

Veterinary Policy Research Foundation

Annual Report Oct 2023 – September 2024



Lord Trees and Fiona Shuttleworth with large animal clinician, Dick Sibley (right), and rockstar turned animal rights activist, Brian May (left), at his 'Save me Trust' parliamentary reception on illegal hunting and the badger cull.

Veterinary Policy Research Foundation
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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
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
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
GL	Gabrielle Laing
HD	Harriet Davenport
HJ	Hannah Jordan
HoL	House of Lords
ILRI	International Livestock Research Institute

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
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
VPRF	Veterinary Policy Research Foundation
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WOAH	World Organisation for Animal Health
ZELS	Zoonoses and Emerging Livestock Systems

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/May 2023. Twenty four candidates applied, of whom six were interviewed. As a result, Fiona Shuttleworth was appointed to start in October 2023 and will remain the intern until October 2025.

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 and committees
- 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
- 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

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.

September 2024

- **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** is undertaking a Small Animal Emergency and Critical Care internship at Advanced Vetcare in Melbourne, Australia, whilst working on an ad hoc basis in the Research and Development department of Scolexia Pty – a veterinary consultancy business specialising in the intensive livestock sector.



From left to right, Harriet Davenport, Lord Trees, and Fiona Shuttleworth outside Parliament Square
October 2023

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
- 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 2024:

Donor	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Total Donated
British Small Animal Veterinary Association	5000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	14,000
British Veterinary Association	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	40,000
CVS UK Ltd	2500	2500	2500	2500	n/a	n/a	2500	2500	2500	2500	20,000
Glasgow Veterinary School	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	1000	1000	n/a	1000	1000	1000	6,000
Goddard Veterinary Group	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	3000	3000	14,000
Hird and Partners Ltd	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	1000	1000	3,000
IVC Evidensia	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5000	5000	5000	5000	20,000
Liverpool Veterinary School	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	20,000
Professor the Lord Trees	1000	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	1500	14,500
Medivet	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	2500	25,000
National Office of Animal Health	5000	5000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	4000	42,000
Nottingham Veterinary School	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	10,000
Pets at Home Vet Group	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	5000	30,000
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons	10000	10000	10000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	8000	86,000
Royal Veterinary College	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	2000	2000	2000	2000	2000	15,000
Vet Partners	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	10,000
XL Vets Ltd	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1000	1000	1000	1000	2000	2000	8,000
Total pledged and received (£)	36,000	32,500	31,500	30,500	34,000	35,000	41,500	43,500	46,500	46,500	377,500

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.

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

ATTENDANCE

October 2023 was the beginning of Lord Trees's eleventh year in the House of Lords and the start of the tenth year of the Internship. Lord Trees attends Parliament from Tuesday to Thursday when the House is sitting (the House does not usually sit on Friday).

Owing to its dissolution on the 24th May and the election process, Parliament sat for only two weeks before the summer recess (after the King's Speech on the 17th July). Similarly, Parliament sat for only two weeks after the summer recess before it adjourned for Party Political Conference recess for three weeks, so it has been a relatively short parliamentary period for the VPRF 2023/24 year.

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*

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)*

HOUSE OF LORDS BUSINESS

¹ This appears low as, during COVID, attendance was registered only for debate contributions.

² PVI working week changed from three to four days per week in May 2016, subject to ongoing review.

* Election year

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 2023 – Sep 2024)

DATE	CATEGORY	DETAILS
12/09/2023	Committee Stage Speech	Hunting Trophies (Import Prohibition) Bill
13/09/2023	Oral Question	Rejoining Horizon Europe
21/11/2023	Second Reading Speech	Trans-Pacific Partnership Trade Bill
22/11/2023	Oral Question	Dengue Risk Factor for the UK
12/12/2023	Oral Question	Bovine Tuberculosis
18/01/2024	Balloted Debate Speech	Biosecurity, infectious disease and globalisation and climate change
30/01/2024	Oral Question	Horizon funding of neglected tropical diseases
21/02/2024	Second Reading Speech	Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill
22/02/2024	Oral Question	Peat Degradation
27/02/2024	Statutory Instrument Debate Speech	Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2023
07/03/2024	Oral Question	Reducing antimicrobial resistance in aqueous environments
14/03/2024	Written Question	Animals (Low-Welfare Activities Abroad) Act 2023
26/03/2024	Oral Question	UK Food Security
28/03/2024	Written Question	Poultry Handling
18/04/2024	Statutory Instrument Speech	Veterinary Medicines (Amendments etc.) Regulations 2024
30/04/2024	Oral Question	Antimicrobial Resistance in government surveillance

September 2024

01/05/2024	Oral Question	House of Lords Reform
02/05/2024	Debate Speech	EU Import and Export Controls
02/05/2024	Written Question	Animals (Low-Welfare Activities Abroad) Act 2023 - definition of activities to be included within the legislation
08/05/2024	Report Speech	Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill
12/09/2024	Debate Speech	The Crisis of Higher Education Funding

Lord Trees's Parliamentary Business – Other Parliamentary Correspondence (Oct 2023 – Sep 2024)

DATE	CATEGORY	DETAILS
05/09/2023	Meeting with DEFRA Minister Lord Benyon	Border Target Operating Model
12/09/2023	Meeting with Deputy Foreign Secretary Andrew Mitchell MP	Trophy Hunting
25/10/2023	Meeting with Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi	Discussion about Halal export and 'Demonstration of Life' scheme
28/11/2023	Private dinner Mark Spencer DEFRA Minister	UK food security, 'Demonstration of Life' scheme
30/11/2023	Letter to Trade Ministers Malcolm Offord and Kevin Hollinrake MP	Welfare at slaughter
30/11/2023	Letter to DEFRA Minister Mark Spencer	Welfare at slaughter
23/01/2024	Meeting with Earl of Leicester	Environmental contamination of veterinary medicines
23/01/2024	Meeting with Therese Coffey MP	Dogs (Protection of Livestock) (Amendment) Bill
24/01/2024	Meeting with DEFRA Minister Lord Douglas-Miller	Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill
21/02/2024	Meeting with DEFRA Minister Lord Douglas-Miller	Veterinary Medicine Regulations
06/03/2024	Meeting with DEFRA Minister Mark Spencer	'Demonstration of Life' scheme
18/03/2024	Letter to Secretary of State Steve Barclay (on behalf of APGAW)	Fish Welfare at Slaughter
19/03/2024	Meeting with DEFRA Minister Lord Douglas Miller, Christine Middlemiss (CVO), Andrew Soldan (APHA)	Veterinary Workforce Shortages
25/03/2024	Letter to Scottish Minister Mairi Gougeon (on behalf of APGAW)	Fish Welfare at Slaughter
17/04/2024	Cabinet Office Meeting	Veterinary Medicines Northern Ireland Working Group
30/04/2024	Meeting with Baroness Hayman of Ullock	APHA redevelopment and Veterinary Legislative Reform
01/05/2024	Letter to Foreign Secretary Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton	Invitation to APPG Malaria and NTD event
01/05/2024	Letter to Deputy Foreign Secretary Andrew Mitchell MP	Invitation to APPG Malaria and NTD event
14/05/2024	Meeting with subgroup of Cabinet Office group	Cascade and Special Import Scheme usage for veterinary medicine supply for Northern Ireland
14/05/2024	Letter from Deputy Foreign Secretary Andrew Mitchell MP	Confirmation that the FCDO is pledging £15 million towards eradication of lymphatic filariasis and River Blindness in Africa
10/09/2024	Meeting with Dr Lauren Sullivan MP	Meeting to discuss her potential role as co-chair for the APPG on Malaria and NTDs.

10/09/2024	Meeting with Dr Danny Chambers MP	A welcome to Parliament
11/09/2024	Cabinet Office Meeting	Reinstated Veterinary Medicines Northern Ireland Working Group Meeting

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 which is currently finalising a report for their inquiry on methane.

