ANIMAL HEALTH IRELAND PUBLISHES BVD CONTROL GUIDE

Animal Health Ireland’s Bovine Viral Diarrhoea (BVD) Working Group has produced an Information leaflet on BVD for Vets and their Farmer Clients.

A copy of the BVD Guide is contained with this issue of VetVIEW.

The Guide is also available to download from the AHI Website (see below) and will shortly be sent in hard copy to veterinary practices.

AHI will be producing further resources for farmers and vets over the course of the coming months and these will include BVD FAQs, based on questions submitted to an online survey of vets and farmers. A web-based management system for BVD control programmes is to be launched in April.

In addition AHI are planning a series of Roadshows in April, and a national Consultation Paper in September will seek views on a national or regional approach to BVD Eradication.

Download a copy of the Guide from:


VETERINARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME (VAP) LAUNCHED

The Irish Veterinary Benevolent Fund (IVBF) has launched an important tool in the fight against stress in the Veterinary Profession.

The Veterinary Assistance Programme (VAP) plans to build on previous Veterinary Ireland work undertaken on Stress in the Veterinary Profession and to further the objective “to promote positive mental health, employee supports and crisis readiness in all places of veterinary work”.

The Veterinary Assistance Programme provides a confidential, free-of-charge, support service through a dedicated website, e-mail, “live connect” and telephone facilities to trained information specialists and counsellors, a 24 hour Freephone Counselling Helpline, and the opportunity for up to six face-to-face counselling sessions per issue.

More detailed descriptions will follow, but in the meantime members are directed to the VAP:

Tel: 1800 300 061  Web address: www.vetap.ie

Username: veterinary  Password: member
**EQUINE - FEI MEDICINES REGULATIONS**

In early January 2010, VetALERT 02/10 invited Veterinary Ireland Members to assist in formulating an Equine Group position on the FEI Medicines Proposals, and to send in any comments or suggestions by e-mail to the Chair of the Equine Interest Group. A number of responses were received and we would like to thank all the members who responded. The current FEI medication rules are outlined below and we will endeavour to keep members updated on any further proposed policy changes in this area.

Following consultation with the National Federations, the FEI have now clarified the changes to the medication rules that will come into effect on April 5th 2010 (this has been called the “October 20th list” in some reports).

Medications have been divided into three categories:

1. **Prohibited substances**;
2. **Controlled medications**;
3. **Other substances**

Prohibited substances are those which are not acceptable for use in the horse at any time. Their use will be considered to be “doping” in an attempt to alter or enhance the horse’s performance. Fluphenazine and adrenaline are just two examples but there are over 1000 substances on this list.

Controlled medications are those which are indicated for use on veterinary advice in the treatment and management of illness and injury in the horse. The horse’s health and welfare is the first priority and if the animal is not fit to compete then it should be withdrawn from competition on veterinary advice. There are about 130 medications on this list, including phenylbutazone, acepromazine and flunixin for example.

When prescribing controlled medications the veterinary practitioner must make a clinical judgement to ensure that the welfare of the horse is prioritised. The FEI have also published detection times for some of these commonly used controlled medications.

The *detection time* is the approximate length of time for which a drug or metabolite remains in a horse’s system and can be detected by a laboratory. The published detection times are intended as a *guide only*. The *withdrawal time* for a drug must be decided upon by the treating veterinary practitioner. It is usually based on the detection time plus a safety margin chosen based on professional judgement.

Other substances are those which do not appear on either the prohibited or controlled substances lists. They are not considered to have any effect on the horse’s athletic performance e.g. vaccines, anthelmintics, antimicrobials, anti-ulcer medication etc.

This approach clarifies the rules for FEI competitors and treating veterinarians, as well as protecting the welfare of the horses and promoting a level playing field.

The FEI have also launched a new website which clearly explains the rules and the ethos behind them in more detail. See [www.feicleansport.org](http://www.feicleansport.org)

The full list of prohibited substances and controlled medications is also available for download from this site.

The “progressive list”, which was the controversial one that proposed that horses be allowed to compete on low levels of anti-inflammatory medication, has been shelved for the moment. It is due to be discussed again at the next FEI General Assembly which is due to take place from the 1st to the 6th of November, 2010. Further consultations are likely to take place as this date approaches.

Only a small number of horses in Ireland compete under FEI rules and these regulations relate to them only. For more general information on equine medicine use, passports and food chain safety please see the Veterinary Ireland Guidelines on Equine Medicines. These are available from the website [www.veterinaryireland.ie](http://www.veterinaryireland.ie).

