8 billion of private sector investment in R&D and creating nearly 4,000 UK jobs. This represents an outstanding success story for the UK, but these economic, scientific and health benefits depend on continued funding commitments from the UK government. Recently announced cuts put these gains at risk, and there is evidence that products in late-stage trials which do not reach the market because of funding cuts could result in over 113,000 lives lost, 3.8 million DALYs and 132,000 more cases than otherwise would have occurred. The meeting was an opportunity to speak to the authors of the report about their experiences of working at the forefront of global health R&D and the risks to both UK health security and economic growth if funding is not sustained. A narrative change from 'aid' to 'investment' might help improve public image of this necessary expenditure as it protects the UK's future health, provides jobs and has huge ramifications for global health.



Picture 9: Lord Trees pictured with (from Left to Right) Dr Danny Chambers MP, Lord Oates, Professor David Lalloo (LSTM), Dr Céline Aerts (Impact Global Health) and an MP.

This year saw the replenishment of the Gavi Vaccine Alliance and the Global Fund – two major international health initiatives focused on combating disease and improving health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries. These operations are hugely important for disease eradication programmes and rely on regular replenishments to sustain their operations and achieve disease elimination. In June 2025, the VPRF were pleased to hear that the UK contribution to the GAVI alliance replenishment was substantial, totalling £1.25 billion, especially in light of USA funding cuts.

'My Lords, nearly every minute a child dies from malaria somewhere in the world. That death toll is easily remedied by the application of vaccination – vaccines which we have partially produced in the UK in our industries, research institutes and academia, and which have been partially subsidised in their application to the population of need by Gavi. Apart from that huge humanitarian gain, have His Majesty's Government estimated that positive economic impact that a successful Gavi replenishment, which is due very shortly, can have on the investment in and growth of our biomedical and pharmaceutical industries?'

*Lord Trees, Tuesday 17th June 2025
Oral Question*

Each year, the APPG hosts students from the University of Oxford International Health and Tropical Medicine MSc to give briefings to parliamentarians on topics of political relevance. Lord Trees and Fiona were delighted to attend this year's presentations and heard impressive policy briefings covering topics such as One Health, pandemic preparedness and the strengthening health systems.



Picture 10: Lord Trees pictured with Oxford University Masters students.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

THE END OF LEAD SHOT

For many years, Lord Trees has served on the APPG for Lead shot and campaigned in Parliament to end to the use of lead shot – a true One Health issue, given its environmental, animal and human health impacts. In December 2024, the Health and Safety Executive released a report recommending that lead ammunition should be phased out over five years. So, we were therefore pleased when in July 2025, Environment Minister Emma Hardy announced the end of lead-based pellets >1% and bullets >3% for almost all uses. Lead ammunition has long been recognised as a significant pollutant and particular threat to wildlife, especially waterbirds which are affected by contaminated field run-off and raptors which ingest the toxin after consuming lead-shot carrion. Despite numerous voluntary campaigns to reduce the use of lead shot in shooting, progress has been minimal, with a 2022 report finding that 99.5% of pheasants were shot using lead pellets. The new rules aim to protect iconic British species, such as red kites and white-tailed eagles, and contribute to cleaner waterways nationwide. It is currently estimated that nearly 7,000 tonnes of lead is released into fields, forests and wetlands each year – with residues from shooting being a major source of this contamination. It has been estimated that up to 100,000 wildfowl die from lead poisoning each year, with birds confusing the shattered shot for grit and consuming it. A three-year transition period will support shooting and hunting sectors to shift to more environmentally and public health friendly alternatives, such as steel or tungsten-based shot. Exemptions will apply for military and police usage, elite athletes, outdoor target shooting ranges with risk management measures in place, and museum collections amongst others.

ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION

This year marked the long-anticipated end of the legislative components of the Kept Animals Bill. Originally introduced in 2022, the bill included a wide range of animal welfare measures but was withdrawn by the Government of the day in May 2023 due to concerns that its ‘multi-issue nature’ risked political ‘scope-creep’ through contentious amendments. At the time, the Government committed to introducing the provisions within the bill as separate pieces of legislation – a pledge the new Labour Government appears determined to uphold. Key progress has already been made with updated zoo practice standards guidance, published in April 2025, and the two final pieces of legislation entered into the House of Lords from the Commons before summer recess.

One of the measures, the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Bill, updates Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1951 to reflect modern issues. Since the Act came into force, the number of livestock in the UK has nearly doubled, as has dog ownership and recreational countryside visits with pet dogs. Sadly, these trends have contributed to an estimated 34,000 incidences of livestock worrying annually in England and Wales. These attacks often cause serious distress, injury, or death to animals and lead to significant financial and emotional impacts on farmers. The National Sheep Association estimates that the average annual cost of such incidents to individual farms exceeds £1,500. The new bill addresses long-standing gaps in the previous Act to improve animal welfare and its enforcement. It expands police powers, enabling collection of samples for DNA analysis, including hair and saliva, as well as collecting paw and bite impressions from suspect dogs, and detaining dogs to prevent reoffending. It also widens the definition of livestock to include camelids and extends protection to paths and roads – areas where animals are particularly vulnerable while being moved between fields.

The final component, the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill, is a Government-backed Private Members Bill, introduced in the Commons by veterinarian Dr Danny Chambers MP and sponsored by Lord Trees in the Lords. It aims to tighten the rules for the non-commercial import of pets to deter unscrupulous pet traders who exploit current import requirements to avoid the stricter health and welfare controls required for commercial imports. To combat this, the bill limits non-commercial imports to five animals per vehicle (rather than per person) and introduces bans on importing:

- pregnant animals over 42 days gestation,
- puppies and kittens under 6 months old, and
- animals with mutilations banned in the UK.

These reforms are badly needed. Despite ear cropping being illegal in the UK for over 15 years, the RSPCA has recorded a 2,000% increase in reports over the past decade – likely driven by imported animals. Similarly, PDSA's 2024 Animal Wellbeing Report revealed that 4% of cat owners purchased their cat from abroad specifically to enable declawing, a practice banned in the UK.

However, enforcing some aspects of the bill may present challenges. For instance, tail docking,



Picture 11: Advertisement of the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs Cats and Ferrets) Bill in Westminster underground tube station

considered a mutilation when carried out after five days of age without veterinary justification, can be medically necessary. Clear guidance and secondary legislation for exemptions will be essential to ensure that legitimate cases can still be imported under the new legislation.

Both bills were first included in the previous government Kept Animals Bill, which fell in 2023 due to 'scope creep'. Later attempts to reintroduce them as Government-backed Private Members' Bills also failed when Parliament was dissolved before the general election. This is the third attempt to pass these important measures. If successful, they would close long-exploited loopholes and provide practical tools to enforce welfare, further strengthening the UK's already high animal welfare standards. Given the limited parliamentary time before the end of the session, it is vital that both bills pass unamended to make them third time lucky!

This year also saw Lord Trees support legislation with seemingly little veterinary interest – the Renters Rights Bill - but which has significant implications for pet ownership in the UK. Amongst other things, this bill strengthens tenants right to keep pets in privately rented accommodation, allowing landlords to refuse such a request only on 'reasonable grounds'. This is a significant departure from current legislation which allows landlords to ban pets outright from their property without reason. The original bill made a provision to permit landlords to request insurance to cover pet-related damage, which often goes beyond physical damage, for example, pet allergen contamination or flea infestations, and may have considerable economic costs for landlords.



Picture 12: Lord Trees in action at the Report Stage of the Renters Rights Bill, 7th July 2025

However, given concerns whether an appropriate insurance market exists to cover such damage and as a result of amendments supported by Lord Trees at Committee Stage, the Government dropped this aspect of the bill. If enacted, it would have enabled landlords to legally refuse a tenant with a pet because they could not find insurance – the contrary result to the bill’s objective! To ensure adequate remuneration for pet damage and avoid landlords leaving the rental market because of the absence of recompence, Lord Trees supported an amendment, in the name of Lord de Clifford, at the Report Stage of an additional ‘pet deposit’ alongside the standard tenancy deposit. This allows a specific pet damage deposit of three weeks rent, in addition to the standard tenancy deposit of five-weeks rent, the total of which mirrors the situation in Scotland where eight weeks rent deposit is the norm. This is a pragmatic attempt to assure landlords and safeguard the availability of pet-friendly rental accommodation so more people are able to enjoy the health and wellbeing benefits pets bring. After a short debate, this amendment was put to a vote and carried, so it is likely the bill will go back to the Commons for further deliberation.

