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## VETERINARY IRELAND MEDIA RELEASE

### VETS ACKNOWLEDGE DISTINGUISHED EQUINE COLLEAGUES

**At its Annual General Meeting at the Heritage Killenard, Co. Laois on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016, Veterinary Ireland, the representative body for Veterinary Practitioners in Ireland, acknowledged the unique coincidence of two of the Irish equine veterinary profession's most distinguished members holding the top two regulatory positions in Irish horse racing.**

Since 18<sup>th</sup> December 2014, **John Powell MVB FRCVS** has served as **Senior Steward** of the **Irish National Hunt Steeplechase (INHS) Committee**, while veterinary colleague **Meta Osborne MVB CertESM MRCVS** has since 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015 served as **Senior Steward** of the **Turf Club**.

At the Veterinary Ireland AGM on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2016, held in the Heritage Killenard, Co. Laois, the Veterinary Ireland membership unanimously agreed to acknowledge the significance of these two distinguished veterinary colleagues in holding such elevated positions in Irish horse racing at the same time.

Speaking on the AGM's unanimous decision, incoming Veterinary Ireland President, John O'Connor MVB MRCVS, stated that "*The Irish veterinary profession, through Veterinary Ireland, is proud to recognise the outstanding achievements of these two equine veterinary colleagues, not only within the veterinary profession, but also amongst their peers within the horse racing industry. The accession of John and Meta to these two highly distinguished positions and the service they have been able to give to horse racing is a credit to themselves and to the greater Irish veterinary profession*".

Meta Osborne is a Past-President of the Irish Veterinary Association, a forerunner to Veterinary Ireland, and was the first female President of the Veterinary Council of Ireland, which regulates Veterinary Practitioners in the State. Having become the first female Senior Steward in the Turf Club's 225 year history, she follows in her father's footsteps. She is the daughter of the late Michael Osborne, who himself was both a distinguished equine Veterinary Practitioner, and who served as Senior Steward of the Turf Club from 1994 to 1997. As well as running a busy private equine veterinary practice, with a particular interest in broodmare reproduction, Meta is also joint owner with her husband, Dermot Cantillon, of Tinnakill House Stud in Co. Laois, which has produced three Group 1 winners.

John Powell also worked in private veterinary practice and was a Senior Veterinary Inspector with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, serving with distinction in the Munster area. John too is a former President of both the Irish Veterinary Association and the Veterinary Council of Ireland, and in 1993 was awarded a Fellowship of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (FRCVS).

Rosalinda Devereux, Chair of Veterinary Ireland's Equine Group, added that "*Meta Osborne and John Powell have both already held high office within the Irish veterinary profession. That they are now so equally prominent within Irish horse racing indicates the high esteem with which they are regarded by all*".

#### **Editor's Note:**

Veterinary Ireland is the representative body for Registered Veterinary Practitioners in the State. The Equine Interest Group of Veterinary Ireland deals specifically with the interests and representation of those veterinary colleagues undertaking equine work.

For more information about Veterinary Ireland and its work, please go to [www.veterinaryireland.ie](http://www.veterinaryireland.ie) or contact Veterinary Ireland HQ on **01-457-7976** or via [HQ@vetireland.ie](mailto:HQ@vetireland.ie).