

BVA response to RCVS emergency cover

Who we are

- 1) The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 18,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the veterinary profession. We therefore take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health, animal welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters.

Introduction

- 2) We welcome this opportunity to respond to the consultation, which we understand represents the third and final stage of the RCVS consultation process. However, we are extremely disappointed with the scope of the consultation and proposals which represent a missed opportunity to develop guidance which is fit for purpose. The limitations of the online survey have made it impossible to respond adequately through that route as there are key considerations which do not fit within that framework as such we are submitting a written response.
- 3) In response to ongoing discussions within RCVS relating to under care, telemedicine, and remote prescribing over a number of years, we convened a working group in early 2020 to develop our position. Following a programme of six meetings, and utilising evidence gathered from the professions and other key stakeholders, we published [Under care and the remote provision of veterinary services](#) shared with RCVS with a view to informing the development of RCVS proposals.

services, are not considered exempt from this responsibility and should take steps to provide an appropriate degree of continuity of care relevant to the services rendered. As with other veterinary businesses, there is no obligation to provide that care themselves, and the provision can reasonably be