Another animal welfare issue which rapidly developed before summer recess was the issue of poultry catching, predominantly for slaughter depopulation. There was a discrepancy between the assimilated European regulation (EC) 1/2005 (the welfare of animals during transport) which prohibits lifting animals, including birds, by ‘...the legs...’ and Defra’s Codes of Practice regarding poultry handling which allows catching poultry by both legs. This conflict has led to confusion amongst industry stakeholders and was the subject of a recent judicial review raised against Defra by the Animal Law Foundation. In response, on the 1st July the Government laid a negative statutory instrument (The Welfare of Animals (Transport) (Amendment) Regulations 2025) to amend the retained EU legislation in line with Defra’s Code of Practice. The amendment permits poultry to be lifted by both legs, aligning legal requirements with current UK guidance. Over 1.1 billion birds are reared, handled and transported annually in the UK, translating to over 20 million broiler chickens processed each week. Despite the Code of Practice, single-leg catching remains widespread in the UK as well as in Europe, primarily due to its speed and efficiency. Whilst the guidance for holding by two legs has now been legalised the reality in practice is that catching by one-leg is far quicker, less physically demanding, and there is scant scientific evidence that it is any worse for welfare than catching by two legs. So, either the industry is left breaking the law and catching by one leg or it follows the law and catches by two legs, which takes nearly twice as long, reducing productivity a consequence of which is that more poultry will be imported from countries which, ironically, are likely to be catching the birds by one leg as well.

BIOSECURITY – ILLEGAL MEAT IMPORTS

In June 2025, the National Audit Office published a report on the UK's resilience to threats from animal disease. In the UK, there are increasing numbers and risk of outbreaks of both exotic (foot and mouth disease - FMD) and endemic (bovine tuberculosis) animal diseases, with 16 outbreaks in the past 20 years, including the largest highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in history. Scarily, the report found there is a very high risk (20/25) of an ineffective response to an animal disease outbreak, given there is no overarching long-term strategy for animal disease resilience and current responses are reactive and not proactive. This is compounded by the fact that Weybridge, the designated UK facility to deal with emerging animal disease, is at very high risk (25/25) of site failure and despite requiring £2.8 billion in investment, it has received just over £1 billion.



Picture 13: Lord Trees pictured with Danny Chambers MP (left) , and Helen Morgan MP (right), with illegal meat imports at Dover port. 'The UK Government are making a pigs ear of biosecurity at ports!'

This is in the context of outbreaks in continental Europe of FMD and African Swine Fever (ASF). In January 2025 FMD was reported in a herd of three water buffalo in Germany, and, in a separate outbreak, across at least 7 holdings in Hungary and Slovakia in March. Defra advised the risk of a FMD outbreak in the UK is medium and, to reduce this, has banned all personal imports of meat and dairy from the EU as well as other measures. The UK's 2001 outbreak is believed to have cost the economy £13.8 billion in 23/24 prices and resulted in the culling of nearly 6.5 million animals. Similarly, cases of ASF have been spreading across Europe since 2007, with cases predominantly in Romania, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine. Given the apparent long-range 'jumps' of the virus over

100kms and its spread by pig consumption of contaminated products of porcine origin, it is vital that there are adequate border checks to prevent this disease entering the UK.

Currently approximately 5% of live animal imports are undergoing physical checks at the border, despite the government target of 100% by the end of 2024. This is largely due to limited capacity to check live imports, with only one border control post existing with capacity for these checks but which is not yet designated to do so. There are also important concerns about the import of products of animal origin, illegal and legal. In May 2025, Lord Trees was invited to Dover Port with the APPG on Food Security to meet representatives from Dover Port Health Agency (DPHA) and Border Force to understand the growing problem of illegal meat imports. The DPHA are finding that animal products intended for commercial use are entering the UK through non-commercial routes under the guise of personal imports. In January 2025, the DPHA seized 24 tonnes of illegal meat, compared to 0.4 tonnes in January 2023. Challenges at Dover port include lack of staffing resource (staff can only cover 20% of shipments), large volumes of traffic, consignments arriving in quick succession, and poor facilities for inspections. Funding of the Dover port facility is in part through the Dover local authority and partly through a Government contract. However, the Government funding is only promised to March 2026 and does not provide enough cover for Dover nor any check at Coquelles – the entrance to the channel tunnel – which leaves these routes vulnerable to exploitation by unscrupulous traders. After the visit, Lord Trees and the other parliamentary attendees wrote a letter to Minister Hayman highlighting the risks imported products of animal origin pose to our nation's biosecurity.

'We were alarmed to learn that since... October 2022 they [Dover Port Health Authority] have seized over 245 tonnes of banned products, despite limited funding and only a small percentage of vehicles being checked.'

'The recently agreed deal... with the EU is another very welcome first step and we hope will remove the need for much of the BTOM process which has been widely reported not to be effective. But, as we transition to this new system, having robust biosecurity defenses at the border must be a priority...'

*Helen Morgan MP, Dr Danny Chambers MP and Lord Trees, 17th July 2025
Letter to Minister Hayman from the APPG UK Food Security*

After extensive negotiations over six months, May 2025 saw the UK government announce a 'reset' agreement with the EU. A Labour party 2024 manifesto commitment, the agreement aims

to reduce barriers to trade and grow the UK economy, as since Brexit, there has been a 21% reduction in export and 7% drop in imports of agri-food. A meeting in July with Jane Clark, Director for Veterinary Services at the FSA, confirms that part of the agreement involves a Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) agreement which will see the; reduction, and in some cases complete removal, of routine border checks on some agri-food products, including meat and milk; removal of export health certification which is predicted to save £200 per consignment; and the reintroduction of the UK pet passport valid for travel to the EU. Whilst these measures may reduce the burdens of time and cost for legal imports, the effects on illegal imports and biosecurity may not be positive. Crucially, the new UK-EU SPS agreement does not, and is not, intended to stop or reduce illegal meat imports, but is designed to streamline trade. However, there is a risk that reduced checks on agri-food products, as intended from the agreement, could unintentionally increase the number of illegal meat imports successfully making their way into the UK, especially when they are concealed with legal consignments. A further critical issue, is the lack of effective enforcement and deterrence for transporting illegal meat imports. There is clearly a legislative and/or policy gap which limits the ability to prosecute individuals importing illegal meat – many of whom are repeat offenders.

In December 2024, Lord Trees asked the question of the resourcing of the APHA in light of worsening endemic and growing threats from emerging diseases in the UK.

'My Lords, with the outbreak of avian influenza, the challenge of bluetongue virus in ruminants and the ongoing battle to reduce bovine TB incidence – to say nothing of the biosecurity threats to, for example, our pig population from African swine fever – is the Minister confident that her department and APHA have the necessary resources to cope?'

*Lord Trees, Thursday 12th December 2024
Oral Questions*

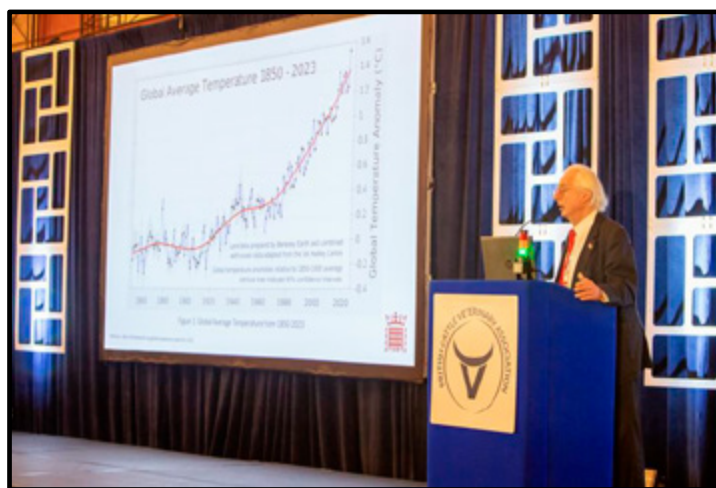
'The noble Lord asks an important question. I met APHA yesterday to discuss exactly this issue because, when there are outbreaks of more than one disease it has to look at how it will manage all the different aspects. It has assured me that it is confident that it has the resources to manage the response currently, and I am pleased that the Government have awarded funding to Weybridge to ensure that our future capability will be there.'