Lord Trees's Parliamentary Business – Select Committee Meetings Attended (Oct 2023 – Sep 2024)

DATE	CATEGORY	DETAILS
31/01/2024	Environment and Climate Change Select Committee	Appointed member

Subsequently, Lord Trees attended 12 weekly meetings from the 7th February 2024 to 11th September 2024



Lord Trees in action during the Environment and Climate Change Select Committee Meeting on Wednesday 13th March 2024, hearing evidence regarding the warming impact of methane in the atmosphere (notably from Professor Myles Allen from the University of Oxford).

PUBLICATIONS AND EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES

Publications

In 2023/2024, both Fiona and Lord Trees have submitted articles to publications in the Vet Record. Links to these articles can be found below:

Vet Record

September 2024

- **Extreme Breed Conformations letter – Veterinary Record; Volume 194, Issue 4, published in February 2024.**
- **Trade bills and animal welfare standards article - Veterinary Record; Volume 194, Issue 5, published in March 2024.**
- **Joint pathways to Parliament article – Veterinary Record; Volume 194, Issue 8, published in April 2024.**
- **Roundup of the Kept Animals Bill article – Veterinary Record; Volume 195, Issue 1, published in July 2024.**

Careers

vet.careers@bvajournals.com

From pets to parliament: why we chose to shape veterinary policy of the future

Entering the political arena isn't for everyone, but here the second – and currently only – vet to sit in the House of Lords, **Lord Trees**, and his parliamentary intern, discuss why contributing to parliamentary business is an exciting and stimulating end and start to their respective careers.

Sandy Trees, peer

AS a schoolboy I loved natural history and with a group of friends created a little naturalist club based in a garden hut in Scunthorpe! With my interest in biology, when it came to choice of career, it was medicine or vet and loving the outdoors I chose the veterinary path (that was when many vets worked in farm practice). I have never regretted that decision.

Early expedition

At the Dick Vet in Edinburgh, there was a precedent of overseas postgraduate expeditions, so six of us went to Kenya in 1969 for six months and were given a great field project to undertake by a research team in Nairobi – a field trial of a prototype East Coast fever vaccine. It was a great experience, after which I wanted to enter general practice, so I worked at

Lecturing at Liverpool

After Rome, I secured a lectureship at Liverpool university and the move from Rome to Liverpool in 1980, at the nadir of its state, was quite a contrast. But Liverpool was wonderful and we came to love it.

As a parasitology lecturer, I was in a unique position because the post was in the faculty of veterinary science but located in the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine – human tropical medicine at that time being primarily parasitology. Thus, I was immersed in One Health before it was as fashionable as it is now, undertaking teaching and research into the relevance to human disease (eg. liver blindness) and animal disease. The emergence of *Neospora* as a major veterinary pathogen in dogs and cattle in the 1980s

I entered the upper house in 2012 as a crossbench peer, just one year after my retirement from Liverpool. Not much of a retirement! Since peers are not provided with any staff support, or allowance for such, I set up the Veterinary Policy Research Foundation – a not-for-profit company to employ young vets not only to help me, but to offer them a career development opportunity. The parliamentary veterinary internship has been incredibly popular and successful, with a succession of brilliant young vets of whom Fiona Shuttleworth is the



“The emergence of *Neospora* as a major veterinary pathogen in

Fiona Shuttleworth parliamentary intern to Lord Trees

LEAVING veterinary school after six years' training and all holidays spent doing EMS knee-deep in excrement, blood and other bodily fluids, was both a liberating and daunting moment. Throughout my last few years at university I had questioned my drive and motivation for being a vet – and whether I wanted to be a vet at all.

Eye-opening experiences

Looking back, I realise I viewed the veterinary degree as a linear career pathway within the clinical veterinary field – and I'm probably not alone. After spending a few months in the role of parliamentary veterinary intern, I now appreciate how far-reaching a veterinary degree can be and how it offers up a variety of career opportunities in industry, government, charity and many other areas.

Role in practice

After graduating I accepted a first-opinion role in a small animal independent veterinary practice in west London. I loved this job. I was often thrown in at the deep end,

but with a very knowledgeable and supportive team, I quickly became used to life as a vet: anal glands, a bad back and no lunch breaks...!

Joking aside, the clinical role of a vet is a challenging and ultimately rewarding career; the trust between client and veterinarian, mutual care for the animal, and the change you can make to the life of an animal and its owner are incredibly powerful.

Transferable skills

In my role as parliamentary intern I have learnt to appreciate that the skills necessary for clinical veterinary medicine are highly transferable to situations requiring decision making – understanding the cause of an issue (symptoms), considering the historical significance (history taking), troubleshooting next steps to provide recommendations, each assessed for cost and benefits (diagnostic tests and possible treatment options relevant to an owner's finances) and effective, clear stakeholder (client) communication are some examples.



Volunteering

After 18 months in my graduate clinical job, I decided I wanted to pursue my lifelong ambition to work with orangutans in Central Kalimantan, Borneo. I undertook a five-week volunteer placement with Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation, working alongside a team of vets and support staff, who dedicated their lives to the protection and survival of these great apes. This exposed me to the challenges faced by wildlife veterinarians

“I am excited for the next few months in parliament, with multiple animal welfare bills passing through and a general election on the way

Careers

Diary of a veterinary parliamentary intern: trade bills and animal welfare standards

Vet and parliamentary intern to Lord Trees **Fiona Shuttleworth** discusses proposed implementation of trade partnerships and how animal welfare must be considered in both import and export agreements.

FOLLOWING Brexit, the UK government has been seeking a number of free-trade agreements (FTAs), the latest of which is the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which unites 11 nations across the Indo-Pacific region. While the government anticipates minimal impact on GDP (<0.1 per cent by 2040), concerns for animal welfare, food safety and environmental impacts cast doubt on the true benefits of the partnership and others like it.

Concerns in the Lords

On its passage through the House of Lords, thorough parliamentary

will not be lowered in negotiating trade deals, but as Lord Trees said in his second reading speech on the CPTPP bill in the House of Lords: “This is the right answer to the wrong question. The right question is, will countries exporting to the UK raise their standards to our level?”

Taking a stand

The UK government recently protected its food safety standards when it halted bilateral trade negotiations with Canada, which had been pushing the UK to relax its ban on importing hormone-treated beef (outlawed in the UK in 1989). This is a relief for British beef farmers who already face increased



“Increasing food imports to the UK creates a reliance on cheap food products that not only compromise food security but also result in a competitive disadvantage to UK farmers

Hat trick of welfare measures completed

Fiona Shuttleworth, parliamentary veterinary intern to **Lord Trees**, reports how three of the four main measures contained in the government's withdrawn Kept Animals Bill were pushed through parliament as separate pieces of legislation just before its dissolution.



VETERAN parliamentarian Baroness Fookes had a great 88th birthday present this year on 21 February when the Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill received its second reading in the House of Lords.

A few months later, she saw the bill complete its passage through parliament and be granted royal assent. The act makes it illegal to export livestock from Great Britain for fattening and slaughter, to prevent the unnecessary suffering caused by excessively long journeys

government announced it would try to introduce the various measures contained in the original bill as separate legislation during the remainder of its tenure in parliament.

Primates as pets

Another component of the bill was to restrict the keeping of primates as pets in England, which the government included as a manifesto commitment in 2019. The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations

“

The Pet Abandonment Bill was moved swiftly through the parliamentary process, underpinning all remaining stages in one

he said of the final legislative component, livestock worrying, which fell when parliament was dissolved. In spite of the unanticipated curtailment of this parliament, the government to its credit succeeded in enacting three of the four main commitments contained in the bill.

