



# BVA policy position on the vet-led team

## Executive Summary

The concept of the vet-led team, the model in which an interdisciplinary group of appropriately trained and regulated professionals work together under the direction of a veterinary surgeon, is growing in prominence and importance as the veterinary profession experiences rapid changes, including:

- An expansion in the range of allied professionals and members of the vet-led team operating within this environment;

- A change in the expectations of pet owners, farmers, industry, Government and other clients;

- Concerns about the capacity of the veterinary workforce which have been brought into sharp focus by the exit of the UK from the EU

Vet-led teams operate across all sectors, industries and settings. The overarching benefits to realising an efficient and effective vet-led team include:

- Better animal health, animal welfare and public health outcomes;

- Improved client care;

- Provision of more integrated animal care;

- Improved clinical provision or assurance on food hygiene controls;

- More effective and efficient use of skills within the veterinary professions;

- A strengthened veterinary workforce, with the potential to ease capacity concerns and difficulties recruiting and retaining both vets and RVNs;

- Improved wellbeing for veterinary surgeons, RVNs, and allied professionals; and

- More sustainable veterinary businesses.

To support the achievement of these benefits, BVA makes the following recommendations:

**Recommendation 1: The operation of all vet-led teams should be guided by the following principles:**

**As the professionals competent, and appropriately legally permitted, to diagnose the presence or absence of disease and injury, veterinary surgeons oversee the vet-led team and direct the appropriate procedures and treatments.**



**There is evidence that the activities carried out by the group are beneficial to animal health, animal welfare or public health;**

**Association with the group will not damage the reputation of the veterinary profession;**

**The professionals within the group will only practise under appropriate veterinary oversight**

**The regulation of the group will be self-funding.**

**The professionals within the group present as cohesive and established.**

**Recommendation 19: The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons must consult the veterinary profession on any regulatory changes that may arise as a result of technological or other innovation.**

**Recommendation 20: The veterinary profession should engage with clients on the most effective use of technology to complement the essential role of the vet.**

**Recommendation 21: A change in regulation to allow remote prescribing without undertaking a physical examination or assessment is not necessary for vets to embrace the opportunity offered by telemedicine or to address the primary reason behind pet owners not registering with a vet.**

**Recommendation 22: Opportunities need to be available throughout the veterinary career to develop management and leadership and team building skills. The development of CPD to instil**