*Baroness Hayman of Ullock, Defra Minister for Animal Welfare and Biosecurity, 12th December 2024
Oral Question response*

CLIMATE CHANGE, AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

Building on last year's report, the VPRF has maintained an interest in the contribution of ruminants to climate change owing to its political importance, veterinary involvement, and relevance to achieving net zero targets. This challenge is not only crucial for the long-term sustainability of ruminant farming in the UK and globally, but is also highly important for the veterinary profession, which plays a pivotal role in animal health, livestock productivity and overall environmental stewardship. Of particular relevance and importance is methane, a potent but short-lived greenhouse gas. Ruminants are now the most important source of UK emissions of methane. Since 1990, the UK has made substantial progress in reducing methane emissions across various sectors. However, reductions in the agriculture sector have been more modest, and as a result agriculture has become the largest anthropogenic source of methane emissions in the UK since 2011. If current trends in sectoral emission reductions continue, the agricultural sector could become the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the UK by 2050.

In October 2024, Lord Trees delivered a keynote address at the British Cattle Veterinary Association (BCVA) Congress in Newport titled '*Cows, Climate and CH₄ – How vets can ensure ruminants have a future.*' The session was well attended, prompted stimulating discussion and is available to watch on the VPRF's website. The presentation also led to the publication of two review-style articles by Fiona and Lord Trees in *In Practice*, providing an overview of net zero, methane, ruminant's contribution and mitigation methods available for the UK agriculture industry.



Picture 14: Lord Trees in action at the BCVA Congress 2024 in Newport

The first article explores the complexity of emissions accounting in Government targets, such as an understanding of carbon footprint and how this is different from net zero emissions, as well as exploring how different global warming metrics affect climate policy. The UK's net zero target counts only domestic emissions and does not include emissions associated with imports. This risks

“exporting” emissions to other countries where production may be less efficient, potentially leading to higher global emissions. This highlights the importance of considering the full life cycle of goods and services when formulating climate policy and monitoring climate target progress. Similarly, the choice of warming metric also has implications for climate policy prioritisation. Traditional metrics, such as GWP₁₀₀, misrepresent the warming impact of methane given its short atmospheric lifetime of around 12 years. GWP₁₀₀ overestimates the impact of constant methane emissions by 3-4x, underestimates the impact of newly emitted methane 4-5x and fails to account for the cooling effect when methane emissions reduce, see Figure 1.

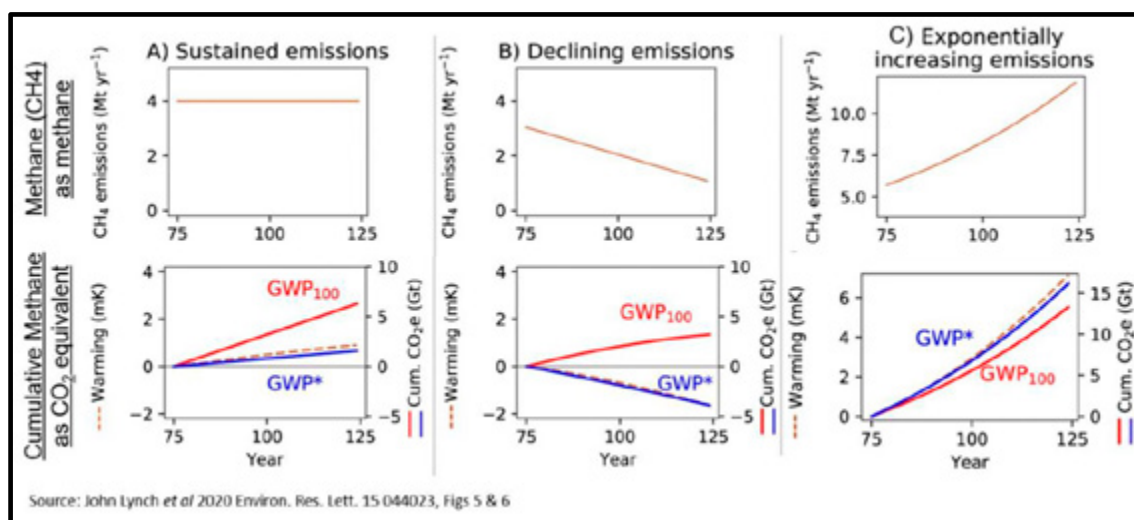


Figure 1: Comparison of GWP* and GWP₁₀₀ metrics on different methane emission scenarios (Lynch et al 2020).

Alternative metrics, such as GWP*, provide a more accurate reflection of the actual warming caused by methane over time. In the context of livestock, where methane emissions are the predominant GHG, adopting GWP* provides a radically different picture of the warming impacts per unit of beef, sheep or dairy production, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2: UK average GHG emissions per unit of product comparing GWP₁₀₀ and GWP*. (AHDB, 2024). Note – these are the emissions produced at the point until a product leaves the farm, and is not a full life-cycle assessment.

Product	Emissions (GWP ₁₀₀)	Emissions (GWP* - indicative only)
Meat	kgCO₂e per kg dwt	kgCO₂e per kg dwt
Beef (beef herd)	32.4	9.7
Beef (dairy herd)	22.1	9.1
Sheep	29.5	-0.1
Dairy	kgCO₂e per kg FPC milk	kgCO₂e per kg FPC milk
Milk	1.33	0.59

The second article focuses on practical methane mitigation methods for reduced methane emissions produced by ruminants from enteric fermentation and the organic matter breakdown of livestock manure. Enhancing animal health status through endemic disease control strategies can increase productivity and reduce the greenhouse gas emission intensity (amount greenhouse gas produced per unit of product). For example, a 2011 DEFRA study found that implementing disease control measures including improving nutrition, biosecurity, vaccination and colostrum management could reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the cattle sector by 6%. The use of feed additives that reduce methane production from ruminal archaea are another effective mitigation strategy. In December 2023, the FSA approved 3-Nitrooxypropanol for use in cattle which has been shown to reduce methane emissions from dairy cows by 30-40% without affecting feed intake or productivity. Since methane production is a heritable trait, selective breeding can be used to breed naturally low-emitting animals - a strategy already being utilised in New Zealand and the Netherlands. Furthermore, there is potential to develop vaccines against ruminal methanogens which could stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies that suppress methanogen activity in the rumen. Importantly most of these strategies are available now and can be adopted with minimal cost, while often improving animal welfare, productivity and farm profitability. Livestock veterinarians, through their crucial relationship with farmers and knowledge of animal health, have a vital role in guiding and implementing these mitigation strategies on UK farms.

In May 2025, there was a debate in the House of Lords on the House of Lords Environment and Climate Change Select Committee report 'Methane, keep up the momentum' and the Government's response. Despite the report recommending that *'the Government should... consider how additional metrics can be robustly employed at the sectoral and the business level to improve understanding of the UK's emissions'* and *'....move towards unilaterally implementing an auxiliary metric to better reflect the warming impact of methane'*, the Government remain unconvinced on the use of GWP* to assess agricultural emissions. A section of Lord Trees's speech is outlined below.