Loose ends

The sudden dissolution of parliament has also left us desperately trying to tie up loose ends and rearrange important

Veterinary EMS

The second 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:

- Erin Burnett, University of Nottingham – December 2023
- Samuel Hickling, University of Nottingham – February 2024

- Rachel Barham, University of Cambridge – April 2024

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

Participants this year were as follows:

- Madison Shorthouse, Harper-Keele University – March 2024

Unfortunately, owing to the unexpected calling of the general election in May 2024, two prospective EMS students, one from the RCVS scheme and an independent application, were unable to attend their EMS placement as Parliament was dissolved. We have endeavoured to rearrange these placements and are looking forward to welcoming Martha Rushbrooke studying at the University of Cambridge for a week in November.

House of Lords placement for vet student Maddy



A vet student's interest in public health and small animal medicine and surgery recently took her to the House of Lords to broaden her knowledge of veterinary policy and the parliamentary process.

Madison Shorthouse's interviews for Harper-Keele University about her placement at the VPRF

PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES AND MEETINGS

All-Party Parliamentary Groups (APPGs)

APPG for Animal Welfare

Lord Trees has been co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare (APGAW) since July 2017 alongside Giles Watling MP but since the election a new co-chair is being sought. APGAW prides itself on transparency, evidence and actionable results and meets regularly to discuss key animal welfare issues. Over the past year, work has continued on canine conformation-related health issues, small abattoirs, enforcement and fish welfare at slaughter.



In December, Lord Trees chaired an APGAW compendium discussion on extreme dog breeding in the UK, animal welfare enforcement and small abattoir provision. APGAW is continuing to work alongside multiple stakeholders for the development of the innate health assessment tool, developed by the Brachycephalic Working Group, chaired by Dr Dan O'Neill from the RVC. The tool is intended to be used by licensed Trading Standards inspectors to carry out visual tests for breed acceptability, to prevent the chronic ill health and suffering associated with many extreme conformational traits, for instance brachycephaly (short-faced dog breeds). Currently, the tool is finalising its health criteria before a pilot study is carried out with Trading Standards inspectors. A similar, more specific scheme is the respiratory function grading scheme, developed by a team at the University of Cambridge, headed by Dr Jane Ludlow and funded by the Kennel Club. The scheme assesses the respiratory patterns of pugs, French bulldogs and bulldogs, for brachycephalic obstructive airway syndrome (BOAS), and grades them out of 3 on their findings.

These results can be used by veterinarians to advise owners whether their dog is affected by BOAS and outline the available treatment options. The results can also be used to provide guidance to breeders to prevent producing puppies highly likely to be afflicted with BOAS. In a meeting with Sarah Beeching and small animal neurology specialist, Clare Rusbridge, in the House of Lords in December 2023, we learnt about Clare's research on Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and their conformational caused predisposition to significant health issues including, chiari malformation, syringomyelia and mitral value disease. Clare warned of the lack of a 'healthy' population of animals in this breed for effective outcrossing to prevent and reduce the incidence of these breed-related diseases in the future. Following this meeting, Lord Trees, and other key members of APGAW, wrote a letter to the Vet Record to help raise public awareness to the issue and prevent the chronic ill health suffered by extreme breed conformations.

Following APGAW's report on small abattoirs in 2020, the Abattoir Sector Group was established under DEFRA's umbrella to improve representation of small abattoirs to

government. Through the joint sector group, £4 million in grants has been made available to help support smaller abattoirs and recognises their vital role in the rural economy.

Last year, APGAW held a roundtable session chaired by Giles Watling MP, attended by police, NWCU, RSPCA, NatureWatch and a number of other experts to discuss wildlife crime and enforcement. The meeting highlighted the need for mandatory reporting and data sharing, as well as improving public education and awareness regarding wildlife crime and its links to rural crime. Since then, there is now a dedicated DEFRA employee focusing on enforcement with the aim of appropriately training enforcement officers on a set curriculum.

Another key focus of APGAW this year has been farmed fish welfare at slaughter. In January 2024, APGAW hosted a roundtable chaired by Lord Trees on farmed fish welfare at slaughter which brought together key stakeholders, including British Trout Association, RSPCA, fish farming experts, NGOs and DEFRA amongst others. At the meeting it was agreed that the recommendations from the Animal Welfare Committee's (AWC) 2014 report calling for the inclusion of farmed fish under Welfare of Animals at Time of Killing 2015 (WATOK 2015) be implemented, even though substantial parts of the industry work to high standards. The meeting highlighted the need for a proportional approach to the legislation given the huge disparities between the capacity, both in volume of fish farmed and economic durability, of fish farms in the UK. Similar to small abattoirs, small fish farms contribute to the local rural economy and therefore any increased expenditure requirements i.e., for CCTV, new machinery or staff training, could be economically catastrophic for these farms. As a result of the meeting, two letters on behalf of APGAW, various NGOs and industry stakeholders were sent to the DEFRA Secretary of State at the time, Steve Barclay, and the Scottish Minister, Mairi Gougeon, in late March 2024. The letter detailed the case for the inclusion of farmed fish under WATOK 2015 and urged that the recommendations from the AWC's 2014 report be adopted. Since this written correspondence, Salmon Scotland, which represents the entire Scottish salmon sector, has been working with the Animal Welfare unit within the Scottish Government to develop statutory guidance relating to the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act, to improve assessments of compliance with the act and continue to raise standards in the industry before specific legislation is developed.



Lord Trees and Fiona Shuttleworth (far right) at the APGAW Roundtable Discussion on Fish Welfare at Slaughter. Also pictured is Giles Watling MP (co-chair of APGAW at the time, centre right)

Unfortunately, owing to the abrupt calling of the general election, the APGAW roundtable on pig stunning methods in the UK, scheduled for June 2024, could not go ahead. It is almost unanimously agreed by numerous industry stakeholders that an alternative, humane stunning method needs to be developed for widespread commercial use in pigs. The discussion intended to bring together multiple stakeholders across the pig farming industry in the UK to discuss the inadequacies behind current stunning methods and identify areas for research improvements for both animal welfare and the resulting carcass quality. For background information, high concentration CO₂ stunning (HCCS) is commonly used in the UK but it has been shown to be aversive in pigs causing pain, fear and distress before loss of consciousness occurs. However, carcass quality tends to be improved compared to electrical stunning and the animals are able to be slaughtered in groups, lowering their stress pre-stunning and helping avoid pale-soft-exudative meat formation. Despite these benefits, the aversiveness observed remains a huge welfare issue and highlights the need for appropriate alternatives to HCCS for commercial usage. Electrical stunning, either to the head, heart, or a combination of both, avoids this welfare issue and is the second most common stunning technique used in pigs in the UK. However, electrical stunning requires good and regular maintenance of equipment and well trained and experienced stockman-ship to avoid welfare issues and maximise carcass quality. In May, the Humane Slaughter Association and DEFRA concluded that their study on low atmospheric pressure stunning is not a humane alternative to carbon dioxide stunning and alternatives needs to be urgently implemented to improve pig welfare at the time of killing.

APPG for Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases

In 2023 Lord Trees was appointed co-chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases (APPMG), a forum dedicated to addressing the challenges and solution in the fight against malaria and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs). For the 2023/24 parliamentary year, he co-chaired the APPG alongside Catherine West MP, pictured below. Since the general election, Catherine has moved into a Ministerial role in the FCDO, and the position of co-chair is vacant. The APPMG brings together parliamentarians, academics and sector professionals to discuss these pressing issues which affect some of the world's most vulnerable populations and have devastating impacts globally. Over the past year, the APPG has continued to raise awareness of malaria and NTDs in Parliament, while highlighting the value of UK aid and the impact of reducing the aid budget from 0.7 to 0.5% of GDP.