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**EQUINE - NOTIFICATION OF ACTIVE EVA INFECTION**

Veterinary Ireland has been informed that the Department of Agriculture (DAFF) is currently conducting an investigation into a small cluster of sero-positive non-TB mares in the West of Ireland.

DAFF inform us that Horse Sport Ireland (HSI) and the Irish Thoroughbred Breeders’ Association (ITBA) have been notified. The Thoroughbred industry Code of Practice regarding equine infectious disease provides succinct information on EVA and other relevant disease conditions.

EVA is a notifiable disease: sero-positives (excepting stable titres) and suspicion of clinical disease **MUST** be reported to DAFF.

**Veterinary Ireland would draw all members attention to the issue of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and request extra vigilance during the upcoming stud season.**
MEETINGS WITH PET INSURANCE REPRESENTATIVES

Members should be aware that VICAS representatives are in regular contact with Pet Insurance Providers - Allianz, 123.ie and PetInsure - in order to represent the interests of our members, their clients and the animals under their care.

Representatives from Allianz have been engaging with VICAS, and meetings earlier in the year provided feedback to Allianz which resulted in the freezing of premium loading - further VICAS input has meant that this freezing has been extended indefinitely, pending further discussions.

In addition, 123.ie have requested feedback from VICAS on their new policy documents, and VICAS representatives will soon be meeting with 123.ie to provide this feedback.

VICAS members should be confident that the VICAS National Committee continue to represent our members in this and other regards.

EQUINE - HORSE MANURE SURVEY

Caroline Gilleran, a lecturer and researcher in Dundalk IT has advised that the 'Organic Resources Research Group' (ORRG) at Dundalk IT are committed to researching new technologies for dealing with agricultural residues that pose disposal problems. ORRG are currently conducting a nationwide survey on horse manure management in Ireland to help them tackle the problem of its disposal. It is hoped that this survey will enable ORRG to provide higher value options for this waste that they view as a potential resource.

Over the next few weeks the ORRG will be sending this survey around the country to riding centres, stud farms, and other equine establishments. They are hoping that as many people as possible complete the questionnaire as this will provide them with a lot of valuable information about horse manure management in Ireland. The survey is completely confidential and the results will be used for research purposes only. Caroline has asked the Equine Group of Veterinary Ireland for any assistance in completing this survey.

The survey is available at https://www.dkit.ie/manure

ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training)

Further to Peter Bishton’s article on ASIST Suicide intervention Training in the March Issue of the IVJ, we have been advised that an ASIST Training Session will be run on 4/5 March, 2010 in the West County Hotel in Ennis, Co Clare.

This training is free of charge and consists of a two day intensive, interactive workshop where participants develop their skills through simulations and role-playing in order to become more ready, willing and able to help people at risk of suicide.

For more details contact:
Elaine Lowry, Administration Manager, National Youth Council of Ireland, 3 Montague Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01-425 5942 (direct) 01-478 4122 086 2026631

CVE - TOWARDS REGISTRATION IN 2012

Members should not forget that mandatory Continuing Veterinary Education (CVE) will be coming into effect for Registration from 1st January 2012.

Under the Veterinary Practice Act 2005, the Veterinary Council of Ireland’s Mandatory CVE Scheme requires that all vets must have accumulated the relevant amount of CVE Credits by 31st July 2011.

This means members must have obtained either 60 CVE Credits from 1.8.08 to 31.7.11, or 20 CVE Credits from 1.8.10 to 31.7.11 in order to stay on the Register in 2012 and be able to continue to practise veterinary medicine in Ireland.

Since the 1st August 2008, all of the CVE provided by Veterinary Ireland has been relevant to the Mandatory CVE Scheme. The VICAS CVE Programme 2010 is no exception, and each course in the Programme provides ample CVE Credits for either the 3 year average (60 CVE Credits) or, from 1st August 2010, over a quarter of the 20 CVE Credits required from 1st August 2010 to 31st July 2011.

Whilst such programmes are expensive to organise and run (venues, speakers, travel, Audio-Visual, refreshments), Veterinary Ireland is able to offer its own members significant discounts on registration fees, and this can be seen in the savings offered, not just for individual courses, but also in the increased discounts available for members for booking more than one course at a time.

Just one more good reason to ensure that you maintain your Veterinary Ireland membership - this year and on into the future.
WSAVA 2010 - GENEVA AWAITS YOU!
The WSAVA 2010 World Congress is fast approaching! This year the event takes place 2-5 June in Geneva, Switzerland, and is being hosted by the Swiss Society of Small Animal Medicine.