'In conclusion, in the UK, ruminants fed mainly on grass in one form or another produce healthy and nutritious food but also about half of all of the UK's anthropogenic methane emissions. However, the estimate of the warming potential of these emissions varies by more than threefold depending on which metric is used. Moreover, current data show that greenhouse gas emissions per unit of production for both beef and dairy are substantially lower in the UK than most other countries. However, there is much that we could and should still do to reduce our methane emission intensity. In many cases, the technology exists but there needs to be consideration of cost-benefit ratios to achieve full implementation. The bottom line is that we must guard against destroying our own livestock industry, which is relatively environmentally efficient, and the inevitable consequence: importing more meat and dairy produced with poorer environmental efficiency and greater emissions elsewhere.'

*Lord Trees, Thursday 13th May 2025
Methane Debate*

In his speech, Lord Trees makes a key point – we need to protect our farmers from being undercut by imports of animal products likely produced to poorer environmental and animal health and welfare standards than we allow in the UK.

There is a desperate need for a strategic, coherent plan for land-use in the UK. The Government are committed to publishing a land-use framework before the end of 2025. It is worrying that there is mounting evidence of the development of solar farms on prime agricultural land in the UK, further reducing our food production capacity and increasing our reliance on imports.

'My Lords, it is frequently quoted that ground-mounted solar installations take only 0.1% of UK land, which will increase to 0.3% when our net zero ambitions are met. However, I have figures that suggest that 0.44% of UK land is already committed for ground-mounted installations, with the geographical distribution concentrated in the breadbasket of south and east England. This means that Nottinghamshire, for example, is likely to have around 4% of its ground area covered with solar panels. The use of land, as well, is disproportionate; important grade 2 and grade 3 agricultural land is being used. Is this consistent with His Majesty's Government's commitment to food security?

*Lord Trees, Wednesday 12th February 2025
Oral Questions*

This year also saw another threat to UK food security and British food production – the scrapping of the Sustainable Farming incentive (SFI). The SFI is a government initiative to support farmers in adopting sustainable practices which benefit farm businesses and the environment. However, in March the Government announced the scrapping of the scheme with immediate effect, leaving hundreds of farmers once reliant on subsidies from the scheme worried about their future income. As a result, farmers once again took to their tractors and protested outside Parliament.



Picture 14: Farmer protests outside Parliament in December 2024 after the scrapping of the SFI

ENDEMIC DISEASE – BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS

Encouragingly, one of the first veterinary issues the new Labour Government committed to tackling was bovine tuberculosis (bTB). Their promise of a *‘significant step-change in approach’* includes ending the badger cull, increasing badger vaccination efforts and launching the first national badger census. The Government promise to refresh an approach with direct input from vets, industry and scientists to fulfil the previous Government’s aim of achieving Officially Tuberculosis Free (OTF) status for England by 2038.

In November 2024, the VPRF attended a cross-party meeting with Peers, MPs and stakeholders critical of current policy to discuss current bTB policy and recommendations for future policy. The focus of the meeting was the Labour Government’s commitment to end the badger cull and to explore a new direction of bTB policy in the UK, however, regrettably, no Defra or Government officials were in attendance despite being invited. There appears to be mounting evidence reflecting the importance of cattle to cattle transmission in new breakdowns (often from brought-in animals) or repeated breakdowns (animals more persistently infected). Some farmers and veterinarians are advocating for greater autonomy in managing bTB in their herds, calling for more sensitive and readily available diagnostic tools and flexible strategies to ‘manage out’ infections. With regard to the historical control of bTB, these ideas are innovative but they reflect the way vets and farmers approach the control other endemic infectious disease of cattle, such as Johne’s

disease. It is fair to say this view has been promoted by leading livestock vet, Dick Sibley, who has pioneered a new approach at Gatcombe Park Farm with farmer Robert Reid. And, importantly, these views are not isolated. Variations of Dick's novel approach are happening in collaborative projects between a number of different vet and farmer groupings, for example, the Pembrokeshire Project in Wales. Similarly, it was notable that participants in a July 2025 Westminster Food and Farming Forum focusing on biosecurity also reflected a broader UK-wide trend in this thinking.

The increasing consensus that bTB should be treated like any other endemic disease, with an emphasis on managing-out persistently infected animals as part of the natural herd replacement programme and reducing all transmission pathways on farm is based on the following views.

1. Cow-to-cow transmission is the primary driver of disease in endemically infected herds. This may be through direct contact, spraying infected slurry (faecally-transmitted) and vertical transmission from infected dam to calf in colostrum.
2. Latent and residual infections in cattle are not detected by the low sensitivity statutory skin test which contributes to repeat herd breakdowns or yo-yoing between OTF and breakdown status over a number of years.

However, significant challenges to this approach remain, and include the following.

1. The use of more sensitive testing, such as Enferplex and IDEXX, is limited by the APHA, meaning that these animals remain undetected, stay in the herd and continue to spread infection.
2. Strict test and cull policies mean farmers and vets have little autonomy to manage disease in line with their own herd culling and replacement cycles.
3. Lack of data transparency inhibits risk-based cattle trading and the ability of vets to detect 'problem' cattle in a herd. This increases the likelihood that undetected, infected animals are brought into the herd, and persistently infected cattle are not identified and remain in the herd.

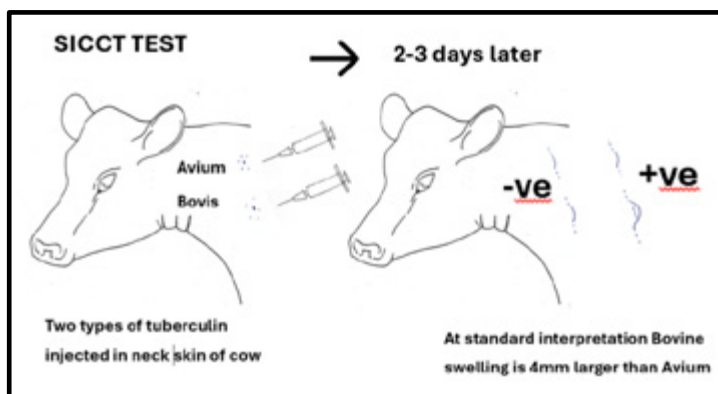


Figure 2: Method for the low-sensitivity statutory Single Intradermal Comparative Cervical Tuberculin (SICCT) Test (Image from the Badger Crowd)

In January 2025, the Labour Government asked Sir Charles Godfray to reconvene his inquiry panel of 2018 and evaluate current bTB control strategies, make recommendations for future policy, and report in summer 2025. The VPRF made a submission to the review advocating farmer/vet led strategies underpinned by statutory measures and included the following.

1. Individual cow risk-assessments using some, or all of, historic statutory test results, presence of any bovine lump from historic results, and results of additional tests.
2. Retaining high risk animals which:
 - a. are permanently identified and subject to movement restrictions i.e., cannot be sold and only moved off farm for slaughter,
 - b. can be bred to beef and offspring sold to approved finishing units with the aim of accelerating the natural cull cycle in dairy herds,
 - c. are culled as and when economically advantageous to the farmer without compensation.
3. Improving on-farm biosecurity and biocontainment to reduce transmission between high and low-risk animals.

On 25th February 2025, we met with then Defra Minister on bTB, Daniel Ziechner, Defra Chief Scientific Adviser, Gideon Henderson, and Defra bTB Policy Lead, AJ Coulter, to discuss these challenges to effective bTB control. We encouraged the Minister to visit Gatcombe Farm, which has implemented a refreshed, evidence-based approach to bTB management. The visit took place in July 2025 and the new Godfray report was published in September 2025. Now we can only wait for the publication of the Government's refreshed strategy on bTB control, however it is

regrettable that Minister Daniel Ziechner, who was impressed and inspired following his visit to Gatcombe has been replaced as Defra Minister.