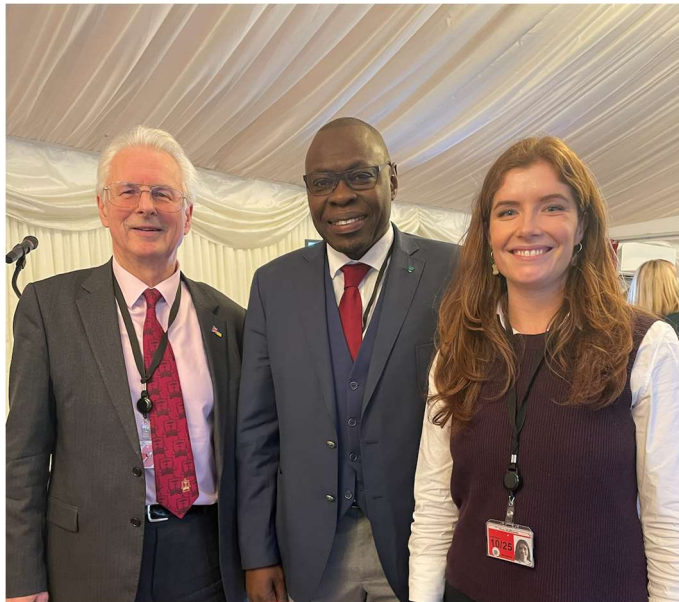


Lord Trees and Catherine West MP, both co-chairs of the APPG on Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases, visited the Dundee University Drug Discovery Unit in Autumn 2023

Throughout the year, the APPG has engaged with representatives from various organisations and countries to learn about their efforts in combating NTDs. In September, Lord Trees visited the University of Dundee's Drug Discovery Unit, where scientists are leveraging cutting-edge technologies to aid in the discovery and development of drugs for the treatment of NTDs. The unit is behind the development of an oral-antimalarial treatment, which is entering Phase 2 clinical trials in Africa, funded by Medicines for Malaria Venture.

On January 30th – World NTD Day - the APPG for Malaria and NTDs, in collaboration with the UK coalition Against NTDs, held a parliamentary reception sponsored by Lord Trees. The event, themed 'Unite, Act, Eliminate', aimed to raise the profile of NTDs amongst parliamentarians. September 2024

It brought together various stakeholders, including MPs, academics, journalists, global health organisations and industry representatives. Key speeches were given by Dr Socé Fall, Director of NTDs at WHO, and by representatives from the Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative and GlaxoSmithKline. A particularly powerful moment came from Fidel Strub, co-Founder and Director of Elysium Noma Survivors Association, who shared his personal experience of living with Noma, an aggressive necrotising bacterial infection that affects the mouth and face, primarily in children under seven living in poverty. Noma, which has a 90% mortality rate and causes severe disfigurement, is the latest disease to be included in WHO's list of NTDs. 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.



Lord Trees and Fiona Shuttleworth with WHO Director of the Department of Control of Neglected Tropical Diseases , Dr Socé Fall, at the APPG for Malaria and Neglected Tropical Disease parliamentary event, January 2024

In November 2023, Lord Trees asked a supplementary oral question on the topic of climate change causing a global health emergency. In the summer of 2023, there were cases of dengue fever, an insect-borne neglected tropical disease normally found – as the name suggests – in tropical regions, in Paris for the first time. In an attempt to emphasise the very real threat of dengue fever virus establishing in the UK, Lord Trees asked Lord Ahmed of Wimbledon *‘what preparations His Majesty’s Government are making to prepare for, detect and hopefully prevent incursions of similar insect-borne infections into the UK?’*. It was significant as Lord Ahmed replied with a personal note stating that a member of his own family became infected and tragically died from dengue fever. He went on to reassure that *‘the rare and imported pathogens laboratory at Porton Down has accredited, reliable tests for dengue and other*

infections and we are working with partners and local authorities.' Unfortunately, owing to the unexpected calling of the general election, the APPG's event on climate change and the growing threat of NTDs scheduled for June 2024 was cancelled.

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, rabies, and disease roadmaps.

Other APPGs and Parliamentary Committees

We are also on the mailing list of the following and attend meetings of particular interest:

Parliamentary Science & Technology Committee
APPG for Agriculture and Food for Development
APPG for Antibiotics
APPG for Eggs, Pigs and Poultry
APPG for Lead Shot
APPG for Racing and Bloodstock
APPG for Science and Technology in Agriculture
APPG for Sustainable Development Goals
APPG for Universities
APPG for Vaccines

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE PAST YEAR

THE KEPT ANIMALS BILL ROUNDUP

The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill was originally introduced in the 2021-22 parliamentary session and was later carried over into the current session. In its original form, the bill spanned many topics including pet primate ownership, livestock worrying, live animal exports, puppy smuggling, dog theft and zoo licensing. Given the broad nature of the bill, the government feared it could be open to swathes of diverse amendments, delaying its passage through Parliament and opening the door to potentially controversial debates on topics such as fox hunting and religious slaughter. As such, the bill was withdrawn at the end of May 2023 but the government announced they would introduce the measures within the Kept Animals Bill during the remainder of Parliament.

The Animal Welfare (Livestock Exports) Bill passed through the House of Lords unamended and was granted Royal Assent on the 20th May 2024. This important piece of animal welfare legislation makes it illegal to export livestock for fattening or slaughter outside GB, to prevent the unnecessary suffering and welfare issues caused by excessively long journeys and it helps ensure animals are slaughtered as close to their point of rearing as possible. Since Brexit there have been no live animals exported for fattening or slaughter from GB since 2020 owing to lack of border control posts.

In 2019, the government made it a manifesto commitment to ban the keeping of primates as pets. Primates are highly intelligent animals with complex welfare and social needs which are often difficult to meet in a domestic environment. Currently, it is estimated there are between 1,000-5,000 primates kept as pets in the UK. The Animal Welfare (Primate Licences) (England) Regulations 2023, secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, passed on the 5th March 2024, aim to reduce primate ownership by forbidding such ownership without a licence, which requires inspection and certain conditions to be met. Whilst this falls short of an outright ban, this legislation is certainly a step in the right direction to enhance primate welfare in the UK and ultimately move towards a ban of private primate ownership.

With the announcement of the general election and the dissolution of Parliament on the 24th May, the fate of two other significant components of the Kept Animals Bill were on tenterhooks. The Pet Abduction Bill was swiftly moved through the parliamentary process, undergoing all of its remaining stages in one day, and was granted Royal Assent on the 24th May 2024. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of the final legislative component of the Kept Animals Bill – livestock worrying. This fell, alongside many other bills, with the dissolution of Parliament. However, all is not lost for this important issue. The new Labour government's farming Minister, Daniel Zeichner, announced at the National Farmers' Union summer reception in Parliament that the Labour government have committed to tackling livestock worrying amongst other rural crime issues, despite no mention of animal welfare legislation within their election manifesto. We look forward to working with the new Minister on this issue and to culminating all the hard work that has already been put into this important animal welfare legislation.

CONTINUING ISSUES – NEW GOVERNMENT, OLD PROBLEMS

During the last few months of the summer parliamentary session the availability of veterinary medicines in Northern Ireland was a subject of active concern, and rightly so. Following the Windsor Framework, veterinary medicine supply to Northern Ireland is threatened with a

reduction by as much as 50% and has become a pressing issue because temporary arrangements with the EU are due to end in December 2025. In late April, the Conservative government set up a task and finish Cabinet Office group, of which we were members, chaired by the then Northern Ireland Minister Steve Baker and Lord Douglas-Miller, the then DEFRA Minister in the Lords. At the same time the House of Lords European Affairs Committee established a sub-committee focusing solely on this issue. Owing to the calling of the general election there has been slow progression on this issue, despite the emphasis from industry specialists and the veterinary community that a timely solution is paramount given the deadline is now little over a year away. We were worried about this important matter slipping under the radar of the new government where other legislative priorities might take precedence but we were pleasantly surprised when in the first week back after summer recess we were invited to be a part of the reinstated Veterinary Medicines Working Group. We look forward to working with the group to come up with solutions to ensure continued supply of veterinary medicines to Northern Ireland.