As with our own WSAVA Congress in Dublin in 2008, the Geneva Congress also hosts FECAVA, and the FAFVAC will also be holding their annual symposium there.

WSAVA Congresses are all about scientific knowledge, social gatherings, and professional camaraderie, and this year promises to be no exception with a robust scientific program and culturally unique social events. Parallel to the main meeting in English, German and French streams will be organized, and a substantive State of the Art program and an abstract submission form are both now available on the Conference web: http://www.wsava2010.org/

Geneva is a living postcard with a long history of warm and generous host reception, dating back to the 17th century. All sessions will be held at the Palexpo, near the airport, with a direct train connection to the main railway station of Geneva, downtown near the lake and all facilities of the city centre.

Places for the event are limited, and bookings can be made at http://www.wsava2010.org/WSAVA2010/registration/registration_wsava.php

Or contact the Congress Organizers at:
Symporg SA, Tel +41228398484, Fax +41228398485, E-mail info@wsava2010.org

The full programme is available at http://www.wsava2010.org/docs/Preliminary_Program_E.pdf

WWW.VICASCHIP.COM FOR MICROCHIPPING SEARCHES
As a service to members, Veterinary Ireland has set up a website page that deals exclusively with microchip identification of companion animals in Ireland. Here you will find direct links to Europetnet and all of the Europetnet-affiliated databases currently operating in Ireland. There are also directions on how to get usernames and passwords for these databases and the webpage will be updated to reflect any significant changes affecting microchip identification of pets. So please bookmark www.vicaschip.com

and use it as your one-stop-shop for all microchip identification searches.

Eyes Right! – Dublin Hosts European Veterinary Ophthalmology Conf.
The European Veterinary Ophthalmology conference is being held from May 13-16th 2010 in Malahide, Dublin and on Friday 14th May VICAS will be hosting a specific Ophthalmology event in conjunction with the Conference, to provide a high standard of ophthalmology CPD aimed at general practitioners.

More specific details will follow in the New Year, but for initial details or to register go to the EVO Website at http://www.evo2010.com/ or for the VICAS practitioners day http://www.evo2010.com/vicas_ce_day.html

MEMBERSHIP - IS THIS YOUR LAST VETVIEW?
Whilst the majority of Veterinary Ireland Members have paid their 2010 subscriptions by Direct Debit or have already sent in Cheques, there is still a small percentage of members who have yet to renew their Membership for 2010. A reminder to these 2009 members has been sent recently.

It is important to note that for those who have not paid their 2010 subscriptions by the 31st March 2010, they will have their names removed from membership of Veterinary Ireland, and so will lose all Membership services, including the IVJ, VetViews, Employment Law advice, and representation.

If you have not yet paid your 2010 Subscriptions, and do not want to lose these services, then you should contact Kira, Alison or Susanne immediately at Veterinary Ireland HQ on 01-457-7976.

Practice Rota Scheme – Call for Expressions of Interest
The newly formed Business & Life Management (BLM) Committee of Veterinary Ireland is implementing a Practice Rota Scheme, in order to assist and facilitate multiple practices in a specific area or region to form a 24 hour Cover Rota scheme. In order to conduct three pilot projects of the Rota scheme, the BLM Committee are calling for expressions of interest to be submitted on an ongoing basis.

For full details of the Rota Scheme see the Committees Section of the Veterinary Ireland Website or to print off an “Expressions of Interest Form” go to:
http://www.veterinaryireland.ie/Links/PDFs/Rota%20Formation%20Project%20-%20Expression%20of%20Interest%20Form.pdf
IVNA Annual Veterinary Nurse Awards

The IVNA Annual Veterinary Nurses Congress 2010 will introduce the first annual Veterinary Nurse Awards, designed to award those occasions where nurses go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that their patients and clients receive the utmost of special care and attention.

Should you know someone who has made a contribution, which you think deserves recognition, nominate them for an award. The contribution can be an outstanding one or a simple gesture which you feel made a big difference to their patients, clients, or practice team.

Nominees for the Veterinary Nurse of the Year award 2009 must be a registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). Nominations are also welcome for the sub-categories of Student Veterinary Nurse and Practice support staff. The nominated person must be in one of the above categories and work in the Republic of Ireland.

Entries for each category will be judged by a panel from the IVNA and award sponsors, Pfizer, Hill’s Pet Nutrition and Allianz Petplan. Nominate one of the winners and you could be in with a chance to win a gift voucher worth €50.00 - everyone’s a winner!!