ENDEMIC DISEASE – SHEEP SCAB

Another pressing infectious disease concern for the VPRF has been sheep scab. Sheep scab is a highly contagious disease caused by the mite, *Psoroptes ovis* which causes intense itching and severely compromises animal welfare. Formerly a notifiable disease (controlled by mandatory organophosphate (OP) dipping), it was deregulated in the 1990's on the grounds that it was primarily a welfare issue best managed by industry-led control. Since then, an injectable treatment has largely replaced plunge dipping, accounting for 90% of treatments in 2016. However, resistance to the drug is occurring, forcing the industry to become increasingly reliant on OP plunge dipping once again. The industry has made significant progress with sheep scab control, facilitated by:



Picture 15: *Psoroptes ovis* - sheep scab mite

1. development of an ELISA blood test which can determine infection at a very early stage,
2. the emergence of professional mobile contract dippers, supported by a Code of Practice,
3. development of an industry-proposed control strategy,
4. ongoing research into a scab vaccine.

However, plunge dipping in an OP preparation will be essential for the treatment and control of sheep scab in the short- to medium-term while a vaccine is developed for the long-term goal of phasing out dipping and achieving sheep-scab free status in the UK.



Picture 16: Sheep Affected by Sheep Scab. Source: Northern Ireland Veterinary Today

In early 2025, the VPRF was alerted by Lesley Stubbings, a livestock veterinarian, that only one waste facility across England and Wales remained licensed to accept used sheep dip for safe disposal. Since April 2025, this number has fallen to zero. Over 11.5 million tonnes of spent dip annually are unaccounted for, with farms increasingly unable to comply with legal disposal requirements and the Welsh Government issuing no new permits to dispose of dip on land. This

is coupled with the fact that most farms no longer have in-house dipping infrastructure due to the shift toward injectable treatment. But, mobile contract dippers cannot operate legally unless the host farm holds a valid waste permit, as there is no waste treatment facility for disposal of the dip. Without adequate disposal options, large-scale dipping becomes impossible, sheep won't be treated for scab, disease incidence will proliferate, animal welfare will be compromised, and we will be further from achieving the goal of sheep scab free by 2030. Other alternatives to disposal via land permits and waste-water treatment facilities include chemical treatment plants, but their large costs (>£1,000 per tonne) is prohibitive for their use. The Sheep Scab Action Group recently commissioned an analysis of used dip wash which confirmed it is non-hazardous and can be safely disposed via wastewater under the appropriate permit. Yet despite this, no wastewater treatment plants are currently accepting used dip. So, the reality is that either used dip will be illegally dumped or sheep will not be dipped and sheep scab will run rampant. In March 2025 Lord Trees wrote to Minister Hayman, explaining the situation is an animal welfare catastrophe waiting to happen.

'Can I urgently request that Defra, in collaboration with the Environment Agency and the sheep industry, facilitate more waste treatment plants spread geographically across the UK to obtain permits to handle used dip wash. Without being able to continue the treatment and prevention of sheep scab at scale, there are likely to be very serious animal welfare and/or environmental problems.'

Lord Trees, 20th March 2025

Letter to Minister Baroness Hayman of Ullock on Sheep Scab

In response to the crisis, a high-level meeting was convened in April 2025, involving the VPRF, Minister Hayman, Defra officials and industry representatives, including Lesley Stubbings, to discuss the issue and come up with solutions before sheep scab season starts in September. It was agreed that Defra would liaise with water treatment facilities and the Environment Agency to encourage uptake of spent dip under the appropriate permit code. Furthermore, the Minister agreed to host a roundtable to develop a long-term plan for sheep scab control as part of the animal health and welfare pathway. With the autumn scab season approaching, the need for urgent scalable disposal solutions is crucial.

NON-STUN SLAUGHTER

Non-stun slaughter has been an issue concerning Lord Trees and the VPRF since the first debate under Lord Trees’s name in the House of Lords in 2014, through to the development of the Demonstration of Life (DoL) Protocol launched in 2021. The DoL protocol provides assurance to Muslim consumers that electrical head-only stunning of sheep and goats is compatible with Halal slaughter requirements. In November 2024, the FSA published its biennial slaughter survey carried out for one week across all major slaughterhouse registered in England and Wales in February of that year. There has been an increasing trend in the proportion of sheep killed without stunning in the UK since 2011 and a decrease in cattle killed without stunning over the same period (Figure 3).

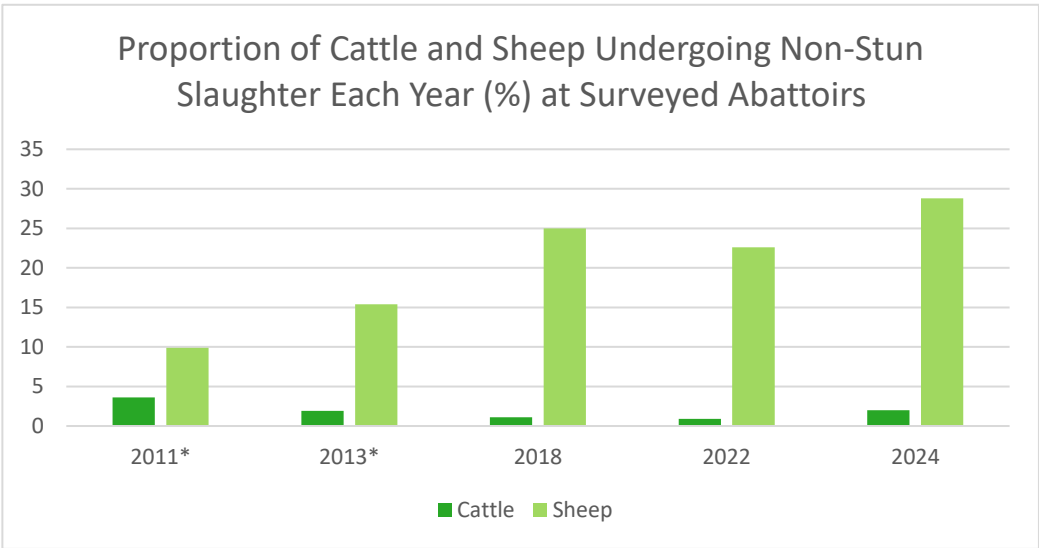


Figure 3: Proportion of sheep and cattle undergoing non-stun slaughter in England and Wales (*denotes sheep and goat data combined)

Sheep represent the largest proportion (29% of all sheep slaughtered in the survey week) of non-stun slaughtered animals, a 6% increase from 2022 and nearly tripling since 2011. Obtaining accurate non-stun data is difficult as this one-week snapshot may not be representative of an entire year, survey participation is voluntary and the questions are not mandatory, resulting in incomplete data sets which reduces the reliability of year-on-year comparisons. Another important aspect of the FSA slaughter survey data is the destination of non-stun meat. In 2024, there was evidence of exports of non-stun sheep meat from the UK - equating to over 1,500 carcasses. This might seem minimal compared to the 13 million sheep slaughtered each year but given the voluntary and non-mandatory aspect of the survey, 36% of all non-stun sheep carcasses went to an ‘unknown destination’. In addition, exports of non-stun meat, although not illegal, are

arguably outside the intention of the derogation in the Welfare of Animals at Time Of Killing Regulations which permits non-stun slaughter for religious reasons and which might be reasonably assumed are for domestic needs only.

Given this apparent increase in non-stun sheep slaughter and associated exports, the VPRF has been involved in extensive discussions led by the BVA, with stakeholders including George Eustice, former Secretary of State at Defra, Awal Fuseini of the AHDB, Collin Whiting of the FSA and Islamic scholars. These discussions began in January 2025 centering on non-stun slaughter and have been focused on increasing the uptake of the DoL. Established in 2021, the DoL is a UK, industry led, Government-backed initiative to demonstrate that electrical head-only stunning of sheep and goats does not cause death and thus is compatible with Halal slaughter requirements. The protocol involves a demonstration of head-only electrical stunning, performed at slaughterhouses, which allows partial recovery of the animals after the stun by the return of two rhythmic breaths to prove that the stunning method is non-lethal. This demonstrates the recoverability of the stunning process but does not allow full recovery of the animal. Uptake of the scheme by industry has been limited and slow; in 2022 three slaughterhouses (approximately 23% of those performing non-stun slaughter) adopted the scheme, which raised to five after discussions in spring with the BVA, VPRF, FSA and others identified the FSA demonstration fee as a barrier to uptake and it was waived. The universal adoption of the DoL by Halal certifying bodies could mean that some 3 million sheep currently slaughtered each year without pre-stunning could be stunned.

