



# Veterinary Nurse Prescribers

## Executive summary

Registered Veterinary Nurses (RVNs) are an essential part of the veterinary team and deserve full recognition for their roles. Under the Veterinary Medicines Regulations (VMR), only vets, pharmacists and SQPs can prescribe or supply certain categories of authorised veterinary medicines<sup>1</sup>, but there have been calls to change stated aims of introducing such a role are to address workforce shortages by improving retention and increasing opportunities for veterinary surgeons to delegate tasks.

BVA and BVNA support the principle of expansion of the RVN role, however, we believe that any changes to legislation should be approached in a measured way, in line with the wants and needs of the professions and clients, and with animal health and welfare at its heart.

BVA and BVNA believe that:

Further work clarifying the duties that can be delegated under Schedule 3 should be undertaken and communicated through an ongoing and concerted awareness campaign and provision of joint CPD with vets and RVNs.

The Suitably Qualified Person (SQP) role should be incorporated into RVN training, assessment and competencies, and to provide a pathway for current RVNs to be recognised with SQP status in a time efficient and cost-effective manner. This should be available to RVNs working in all sectors, and not restricted to those working with small animals.

Any regulatory or legal change should only occur where a change would fulfil the following criteria:

-