In February 2024, amendments to the Veterinary Medicine Regulations were presented to Parliament under secondary legislation. These amendments, which are the first significant revision since 2013, aim to modernize the regulations, reduce the regulatory burden on the industry, increase flexibility for novel therapies and further enhance the UK veterinary sector's leadership in reducing antibiotic use and combating antimicrobial resistance. This sparked us to consult with former PVI, Catrina Prince, who currently works for the Veterinary Medicine Directorate, and who highlighted key points regarding alignment with the EU. The legislation aligns with EU standards by banning the routine use of antibiotics in all situations. However, it diverges by not imposing a total ban on prophylactic antibiotic use or requiring mandatory collection of antimicrobial data across all animal species. These regulations are important for the veterinary industry and we were pleased this was given parliamentary time. However, it

They [the regulations] improve alignment with EU regulations. I hope that this will have a positive effect on the imminent negotiations with the EU to ensure the continuing supply of veterinary medicines to Northern Ireland, for which there is no agreement yet under the Windsor Framework, and which are subject to a temporary grace period that expires at the end of 2025. This potentially will have quite serious repercussion and lead to quite serious reductions in the availability of veterinary pharmaceutical products for both livestock and companion animals, unless a new agreement is reached.

Lord Trees, Tuesday 18th April 2024

Veterinary Medicine (Amendments etc.) Regulations 2024, Statutory Instrument Debate, House of Lords

is yet to be established whether this divergence will prove a hindrance in establishing a veterinary medicine supply agreement to Northern Ireland.

We do not know the priorities of the new Labour government but during his announcement at the National Farmers Union, Daniel Zeichner also stated that controlling bovine tuberculosis is the Minister's top priority. He also added that '*food security is a national security issue*' and raised the issue of trade deals undercutting British farmers through the importation of cheaper produce produced to lower environmental and animal health and welfare standards than required by our farmers in the UK. His new boss, DEFRA Secretary of State Steve Reed, has emphasised that one of his five core priorities is to support farmers to boost Britain's food security.

TRADE BILLS AND BIOSECURITY

After Brexit, the UK government has pursued several free trade agreements (FTAs), most recently joining the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which unites 11 nations across the Indo-Pacific region. While the UK government anticipates minimal impact on GDP (a rather underwhelming £2 billion by 2040), concerns for animal welfare, food safety and environmental impacts cast doubt on the true benefits of the partnership and others like it. During the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership's (CPTPP) second reading speech in the House of Lords, which drew a larger crowd than expected as Lord Cameron of Chipping Norton decided to give his maiden speech during it, Lord Trees highlighted several key issues. The UK maintains some of the highest animal welfare standards globally yet many CPTPP member states fall far short of these standards. For example, practices such as battery chicken cages, banned in the UK since 2012 and sow stalls, banned since 1999, are still legal in several CPTPP countries. Additionally, while the government predicts only a slight increase in greenhouse gas emissions from new trade patterns, these estimates fail to account for the environmental impact of increased transportation and the

We and His Majesty's Government are rightly proud of our high animal welfare standards. Ministers regularly assure us that we will not lower our standards in negotiating free trade agreements. With respect, that is the right answer to the wrong question. We should ask whether countries exporting to the UK will raise their standards to our level. The answer in this case is that they have no obligation to do so.

*Lord Trees, Tuesday 21st November 2023
CPTPP Second Reading Speech*

outsourcing of emissions through increasing imports. Furthermore, many CPTPP countries permit the use of pesticides banned in the UK and the overuse of antibiotics, raising the risk of importing antibiotic-resistant bacteria through animal products. Despite these concerns, the CPTPP bill passed through both Houses and received Royal Assent on March 20th 2024. The issues surrounding the UK's entry into the CPTPP echo those raised in previous free trade agreements such as those with Australia (2021) and New Zealand (2022).

The increase in UK food imports, driven by FTAs, could undermine food security and create a competitive disadvantage for UK farmers who face higher costs associated with adhering to high standards of health and welfare legislation. Similar concerns provoked farmer protests in mainland Europe in the winter of 2023/24 and were echoed by protests in London on the 25th March 2024.



Farmer Protests outside 1 Millbank House (PVI's office) in Parliament Square, March 2024

Despite the pursuit for FTAs the UK has yet to establish minimum standards for food imports with the exception of hormone-treated beef, chlorine-washed chicken and ractopamine in pigs. In a time when food security is of paramount concern, it is crucial that we avoid undermining our own food production capabilities. The government is currently conducting a 'rapid review' of animal product labelling to enhance consumer awareness of the high animal welfare standards of British products. However, amidst the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, there are concerns about consumers' ability to act on this information.



Lord Trees with Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, after talks of trade deals with Malaysia, who are in the CPTPP, discussing Halal meat export

In January 2024, Lord Trees secured a three-hour Crossbench debate in the chamber regarding biosecurity and the threats of infectious disease for humans, animals and plants in an age of globalisation and climate change. The debate was well attended, with over 20 speakers, and covered topics such as climate change and vector-borne disease establishment in the UK, African swine fever in imported pig products, globalisation and the COVID-19 pandemic, the importation of Dutch elm disease from Canada in the 1960s which has devastated UK elm populations, and outbreaks of antibiotic-resistant Salmonella from imported poultry products from Poland. This last point highlights the risk posed to UK public health and animal health from the delays in the implementation of the UK's importation inspection system, the Border Target Operating Model (BTOM) since Brexit. The first stage of BTOM was implemented 12 days after the debate, after being first proposed in 2021 but delayed a total of five times. BTOM establishes a risk-based approach for sanitary and phytosanitary checks on certain imports into Great Britain. The implementation, occurring in three stages throughout 2024, began on January 31st with the introduction of health certification for some medium-risk animal and plant products as well as high-risk food and feed. On April 30th, risk-based identity and physical checks on medium- and high-risk animal products were introduced with these checks now taking place at specified border control points.

The Sevington border facility, located over 20 miles inland from Dover Port, has sparked controversy because of its location. Following the second stage of BTOM, a debate in the House of Lords focused on EU imports and exports. The introduction of risk-based checks on medium-risk and high-risk animal products has created parity with checks from third-party countries – which, of course, now includes the EU. BTOM is expected to enhance the UK's biosecurity by preventing the entry of animal and plant infectious diseases, such as African

swine fever - a highly fatal disease in pigs that has been spreading westward across Europe and was recently detected in Sweden. Nevertheless, concerns maintain that the overall reduction in checks on medium-risk goods could leave the UK vulnerable to such diseases. The final stage of BTOM, scheduled for October 2024, will see the introduction of safety and security declarations for imports into Great Britain from the EU.

RUMINANTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Veterinary Policy Research Foundation has been interested in the contribution of ruminants to climate change owing to its political importance and its relevance to achieving net zero targets. Overcoming this issue is crucial for the future of ruminant farming in the UK and globally, and to the veterinary community. By coincidence, the Environment and Climate Change Select Committee, to which Lord Trees was appointed as a member in January 2024, is concluding its own report on methane and climate change which contains consideration of the agricultural industry and the role of ruminants within that. Since November 2023, Fiona has been writing a detailed fact file on the specific issue of ruminants, their methane emissions and contribution to climate change which will be published on our website. In October 2024, Lord Trees is scheduled to deliver a key-note speech at the BCVA congress in Newport, entitled – *‘Cows, Climate and CH₄ – how vets can ensure ruminants have a future’*.