THE VETERINARY INDUSTRY PROJECT

Political and policy discussions almost invariably begin with statements on the value – usually expressed in financial terms – of a given activity to the UK economy. This can have a major effect on the priority afforded to the topic. Although many different bodies and interest groups recognise aspects of ‘value’ of the veterinary industry, we have no evidence-based aggregate figure of the financial value of this industry in its entirety, nor even of the total number of people who derive employment through it. A relatively small number of directly employed veterinary surgeons, members of the veterinary team, and those engaged in veterinary science, have a critical role in many large commercial and industrial activities of high economic

value. At a time when our sector is seeking to get adequate parliamentary time to introduce new primary legislation governing the regulation of veterinary activities, as well as increased support for veterinary education, and given the importance of biosecurity and food security, and the upcoming report stage of the CMA, amongst other things, a project to estimate the Gross Value Added by the veterinary sector to the UK economy would be hugely valuable.

Since 2024, we have been drafting an outline of such a project and have drawn up a list of activities with an important veterinary dimension. These range from the production of healthy, safe and environmentally sustainable food, maintaining animal health and welfare, support for the equine industries, veterinary pharmaceutical industry and many other activities (Figure 4 – traffic light list of sectors). An analysis would go beyond the simple financial turnover of a particular activity, but would include the valuation of more abstract concepts such as the value of preventing disease epidemics in both humans and animals - so called contingency evaluation - and the benefit to human wellbeing of animal ownership, for which there are now well-established economic methods. One challenge, of course, is defining the extent of the veterinary sector which in many areas inevitably interacts and overlaps in a complex of Venn diagrams with other activities. But again, economists now have methods to make informed estimations on the contributions of groups to multidisciplinary activities.

Not having the resources or expertise to carry out such an analysis and with the agreement of the VPRF's Board of Directors, we have commissioned an economic consultancy (BiGGAR Economics) with relevant experience in economic impact assessments, to undertake this study in July 2025, and funded by the VPRF using income accrued over the past 12 years. This approach is intended to provide a detailed report which will include descriptions of what assumptions and estimations have been made and what veterinary activities have been included. These results will be made freely available, hopefully by the end of this year. Major objectives are to determine estimates of the economic contribution of the veterinary sector in terms of Gross Value Added to the UK economy, and of the number of people who derive employment through the industry. We anticipate that the study will also highlight the incredible range of activities with a veterinary dimension which, amongst other things, could inspire much wider career aspirations amongst the veterinary community.

Sectors		Included in Document			Data Availability	Veterinary Involvement
		VPRF	BiGGAR	Scottish Report*		
Pets	Healthcare of companion animals (veterinary practices)	✓	✓	✓		
	Value to human wellbeing	✓	✓	✓		
	Pet Food	✓	✓	✓		
	Insurance	✓	✓	✓		
	Animal Shows	✓	✓			
	Charities and Assistance Animals		✓			
	Vets in the Community		✓		?	?
	Accessory Businesses – groomers, pet shops, pet accessories, crematoria, laboratories		✓	✓		
Equine	Sport horses (dressage, eventing, racing, showing, disease prevention)	✓	✓	✓		
	Betting Industry	✓	✓			
Production Agriculture Food Farm	Healthcare of production animals (veterinary practices, contribution to food security)	✓	✓	✓		
	Contribution to Environmental Sustainability (e.g., reducing CH ₄ emissions)	✓				
	Food Processing, Food Safety and Slaughterhouses	✓	✓	✓		
	Farmer Wellbeing		✓		?	?
	Farmer Education		✓		?	?
	Animal Feed Production			✓		
Wildlife			✓	✓		
Veterinary Pharmaceutical Industry and Supply Chain		✓	✓	✓		
Trade	Imports and Exports (documentation)	✓	✓	✓		
	Effects of Disease on Trade/Tourism	✓	✓	✓		
Animal Epidemic Prevention and Response		✓	✓	✓		
Environmental Disease Prevention			✓		?	?
Animal Welfare (Companion and Farm)		✓	✓	✓		
Public Health (Zoonotic Disease, Pandemic Preparedness, Value to Human Health, Antimicrobial Resistance)		✓	✓	✓		
Research and Education	Animals in Research	✓	✓	✓		
	Veterinary Research (universities/research institutes/industry)		✓	✓		
	Universities – Education and Training	✓	✓	✓		
Police and Military Animals			✓			
Natural Capital			✓		?	?
Policy and Regulation			✓			

Figure 4: Traffic Light System of Veterinary Sectors and their inclusion in initial scoping by the VPRF, BiGGAR Economics and the Scottish Report*

*In 2018, the Scottish CVO, Sheila Voas, commissioned the Scottish Government to conduct a preliminary economic assessment of the veterinary industry's economic impact to Scotland's economy.

Note: Data availability (green - readily available, orange - somewhat available, red - not readily available) Veterinary Involvement (green - high level, orange - medium level, red - low level).

VETERINARY LEGISLATION

After lobbying ahead of the general election, we were disappointed to see no commitments to reform the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 in any party-political manifesto. However, despite this, it seems things are really gaining momentum. A roundtable event was held in the House of Commons in December 2024, instigated by Pets at Home Group, chaired by Lord Trees, and attended by the RCVS, BVA and Defra officials, and significantly, the Chair of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee (EFRACom), Alistair Carmichael MP to discuss veterinary legislation. Carmichael was very supportive and made a commitment to hold an EFRACom meeting specifically on the subject. Comments at the meeting reflected a growing optimism that parliamentary time might be found for new legislation in the not-to-distant future. The Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 is arguably one of the most significant pieces of animal welfare legislation in the UK. Although this act has served the profession and the nation well, it has become profoundly outdated, especially given the rise of veterinary paraprofessionals, growth of non-MRCVS ownership of practices, the ongoing workforce shortages and modern expectations for healthcare and professional regulation. Reforming the act would enable greater delegation of veterinary responsibilities, ease pressure on veterinarians, enhance career development and help reduce disillusionment within the profession.

To help this momentum, Lord Trees wrote to Minister Hayman in January 2025 to add further weight to the critical need to introduce new legislation governing the regulation of veterinary services and related professions. In his letter, he outlined the key deficiencies of the current legislation to be:

1. ownership of veterinary practice by non-vets has increased – now 60% of UK practices are owned this way,
2. only 60% of practices are currently under the mandatory RCVS practice standards scheme,
3. the title of veterinary nurse is not protected,
4. there is no regulation of paraprofessionals outside of the RCVS,
5. there is limited scope to adapt to modern professional disciplinary procedures,
6. under the current act, there is no scope for limited licensure to facilitate diversity of opportunity and inclusivity.

The RCVS has been meeting regularly with Defra officials to discuss what the new legislation may look like, as well as inputs from the BVA and BVNA to ensure future legislation is united, flexible, future-proof that can evolve to meet the potential challenges of the profession.

THE CMA VETERINARY SERVICES MARKET INVESTIGATION

In September 2023, the Competitions and Markets Authority (CMA) launched an initial review into the possibility of a market investigation into the veterinary service sector for household pets in the UK given concerns about cost of veterinary treatment and transparency of veterinary practice ownership. After receiving a large number of responses, in March 2024, the CMA announced they were proceeding to a full market investigation. The VPRF has been involved in the investigation since the instigation of the initial review; initially providing our insights on how the sector has changed over the 50 years we have spanned the veterinary sector (!!), to being regularly updated on the results of their preliminary investigations and remedy proposals. In the CMA's Remedy Document, published in May 2025, one of their recommendations is to reform the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. They specifically recommend extending the scope of the Act to apply to veterinary businesses. Furthermore, they suggest core practice standards should be mandatory with effective monitoring and proportionate enforcement, as well as protecting the title of veterinary nurses, and providing clarity on the roles permitted to be performed by a veterinary nurse. However, there are concerns that other remedies proposed by the CMA, which include price caps on medications and prescriptions, and the publication of pricing information, will disproportionately increase the burden on the independent veterinary practices who have limited resource, both in staff and finances, to make these significant changes to practice. The profession are all in agreement that the investigation is needed, but in a highly complex and specialised sector, a thorough understanding of the market is vital for the investigation to improve the profession for both pet owners and the veterinary community and to avoid any unintended consequences.