Closing date for entries is 31 April 2010. The winner will be announced during the social event of the IVNA Congress on 22 May 2010. Application forms can be downloaded from www.ivna.ie.

CHANGES TO VCI CODE OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

We would draw members’ attention to the recent changes made to the Veterinary Council of Ireland’s Code of Professional Conduct for Veterinary Practitioners, which is available on the VCI website (www.vci.ie) and in the VCI’s Register of Veterinary Practitioners 2009, circulated to all members by the VCI in late 2009.

The Code was reviewed and updated in November 2009. Changes have been made to Chapter 2, Animal Welfare; Chapter 3, Clients; Chapter 4, General Public; and Chapter 5, Other Members of the Profession. Changes include aspects of drugs and drug residues; non-payment of fees; practice managers; lay-ownership and supersession.

Most significantly for veterinary practices, Chapter 4, the Right to Inform, has been greatly revised and sections on touting, tendering and advertising have been removed. Members should therefore read this section carefully to ensure that they are compliant with all aspects of “Marketing” their practices to the general public.

The VCI’s Code is constantly reviewed and updated and the VCI advise that revised Chapters will appear on the website as soon as they are adopted by the Veterinary Council.

We would therefore advise Members to ensure constant compliance with this Code, and that they update themselves on a regular basis, through reading the printed copy in the annual register, and by logging on to the relevant section of the VCI Website (www.vci.ie).

WARNING - PROVIDERS OF “GUIDES” AND “DIRECTORIES”

Members should be aware that offers are being circulated by certain companies to provide practice listings in National and International “Guides” and “Directories”. Members should take specific notice of the small print in any such offers, as there is often a significant fee (in most cases around €1,000) for the inclusion of Practice details in these publications, in some cases of which we are aware of, the publications may not exist at all.

We would therefore urge members (and their staff) to take extreme caution before signing up to inclusion in any of these publications, and also to be aware of the section in the Veterinary Council’s Guide to Professional Behaviour which relates to Marketing.

ERI MEMBERSHIP OFFER FOR VETS PROVIDING FULL-TIME VETERINARY EDUCATION

The National Council of Veterinary Ireland has decided to extend a special membership offer to those Vets working full-time in the provision of veterinary education. For those joining or renewing membership of the Education, Research & Industry Interest Group, they will receive membership of one further Species Interest Group (Food Animal, VICAS or Equine), FREE OF CHARGE.

If you believe that you are eligible for this Special Membership Offer, then please contact Veterinary Ireland HQ at HQ@vetireland.ie, providing full details of your educational work.
LAST CHANCE TO BOOK FOR STAN MARKS & GASTRO-INTESTINAL MEDICINE!
(7 CVE Credits)

The VICAS 2010 CVE Programme kicks off on 10th March 2010 at the Sligo Park Hotel with Stan Marks on Gastrointestinal Medicine of the Dog and Cat.

The Programme will involve:

- Diagnostic and therapeutic approach to the vomiting dog and cat
- Diagnostic and therapeutic approach to the diarrhoeic dog and cat
- Protein-losing enteropathies in dogs
- Inflammatory bowel disease in dogs and cats
- Clinical case presentations (around two hours of lively interactive discussions)

TO REGISTER:

E-mail: VICASCVE@KEYNOTEPCO.IE
Call: 01 4003660

Or to Book On-Line Go To:

http://www.veterinaryireland.ie/Links/PDFs/VICAS%20CVE%202010_Registration.pdf

This event is repeated on 12th March (Limerick) and 15th March (Naas)

**Early Bird Registration for ALL event Closes Monday 8 March**

Head Line sponsor for the VICAS 2010 CVE Programme:

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**HILLS PRICE FREEZE**

Headline Sponsors of this year’s VICAS CVE, Hills Pet Nutrition, has announced a major price reduction across their lines.

Last year was tough for everyone and the feedback Hills received from many of their customers was that some pet owners unfortunately had to make compromising choices: Purchasing pet food products that give the impression of being more affordable or feeding a mixture of these foods and premium food; Purchasing their pet food in grocery stores more often rather than in the speciality channel; Not fully complying with their vet’s recommendation.

In order to make sure that as many pets as possible are fed with the very best possible nutrition and that it is easier for owners to follow the recommendations of their vets, Hills have made their products more affordable by lowering prices across their range.

Also, some of the Hills products have changed in size to smaller bags, again to improve client affordability.

According to Hills, by making their products more affordable, they hope to be able to assist vets in recommending the right nutrition to an even larger number of pet owners, while improving their compliance and loyalty to their veterinary professionals.