It has been estimated that the global livestock agricultural sector contributes 11.1% to global anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, 56% of which is methane. In 2018, the UK agricultural industry accounted for 10% of anthropogenic UK greenhouse gas emissions. Since 1990, methane emissions in the UK have decreased significantly in several sectors: by 75% (47 MtCO₂e) in the waste sector and 84% (32 MtCO₂e) in the energy sector. However, reductions in the agricultural sector have been more modest, with only a 15% reduction (4 MtCO₂e). Consequently, agriculture has become the largest anthropogenic source of methane emissions in the UK since 2011. Projections indicate that, if current trends in emission reductions continue, the agricultural sector could become the second-largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the UK by 2050. The issue of ruminants and methane emissions is complex and nuanced. It is essential for the public and policymakers to understand key facts, such as what emissions are included in net zero calculations, the behaviour of different

greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and therefore their roles in climatic warming and, of course, the mitigation methods that may be available for the livestock industry.

Methane mitigation methods include reducing enteric fermentation production by ruminants, notably cattle, and reducing methane produced from manure by making improvements to manure management, such as the use of anaerobic digestors. Enhancing the health status of herds and flocks through endemic disease control strategies can increase productivity and reduce the greenhouse gas emissions intensity (volume 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%. There is considerable opportunity to improve vaccination uptake, which is often well below 50% in eligible herds, through government-led initiatives and funding following the Agricultural Act 2020. 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 in developing vaccines against ruminal methanogens which could stimulate the immune system to produce antibodies that suppress methanogen activity in the rumen. In August 2024, the Royal Veterinary College received £1.2 million from the Bezos Earth Fund to study how methane-producing microorganisms colonise the rumen of neonatal cattle and affect the developing immune system. Similarly, as we found out from our virtual meeting with Professor John Hammond of the Pirbright Institute in March, the Bezos Earth Fund are also funding a project at the Institute to explore the immunological response to a methanogen vaccine to determine the viability of this methane mitigation method.

What we hope to highlight is that a significant portion of methane emissions can be reduced on farms through these mitigation strategies, many of which can be implemented now with minimal extra costs – and indeed potential economic and animal welfare benefits. For instance, the FAO estimates that improvements in productivity can mitigate against over 1,700 MtCO₂e greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Given the responsibility of the veterinarian in improving animal health on farms and their crucial relationship with farmers, the role of the veterinary industry in this area is vital. Still, it is important to avoid a "one-size-fits-all" approach when deploying methane mitigation strategies owing to the heterogeneity of the

livestock sector. Studies have shown that greenhouse gas emissions vary significantly depending on factors such as animal breed, species, production system (extensive, intensive, or mixed), diet, nutrition, animal health and climate. Additionally, since the livestock sector influences biodiversity, soil quality, animal health and welfare, public health, employment and the rural economy, mitigation strategies must be contextualised within this broader range of variables when weighing up the costs and benefits and therefore the overall practicability of each mitigation method.

THE VETERINARY PROFESSION – WORKFORCE SHORTAGES AND REGULATION

For several years the Veterinary Policy Research Foundation has been deeply concerned about the growing challenges within the veterinary workforce, particularly the shortage of professionals. Our commitment to this issue dates back to 2016 when we first held a meeting at the House of Lords to address the loss of young graduates in the profession. Although workforce issues are not new to the industry, recent developments have significantly exacerbated the situation. Key contributing factors include the increased pressure on the profession following the COVID-19 pandemic, a decline in the number of EU-qualified veterinarians entering the UK workforce post-Brexit, a record number of EU-qualified vets leaving the UK and a surge in demand for veterinary services because of the rise in the UK pet population.

In early 2024 we were invited to join the Veterinary Workforce Shortages Working Group, chaired by Lord Douglas-Miller who has a personal interest in the area, alongside Dr Christine Middlemiss, UK Chief Veterinary Officer, Andrew Soldan of the APHA and representatives from the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). The goal of the working group is to develop unified strategies to address the urgent recruitment and retention challenges facing the UK veterinary workforce.

Initially, the group assessed the impact of the multifactorial causes contributing to the veterinary profession's workforce shortages. What has emerged is a perfect storm of challenges. Since Brexit, the number of EU veterinary graduates coming to work in the UK has sharply declined, while more EU-qualified vets are leaving the UK workforce. Additionally, a growing number of newly-qualified UK graduates are exiting the profession, potentially owing to burnout from an intense and demanding career but precise data to corroborate this are

September 2024

limited. The situation is further complicated by the fact that a significant proportion of UK veterinary graduates are from overseas and thus are less likely to remain and work in the UK. Moreover, the demand for veterinary services has surged, driven by increased export certification requirements post-Brexit and a rise in pet ownership during the COVID-19 pandemic by nearly 4 million animals! Compounding these issues in April 2024 the UK Home Office raised the salary threshold for the visa requirements of overseas veterinarians from £26,200 to approximately £48,000. This change is expected significantly to reduce the number of overseas veterinarians entering the UK, who often come early in their careers and will disproportionately affect sectors where overseas graduates are prevalent, such as food safety, slaughterhouse work and academia. The recent Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) review has further strained the profession. Increased public scrutiny on issues such as the cost and transparency of care is adding stress to veterinary professionals and their teams potentially driving more veterinarians out of the profession. Given the results of the 2017 Survey of the Veterinary Profession where the top three reasons for leaving the profession were poor work-life balance (60%), not feeling valued (55%) and chronic stress (49%), these issues can be exacerbated by the current veterinarian shortage and the heightened pressure resulting from the CMA review perpetuating a cycle of people leaving the profession.

In response to workforce shortages the veterinary education sector has expanded cohort sizes at established universities and created new veterinary schools in rural areas of the UK to attract students from rural backgrounds who will be more likely to work in the underrepresented veterinary livestock and food sector. Since the 2005/06 academic year, the number of veterinary schools has doubled with student places increasing from 739 to approximately 1,573 by the 2023/24 academic year. Of the 12 schools, eight are currently producing graduates and six have earned American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) accreditation (Table 1). However, concerns are rising about the economic sustainability of these vet schools. The funding model for home students—currently set at around £11,500 in government grants plus a £9,250 tuition fee, totalling just over £20,000 per student—remains significantly lower than the estimated true cost of education. To bridge this gap, several schools have increasingly recruited international students, particularly from the USA, who pay higher tuition fees, making the AVMA accreditation status crucial.

Table 1: UK Veterinary Schools Student Places and Accreditation Status

University	Established	RCVS Accredited	AVMA Approved	# of places per year	Extra Information
Aberystwyth University	2021	No	No	25 (for 2021)	<i>Years 3-5 are spent at the RVC's Hawkshead campus with specific rotations at Aberystwyth University focused on production animal issues relevant to Wales.</i>
University of Bristol	1949	Yes	Yes	180	
University of Cambridge	1949	Yes	No	67	
University of Central Lancashire	2023	No	No	Unsure	<i>In partnership with University Centre Myerscough. Dedicated building to be completed in September 2024.</i>
University of Edinburgh	1873	Yes	Yes	170	<i>Including 60 places on the 4-year graduate-entry veterinary programme</i>
University of Glasgow	1861	Yes	Yes	137	
Harper and Keele	2020	No	No	114	<i>Lectures will be delivered at either site and live streamed to the other. Students may select which they would like to be their "host" university.²</i>
University of Liverpool	1905	Yes	Yes	165	
Royal Veterinary College	1791	Yes	Yes	265	<i>Includes 105 places on the 4-year graduate-entry veterinary programme</i>
University of Nottingham	2006	Yes	Yes	300 (2x150)	<i>Has two intakes per year - one in September and one in April.</i>
Scotland's Rural College (SRUC) - Aberdeen ³	2024	No	No	Unsure	<i>Pending Degree Awarding Powers – hopeful for autumn 2024</i>
University of Surrey	2014	Yes	No	150	

Despite these efforts it will take time before the new schools produce a significant number of graduates. Meanwhile, the profession continues to struggle with persistent and growing workforce shortages, particularly in the veterinary public health sector. In 2018, data from the Veterinary Major Employers Group indicated an 11.5% shortage of veterinarians, a figure that has likely worsened since.