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PARLIAMENTARY VETERINARY INTERN BIOGRAPHY**Fiona Shuttleworth**

Fiona graduated from the University of Cambridge with a degree in Zoology in 2018 and Veterinary Medicine in 2021. As a student, Fiona had a keen interest in veterinary public health, educational outreach and sport. She took part in various additional projects including climate change mitigation in veterinary practice and she participated in multiple outreach programmes, notably a women-in-STEM outreach programme in Pembroke College and Cambassador programme to provide support to veterinary medicine applicants from disadvantaged backgrounds. Of her nine mentees, five gained offers for 2022-23 places at the university for veterinary medicine. Furthermore, Fiona contributed extensively to Cambridge University Rugby Union Football Club for five years and captained the Blues to victory over Oxford at Twickenham stadium in 2019. Following graduation, Fiona worked in a small animal independent veterinary practice in west London for 18 months before travelling to Borneo to volunteer as a veterinarian in the largest orangutan rescue and rehabilitation centre in the world. After volunteering, she travelled South America for four months and later joined the VPRF in October 2023. Alongside her internship, Fiona works intermittently as a locum veterinary surgeon between Kent and back at her old practice in west London.

APPENDIX I

OTHER BUSINESS (OCT 2024 -SEP 2025)

KEYNOTES, PRESENTATIONS, CHAIRING, PANELS AND EVENTS HOSTED

AJT unless initials indicate otherwise

DATE	ORGANISATION	DETAILS
18/10/2024	BCVA Annual Congress Keynote – Climate, Cattle and CH ₄	Keynote speech
22/10/2024	APGAW	Chair - Inaugural AGM
23/10/2024	VPRF AGM	AGM
06/11/2024	APPG Malaria and NTDs	Chair - Inaugural AGM
20/11/2024	Vets for Pets VSA cross party Roundtable	Chair
02/12/2024	Vet Record Editorial Board Meeting	Chair
05/12/2024	UKRI Tackling infections External Advisory Board Meeting	Chair
22/01/2025	UK Agri-Tech Centre Parliamentary Reception	Sponsor and Speaker
28/01/2025	Unlimit Health + APPG Malaria and NTDs, World NTD Day event	Chair and Sponsor
30/01/2025	World NTD Day RSE Event	Guest Speaker
04/02/2025	CABI One Health and Methane Webinar	Speaker
11/02/2025	APGAW – Broiler Intensification	Chair
06/03/2025	Westminster Food Forum – Food Standards and Trade	Chair
11/03/2025	STEM for Britain Awards on behalf of PSTIF	Chemistry Prize Giver
13/03/2025	CASC Engagement Forum	Welcome speech
19/03/2025	APPG Malaria and NTDs Oxford MSc Students presentation	Chair
25/03/2025	PSTIF meeting	Trustees
29/04/2025	APPG Malaria and NTDs + Malaria No More, world malaria day event	Chair
30/04/2025	APPG Malaria and NTDs + LSTM + Impact Global Health report on return of aid investment to the UK economy	Chair
19/05/2025	PVI Interviews	Chair
20/05/2025	PVI Interviews	Chair
20/05/2025	Vet Record Editorial Board Meeting	Chair
11/06/2025	APPG Malaria and NTDs Conflict Roundtable	Chair
25/06/2025	APGAW Animal welfare legislation enforcement with Minister Hayman	Co-Chair
02/07/2025	APPG Malaria and NTDs meeting with IVCC	Chair
07/07/2025	Westminster Food Forum Biosecurity	Chair
10/07/2025	APGAW Innate Health Assessment Tool	Chair
09/09/2025	APPG Malaria and NTDs and the Carter Centre – Guinea Worm Event	Guest Speaker

AD HOC MEETINGS

AJT unless initials indicate otherwise

DATE	ORGANISATION	DETAILS
09/10/2024	APPG MNTDs	Martha Varney - APPG Officers and key events for the year
21/20/2024	Brian Pound	Value of the Veterinary Industry
21/20/2024	Paul Higgs (CVS)	Value of the Veterinary Industry
23/10/2024	APPG MNTDs	Pre-meet with Martha Varney and Lauren Sullivan

23/10/2024	Brian Pound	Value of the Veterinary Industry
24/10/2024	Collin Willson (FSA)	Emergency on-farm Slaughter
31/10/2024	LSTM	125 Campaign Board Progress Meeting
31/10/2024	Julie Cayzer (veterinarian)	Veterinary Parasitocides in Environment for Masters Project
04/11/2024	RCVS	Ben Myring - Veterinary Surgeons Act
04/11/2024	APPG MNTDs	Pre-meet Martha Varney
04/11/2024	APPG MNTDs	Peter Sands Global Fund Meeting
12/11/2024	Pets at Home Group	Pre-meeting ahead of the Veterinary Surgeons Act Roundtable
12/11/2024	Stonehaven Analytics	Arthur Redpath - Value of the Veterinary Industry
13/11/2024	BVA	Veterinary Legislative Reform
14/11/2024	RSPCA	David Bowles - Broiler Chicken Welfare
19/11/2024	Multiple Organisations	bTB Policy Control Update
19/11/2024	Neil Watt and Dick Sibley	Bovine Tuberculosis Discussion
20/11/2024	APGAW	Marisa Heath - APGAW workstreams
20/11/2024	Hannah Haque and Anthony Ridge	Value of the Veterinary Industry, bTB and Trade
26/11/2024	Liz Mullineaux	Numerous Veterinary Issues
27/11/2024	Hannah Crawley-Boevey (5th year RVC veterinary student)	Meeting to discuss career and final year project
27/11/2024	Ronnie Soutar	Salmon Farming Welfare Concerns
28/11/2024	NOAH	Donal Murphy, Matthew Gibbard and Jodie Bartels - Ectoparasitocides in the Environment
28/11/2024	BiGGAR Economics	Value of the Veterinary Industry
28/11/2024	Richard Bennet	Value of the Veterinary Industry
03/12/2024	APPG on Food Security	Biosecurity and BTOM at Dover Port
10/12/2024	APPG Science and Technology in Agriculture	Transatlantic dialogue for sustainable and efficient food production
12/12/2024	PSTIF	William Duncan - discuss finances
08/01/2025	APPG MNTDs	Martha Varney – plan for the year
09/01/2025	APGAW	Marisa Heath - intensification workstream brainstorm
15/01/2025	BVA, FSA, Halal Certifiers	Progress on DoL protocol
22/01/2025	UK ATC	Pre-meet Sarah Anderson and Grace O'Gorman
22/01/2025	APGAW	Sheep Scab and Waste Disposal
28/01/2025	APPG MNTDs	Martha Varney pre-meet
28/01/2025	APPG MNTDs	With Dr Isatou Touray
05/02/2025	APPG Heart Disease	Drop-in on women's cardiovascular health
05/02/2025	LSTM 125 Campaign	Helen Shaw - update and next steps
05/02/2025	Dinner George Eustice	Multiple veterinary topics
06/02/2025	David Rogers	Solar Farms in the UK
06/02/2025	NFU bTB Policy Teams	bTB England and Wales Policy Update and Viewpoints
06/02/2025	Paul Higgs, CVS	CMA Working Papers and Value of the Veterinary Profession
10/02/2025	APGAW	Marisa Heath – pre-meet
11/02/2025	The Telegraph	Joe Pinkstone - Extreme Breed Conformations
11/02/2025	Dick Sibley	Bovine Tuberculosis
11/02/2025	Stuart Reid	Numerous Veterinary Issues
12/02/2025	Lord Krebs	Bovine Tuberculosis Policy
12/02/2025	Dick Sibley	Bovine Tuberculosis Policy
12/02/2025	Jonathan Statham	Numerous Veterinary Issues
13/02/2025	Baroness Sheehan	Environment and Climate Change Select Committee

