

Minutes of VMD Management Board meeting held on 27 September 2022

Members

Julia Drown (Chair)
David Catlow
Philippa Hardwick
Timothy Riley

Present

Abigail Seager – VMD
Gavin Hall - VMD
Mike Griffiths – VMD
Muiz Agbaje – VMD
Claire Stratford - VMD
Chris Abbott – VMD (note taker)

1. Announcements and apologies for absence

1.1 Apologies were received from David Kennedy.

2. Declarations of interest in the matters to be discussed

2.1 David Catlow has been appointed managing director of Retraining of Racehorses.
2.2 Julia Drown will be carrying out some work for the Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

3. Review of Annual Report and Accounts (as tabled at ARAC) and recommendation to Chief Executive to sign

3.1 The Board recommended that the Chief Executive sign the Annual Report and Accounts subject to any further changes being approved by the ARAC Chair.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 5 July 2022

VMDMB 22/26

4.1 The minutes were agreed.

5. Matters Arising/Actions

VMDMB 22/27 & 28

5.1 VMD is working with Defra group on finding ways to improve its environmental impact.
5.2 The Board will revisit its wish to engage more with other bodies once the stakeholder mapping exercise has been completed and a plan of engagement produced.
5.3 Members acknowledged the paper describing the outcome of the SQP review but noted the lack of recommendations and that some further work is required and it was agreed to revisit once completed.

ACTION

6. Anthelmintic Resistance

6.1 VMD's Head of Efficacy Assessment for Pharmaceuticals, Claire Stratford, gave a presentation on the way VMD contributes to the aim of reducing anthelmintic resistance (AR). AR is a subject of increasing prevalence and magnitude impacting animal health and welfare, the rural economy and productivity and the environment. VMD already sponsors several R&D projects in this area, including the development of faecal sample diagnostic tools for assessing livestock gastrointestinal nematodes. Over the past year Dr Stratford has headed a small VMD working group which has embarked on a wide program of new AR activities. It has met with stakeholders, including other government departments, veterinary associations and the established industry bodies SCOPS and COWS, to find out how they can work together and align activities. It is recognised that there is now a good opportunity to affect change due to ongoing legislative changes and increasing interest from relevant parties. The group has also contacted regulators in other countries to understand the challenges they face, review their activities and survey their

literature to create a library of information for each country. It is also exploring ways of collating and publishing anthelmintic sales data which has not been done before.

- 6.2 As well as looking at internal parasites in sheep and cattle, the group has held meetings with concerned equine stakeholders and established a new group called CANTER (**C**ontrolling **ANT**iparasitic resistance in **E**quines **R**esponsibly) in order to facilitate a co-ordinated approach to improving knowledge in this species, develop best practice guidelines and take forward priority activities. This will launch officially in Spring 2023.
- 6.3 Over the past year the group has made significant progress nationally and internationally and intends to carry out further work although resources are limited.
- 6.4 The members thanked Dr Stratford for a very interesting presentation and were impressed by the positive steps which have been taken with very limited resources. They asked about sales and she informed them that some anthelmintics require a veterinary prescription but most products sold are in the POM-VPS category and sold by SQPs. Usually changes to prescription category for a product are assessed following a request from a MA holder to move it to a lower level to increase availability but VMD can review and re-categorise a range of medicines to a more restrictive level if necessary. It is difficult to measure the amount of resistance present and more faecal egg counting and diagnostic tests by accredited laboratories are required. Responsible use and careful husbandry are key, as is improving communication between animal keepers and vets. It was noted that issues relating to resistance and environmental impact of anthelmintic use in small animals are increasingly being discussed.

7. CEO's Report

VMDMB 22/29

- 7.1 The CEO's report was presented and reviewed. Members noted that VMD has established a steering group made up of interested government departments to look at the effect of pharmaceuticals on the environment. This was at an early stage and the group will also seek to engage with stakeholders in time.

8. Delivery against the Business Plan 2022/23

VMDMB 22/30

- 8.1 Progress against the Business Plan was reviewed. It was noted that the recruitment restrictions and NIP Bill Progress were risking the delivery of this year's plan.

9. Finance report

VMDMB 22/31

- 9.1 The finance report provided figures up until the end of August and showed some areas of underspend which may increase by December.

10. Management Board work plan

VMDMB 22/32

- 10.1 The plan was reviewed. There was no focus topic in place for the December meeting and VMD agreed to consider further and propose one.

ACTION

11. Any other business

- 11.1 VMD is arranging an introductory meeting between the new non-executive directors and David Kennedy.
- 11.2 VMD will be offering to be a Host Board for the Boardroom Apprentice UK Pilot 2023.
- 11.3 It was noted that David Catlow is now the whistle-blower contact for VMD staff.