In the second meeting of the Veterinary Workforce Shortage Working Group, we explored potential short-, medium- and long-term solutions to address the UK's veterinary workforce shortages. The group emphasized the need for a unified multisectoral approach to drive meaningful change. Short-term solutions focused on financial incentives, such as improved salaries or government grants to attract professionals to understaffed sectors or regions. Medium-term strategies included expanding training capacity for domestic students, improving student resilience through selection criteria and increasing university capacity for students from rural backgrounds, a model already adopted by Scotland's Rural College, with the overall aim to increase graduates who will be more likely to stay and work in the UK.

For long-term solutions, the discussion centred on the reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966. Although this act has served the profession and the nation well, it is outdated, especially given the rise of veterinary paraprofessionals, 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. Despite detailed proposals from the RCVS, limited parliamentary time has delayed reform efforts. Although we sought commitments from political parties to include this crucial legislation in their manifestos ahead of the general election, we were disappointed to see no mention of it in any party's manifesto. However, we remain hopeful that with a new government, reform of this act will eventually become a higher priority, even if immediate changes are unlikely.

ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION WITH VETERINARY CHEMICALS

The pollution of aqueous environments with both antibiotics and ectoparasiticides is increasingly becoming a matter of public interest. Growing evidence suggests that significant levels of certain ectoparasiticides, such as imidacloprid – a neonicotinoid banned for agricultural use since 2013 - and fipronil are entering the environment from their use in dogs and cats. In October 2023, we met with Pesticide Action Network UK, a charity dedicated to addressing pesticide-related issues, and have liaised regularly with veterinarian Andrew

Prentis - a research fellow at the Grantham Institute at Imperial College, as well as with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency to discuss this issue further.

Currently, ectoparasiticides used for companion animals are not required to undergo thorough Phase II environmental assessment, as mandated for food-producing animals. Considering the significant quantities and frequency of their use, there is a clear regulatory gap that could be addressed to mitigate the potential environmental risks posed by these chemicals. In the case of fipronil, a stricter distribution category could reduce its usage and, by extension, environmental contamination. At present, fipronil is classified as an Authorised Veterinary Medicine – General Sales List, which means it can be sold over the counter without veterinary oversight despite being classified by WHO as a Class II moderately hazardous pesticide. Additionally, there has been a change in narrative of the veterinary profession against the use of routine prophylactic treatment for ectoparasite control, though it is stressed that each case should still be assessed individually, as animal health and welfare must remain a priority. Furthermore, more research is needed to corroborate the assumption that the presence of these ectoparasiticides in the environment have a detrimental effect on non-target invertebrate species within the UK's natural ecosystems, particularly rivers.

With regard to antibiotics, veterinary use in food producing animals has decreased by 59% from 2014 to 2022. Nonetheless, antibiotic residues continue to be detected in aqueous environments and there is concern that some may be originate from this, and other, veterinary usage. Whilst current evidence suggests that the majority of these residues are from leakage from human medical centres, there is still concern that their use in animals, particularly food-producing animals, contribute significantly to environmental contamination and can act as a reservoir for the development of antimicrobial resistance.

Addressing environmental contamination caused by veterinary pharmaceuticals requires a coordinated effort to close regulatory gaps, reduce unnecessary use and safeguard both ecosystems and public health under a One Health framework.

My Lords, antimicrobial resistance is a major global health problem, including in the UK. What are His Majesty's Government doing regarding surveillance for antibiotics and their residues in aqueous environments and to reduce the contamination of those aqueous environments with antibiotics and residues, which can spread and facilitate the development of antibiotic resistance in humans and animals?

*Lord Trees, Tuesday 30th April 2024
UK Chemicals Strategy, Oral Question*

TERRESTRIAL ANIMAL SLAUGHTER

Non-stun slaughter is subject of continuing and evolving interest and the introduction of the Demonstration of Life (DoL) Protocol, which enables the Halal certification of sheep and goats subject to a non-lethal electrical stun, was described in detail in the 2021/22 VPRF Annual Report. After a roundtable discussion in January 2024 with multiple stakeholders including representatives from the FSA, DEFRA and the BVA, it was concluded that the FSA's demonstration fee for the DoL was proving a barrier to uptake at Halal slaughterhouses. Since the meeting the fee has been waived and two new processing plants have adopted the protocol bringing the total of five Halal processing units participating under the scheme in the UK. We have continued to publicise and promote the protocol, most recently with a presentation in September 2024 for a Halal slaughter educational workshop for Islamic scholars and Halal processors to promote further uptake of the scheme. The Halal community is also showing interest in the application of non-lethal stunning for cattle, a subject of current technical research. The universal adoption of the DoL by Halal certifying bodies could mean that some 3 million sheep, currently slaughtered without pre-stunning, could be stunned.

With regard to stunning, we are also very aware of the inadequacies of current methods for pigs and poultry and will be pressing for more research to be done in this area and have recommended this as a workstream for APGAW in 2024/25.

COMPANY INFORMATION

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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

September 2024

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 volunteers as a farm hand at Vauxhall City Farm and works intermittently as a locum veterinary surgeon between Kent and back at her old practice in west London.

APPENDIX I

Other Business (Oct 2022 -Sep 2023):

KEYNOTES, PRESENTATIONS, CHAIRING, PANELS AND EVENTS HOSTED

AJT unless initials indicate otherwise

DATE	ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
13/09/2023	VPRF	Chair - AGM and presentation of Annual Report for sponsors
21/09/2023	APPG Malaria NTDs	Co-chair - Visit to drug discovery unit at the University of Dundee
17/10/2023	Establishment Licence Holders' Autumn Forum	Presentation - Personal reflections on the changing climate on animal welfare and animal research
31/10/2023	Public Policy Exchange Forum	Presentation - Peers Perspective of recent and future animal welfare legislation
06/11/2023	United Against Rabies Forum Conference Rome	Chair - United Against Rabies Forum Facilitator
15/11/2023	LSTM Gala Dinner	Organiser and Attendee
20/11/2023	Veterinary Record	Chair - Editorial Board Meeting
05/12/2023	PSTIF	Chair - Trustee Meeting
06/12/2023	UKRI Tackling Infections	Chair - External Advisory Board Meeting
12/12/2023	APGAW Compendium Meeting	Chair - dog breeding, small abattoirs and enforcement
14/12/2023	University of Surrey	Speaker - Event for Chris Proudman
24/01/2023	APGAW Fish Welfare	Chair - Multi-stakeholder meeting about welfare of farmed fish at slaughter
30/01/2024	APPG Malaria and NTDs	Co-Chair – World NTD Day Reception
01/02/2024	LSTM 125 Campaign Board Meeting	Chair
22/02/2024	SRUC Queen's Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education Celebratory Lunch and launch of vet school	Speech
06/03/2024	APPG Science and Technology in Agriculture AGM	Officer
13/03/2024	APPG Malaria and NTDs	Co-Chair - Oxford Msc student presentations
13/03/2024	APPG Malaria and NTDs	Co-Chair - AGM
13/03/2024	RCVS Council Meeting	Presentation - The work of the VPRF

14/03/2024	UAR Steering Group Meeting	Chair
15/05/2024	Vet Record Editorial Board Meeting	Chair
10/07/2024	UAR Steering Group Pre-meeting	Chair
11/07/2024	UAR Steering Group Meeting	Co-Chair
18/07/2024	LSTM 125 Campaign Board Meeting	Chair
12/07/2924	UKRI Tackling Infections	Chair – External Board Meeting



Picture 1: Lord Trees Presenting at the United Against Rabies Forum, as Chair and Forum Facilitator, in Rome 2023