13/02/2025	Brenden Griffin and Roger Lewis	Pembrokeshire Project and bTB in Wales
13/02/3035	Stonehaven Analytics	Arthur Redpath - Value of the Veterinary Industry
24/02/2025	Dick Sibley	Bovine Tuberculosis Control
24/02/2025	Ben Sellick	Bovine Tuberculosis Control
26/02/2025	BVA	UK-EU Veterinary Agreement and Veterinary Medicine Supply to Northern Ireland
26/02/2025	PSTIF	Grants and Trustee meeting
26/02/2025	Dick Sibley	Bovine Tuberculosis Control
04/03/2025	BVA	Update on Welfare at Slaughter
04/03/2025	APPGASTA	Precision Breeding Statutory Instrument – Crops meeting
05/03/2025	Lord Curry	Meeting for a biography
11/03/2025	APGAW	Marisa Heath – catch-up
12/03/2025	APPG MNTDs and DnDi	Discuss future collaboration with the APPG
12/03/2025	Tom McNeilly	Catch-up
20/03/2025	Elanco	Fiona Hutchings and Julian Little - Veterinary Parasiticides in the Environment
25/03/2025	APGAW	Domestic Abuse and Ruby's Law
25/03/2025	APPG MNTDs	Multiple APPG Meeting to discuss ODA cuts
01/04/2025	APGAW	Dan O'Neill, Marisa Heath and Vanessa Barnes - Innate health Assessment Update
01/04/2025	APPG MNTDs	Multiple APPG Meeting to discuss ODA cuts
02/04/2025	Puppy Smuggling Roundtable	Danny Chambers MP and Neil Hudson MP stakeholder discussion
02/04/2025	Ursula Pullman	Cultybraggan POW Camp
02/04/2025	Lord Elliot	Farrier Accreditation Northern Ireland
02/04/2025	Madeleine Campbell	Key Animal Welfare Issues and Priorities
29/04/2025	Douglas Hutchison	Veterinary Issues
29/04/2025	LSTM - Professor David Laloo and Marie Gray	Pre-meet
30/04/2025	Dr Lauren Sullivan MP	APPG Malaria and NTDs Bank Account set-up
14/05/2025	APPG Global Health and Security	Inaugural meeting
14/05/2025	BiGGAR Economics	Proposal Update
20/05/2025	Hannah Haque and Danny Chambers MP	Catch-up
21/05/2025	BVA	Update on DoL and Welfare at Slaughter
21/05/2025	PSTIF	William Duncan - Trustees and Grant applications
04/06/2025	RCVS	Ben Myring - Defra Sprint Update
05/06/2025	John MacKinnon	Farrowing Crates
05/06/2025	BVA, George Eustice	Non-stun Slaughter
09/06/2025	Jill Hewitt	Sheep Scab pre-meeting
10/06/2025	Dick Sibley	Bovine Tuberculosis
11/06/2025	PSTIF	William Duncan - Grant Applications
17/06/2025	Mike Watson	Catch-up
17/06/2025	Phil Hambling and Andrew Loftus	Sustainability within the farming sector
23/06/2025	Paul Higgs, CVS	Vet Industry Project and CMA Review
18/06/2025	APGAW	Marisa Heath – Ministerial Meeting
24/06/2025	Dinner Stuart Reid	Veterinary Issues
26/06/2025	Catriona Gibbs	Post-interview Feedback

30/06/2025	RCVS	Lizzie Lockett and Vicki Bolton - Veterinary Industry Project BiGGAR Proposal
03/07/2025	Dr Luigi Sedda	Zoom update
08/07/2025	Dr Danny Chambers	Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs Cats and Ferrets) Bill
08/07/2025	Anthony Ridge	Illegal Meat Imports and UK-EU Agreement
09/07/2025	BiGGAR Economics	Discussion of contract and next steps for veterinary industry project
09/07/2025	Jane Clark	Illegal Meat Imports and UK-EU Agreement
09/07/2025	Lord Krebs	Biosecurity, bTB and Select Committee
09/07/2025	BBC Longform Investigations Team	Illegal Meat Imports and UK-EU Agreement
09/07/2025	Danny Chambers, John Innes and Mark Morton	Numerous Veterinary Issues
10/07/2025	Richard Griffiths	Poultry Handling
15/07/2025	Maddy Campbell	Private meeting
16/07/2025	Rowena Hansen	Heads of the Animal Health and Welfare Advice team at APHA
21/07/2025	Graeme Blackett	Veterinary Industry Contract
01/09/2025	Hayley Atkins	Defra bill team meeting regarding Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) bill
02/09/2025	Linda Smith	Heathrow veterinarian discussion regarding Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) bill
02/09/2025	Paula Boyden	Discussion regarding Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) bill
09/09/2025	Jacob Williams	Puppy Smuggling Bill – the Telegraph
10/09/2025	Graeme Blackett (BiGGAR Economics)	Update on progress of veterinary industry project
16/09/2025	BVA, George Eustice, AHDB, UKAS	DoL certification scheme update
16/09/2025	Byron Hyde	Ethics of Policy-making
17/09/2025	Graeme Blackett (BiGGAR Economics)	Update on progress of veterinary industry project
17/09/2025	William Duncan	PSTIF Website Development

EVENTS ATTENDED

AJT unless initials indicate otherwise

DATE	EVENT
16/10/2024	MSD Parliamentary Dinner
22/10/2024	Animal Matters Coalition Parliamentary Reception
23/10/2024	VPRF Annual Dinner
29/10/2024	APPG on Future of Aviation Travel and Aerospace
05/11/2024	RUMA - Targets Taskforce Update Virtual Meeting 2024
13/11/2024	RCVS Past Presidents Dinner
19/11/2024	Pig Stun Conference - Virtual Attendee
26/11/2024	NOAH Parliamentary Drop-in on Improvements of Animal Welfare on Human Health
26/11/2024	GAVI - Dr Sania Nishta, overview of activities and funding
27/11/2024	Dogs Trust Drop-in Event - Electric Shock Collars
03/12/2024	British Poultry Council Awards 2024
10/12/2024	Corporate Leaders Group Net Zero Reception
11/12/2024	Parliamentary Science Christmas Party
16/12/2024	WHO World Malaria Report Reception joint with the APPG Malaria and NTDs

26/02/2025	BVA Annual Dinner 2025
05/03/2025	RCVS Presidents Dinner
06/03/2025	Meat Business Women Food Business Chain Charter Launch Parliament
20/03/2025	Uniting to Combat NTDs - Global Aid Cuts and Priorities
02/03/2025	Global Fund event in collaboration with APPG Malaria and NTDs
10/06/2025	Save Me and Gatcombe TB Partnership event in Thames Pavilion
17/06/2025	Ralph Melville Memorial Lecture
19/06/2025	VMA Annual Debate and Lunch 2025
24/06/2025	VPRF Extraordinary General Board Meeting
24/06/2025	Beer and Pubs Summer Party
26/06/2025	Visit to Dover Port with the APPG on Biosecurity
02/07/2025	FSA Summer Reception
08/07/2025	Scottish Peers Summer Reception

Non-Parliamentary Committees and Other Roles October 2024-September 2025

ORGANISATION	ROLE (AJT unless otherwise indicated)
Foundation for Science and Technology	Council Member
Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine	Chair – 125 th Anniversary Campaign Board
Locum Veterinary Surgeon [PVI]	Young Veterinary Partnership (independent) and SK Pet Travel Experts
PSTIF	Chair - a charitable body which funds the Parliamentary and Scientific Committee and potentially other activities to promote, communicate and stimulate scientific research in a range of activities informing policy.
The Blue Cross	Goodwill Ambassador
The Veterinary Record and In Practice (BMJ Publications)	Chief Veterinary Advisor, Editorial Board Chair
UKRI Tackling Infections	Chair of the External Advisory Board – Tackling Infections is a new £75million UKRI programme on animal, human and plant infections.
Vet Sustain	Ambassador