AD-HOC MEETINGS/LETTERS

DATE	ORGANIZATION	DETAILS
07/09/2023	Parliamentary Workshops	AMR in Africa with Dr Sam Kariuki
11/09/2023	PELH (ASRU)	Meeting preparation
13/09/2023	CVS	Catch-up Paul Higgs
11/10/2023	FST	Net-zero meet
24/10/2023	Phil Hadley	Demonstration of Life Update
24/10/2023	RCVS	Meeting with Ben Myring and Sue Patterson - veterinary legislative reform
25/10/2023	APGAW	Catch-up with Marisa Heath
25/10/2023	PAN-UK	Discussion about companion animal ectoparasiticide environmental contamination
30/10/2023	LSTM	Catch-up about 125th campaign with Marie Gray and Stacey Lavery
30/10/2023	BVA	Catch-up regarding legislative reform with Anna Judson and Ali Ramsay
31/10/2023	UAR	Steering Group meeting ahead of Rome conference
31/10/2023	FSA	Catch-up about proposed regulations on PBO's in food/feed with Susan Jebb and Chris Stockdale
15/11/2023	LSTM Gala Dinner	Pre-meet with Helen Shaw and Marie Gray
22/11/2023	PSTIF	Catch-up with William Duncan
22/11/2023	Malaria No-More	Catch-up with Martha Varney
22/11/2023	APGAW and ASC	Catch up with Marisa Heath and Michael Seals
22/11/2023	International Development White Paper Launch Meeting	Launch of Paper with Andrew Mitchell MP FCDO Minister September 2024

28/11/2023	DEFRA	Catch-up with Hannah Haque regarding small abattoirs
29/11/2023	RVC	Catch -up with Amanda Boag
29/11/2023	RCVS	Dinner with President Sue Paterson
30/11/2023	CVS	Discussion with Paul Higgs on the economic value of the veterinary industry
06/12/2023	Lead APPG	Status of lead shot bullet usage
06/12/2023	John Innes	Catch-up John Innes
06/12/2023	BVA	Setting minimum animal welfare standards for UK trade agreements
06/12/2023	FST	UK joining Horizon launch
12/12/2023	Malaria No-More	Meeting with Mirriam Banda and Martha Varney discussing living with Malaria and other NTDs
12/12/2023	Extreme Breed Conformations	Meeting with Sarah Beeching and Clare Rusbridge discussing extreme breed conformations
13/12/2023	APPG BIVDA	Roundtable on AMR and diagnostics
13/12/2023	DEFRA TB Partnership/Westridge Veterinary Practice	Catch-up with Dick Sibley on bTB
14/12/2023	CMA	Discussion of the CMA review regarding veterinary corporates
16/01/2024	APPG Malaria NTDs and MMV	MMV's antimalarial drug development strategy
17/01/2024	LSTM 125 Campaign pre-meeting	Catch up Helen Shaw and Marie Gray on current and future fundraising potential of the campaign
23/01/2024	Wildlife and Countryside LINK	Provided hair and blood samples to test for 13 bioaccumulative chemicals
31/01/2024	BVA	Multi-stakeholder meeting discussing the roll out of DEFRA-approved DoL protocol
01/02/2024	APHA	Discussion re future of modernisation of APHA headquarters
01/02/2024	Baroness Hayman of Ulloch	Discussion re future of modernisation of APHA headquarters
01/02/2024	Matthew Baylis	Phone call discussion re APHA Weybridge alternative site development
05/02/2024	UAR Steering Group	Catch up with Rachel Tidman and Lucille Blumberg
07/02/2024	Kennel Club and APGAW	Breed grading schemes for extreme conformations
13/02/2024	Vet Record	Phone call with Emma Dahn
13/02/2024	SRUC	Phone call Mary Thomson
14/02/2024	James Wood	Discussion on bTB and the TB partnership
14/02/2024	UK Pet Food	Meeting with Michael Bellingham about pet food labelling
20/02/2024	Catrina Prince for the VMD	Meeting regarding proposals to update the Veterinary Medicines Regulations
21/02/2024	APPG for Science and Agriculture	AGM
28/02/2024	APGAW	Meeting with Marisa Heath
29/02/2024	RCVS	Meeting with Lizzie Lockett and Ben Myring
05/03/2024	Christine Ackerley PhD Student University of Washington	Research interview about AMR in policy
06/03/2024	LSTM	Meeting with Helen Shaw regarding fundraising
13/03/2024	APPG Malaria and NTDs	MV Pre-meet before AGM
13/03/2024	Vet Record	Meeting Emma Dahm regarding PVI's articles
25/03/2024	John Hammond - Pirbright	Methanogenesis project discussion
25/03/2024	Environment and Climate Change Select Committee	School children question and answer session
25/03/2024	APPG Malaria and NTDs	Meeting MV to discuss bank account and funding
26/03/2024	BVA	Demonstration of Life wash-up meeting
26/03/2024	APHA	Weybridge
18/04/2024	APGAW	Phone call Marisa Heath
07/05/2024	British Poultry Council	Virtual meeting with Richard Griffiths regarding wishbone meat

09/05/2024	Martin Whiting	Meeting
09/05/2024	RCVS	Virtual Meeting with Sue Paterson re: Veterinary Legislative Reform
06/06/2024	AMS	Mentoring Masterclass
18/06/2024	Dr Luigi Sedda	Meeting to discuss PhD Mentorship
04/09/2024	Dick Sibley	Meeting to discuss bTB
05/09/2024	Martha Varney	Setting up the APPG for Malaria and NTDs
11/09/2024	Arthur Redpath	Discussion about the economic value of the veterinary profession
11/09/2024	Marisa Heath	Meeting to discuss the reconstitution of APGAW and key priorities for the new government
11/09/2024	David Kelly	Phone call to discuss VPRF account sign-off and AGM dates

EVENTS ATTENDED

(PVI & Lord Trees attended unless initials indicate otherwise)

DATE	EVENT
12/09/2023	Rare Breed Survival Trust Tea
13/09/2023	VPRF Annual Dinner
11/10/2023	The Foundation for Science and Technology: Net Zero - UK and Global Progress
17/10/2023	Sustainable Food Trust Autumn Drinks
21/11/2023	RCVS Past Presidents Dinner
12/12/2023	Advancing the Veterinary Team RCVS Drop-in
13/13/2023	Parliamentary and Science Committee Christmas Reception
23/01/2024	Save Me Trust's drop-in event to discuss the Badger Cull and Illegal Hunting
23/01/2024	Burns Supper hosted by Lord Offord of Garvel CVO, Under Secretary of State for Scotland
30/01/2024	Reaching the Last Mile - A reception to celebrate World NTD Day
21/02/2024	Scottish Rural College Dinner for the Queens Anniversary Prize for Higher and Further Education
28/02/2024	BVA London Dinner 2024
05/03/2024	Women in Westminster International Women's Day Event
06/03/2024	BVA Parliamentary Reception
12/03/2024	Efracom on Veterinary Workforce Shortages
13/03/2024	British Poultry Council - Poultry Innovation Event
24/04/2024	Stephen May's Festschrift RVC
05/07/2024	RCVS Royal College Day

Non-Parliamentary Committees and Other Roles Oct 2023-July 2024

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]	Cinque Ports Veterinary Group (Linnaeus) and Young Veterinary Partnership (independent)
Pet Plan Charitable Trust	Trustee – supports UK based animal welfare bodies and research on companion animal diseases. Stepped down in July 2024.
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. September 2024
The Blue Cross	Goodwill Ambassador

The Veterinary Record and In Practice (BMJ Publications)	Chief Veterinary Advisor, Editorial Board Chair
United Against Rabies Forum	Chair of Steering Group - The UAR Forum was set up by the tripartite of WHO/FAO/OIE and comprises staff in those organization plus external experts and stakeholders with the role of facilitating and supporting the global goal of elimination of dog-mediated rabies by 2030.
UKRI Tackling Infections	Chair of the External Advisory Board – Tackling Infections is a new £75million UKRI programme on animal, human and plant infections.
Vauxhall City Farm [PVI]	Volunteer Farm Hand
Vet Sustain	Ambassador