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The most important news is that it is clear that there will be a major restructure of the Veterinary Surgeons Act . RAMP are at the forefront of negotiating appropriate regulation for highly skilled practitioners in the MSK professions of Physiotherapy, Chiropractic and Osteopathy. The RAMP Gold Standards are welcomed in the veterinary profession with BEVA also recognising RAMP as a voluntary regulator of MSK professionals (Horse and Hound Feb 10th 2022). The work we have done evidencing the Gold Standard has put us in a strong position to argue the professionalism and competence of RAMP registrants.

The professional standards we have set are robust and based on those used in human practice by the Healthcare Professions Council (HCPC), General Chiropractic Council (GCC) and the General Osteopathic Council (GOsC).

Standards were then adapted for Veterinary practice by a team of senior practitioners, Vets and knowledgeable lay people.

Educational standards which are set to produce graduates with day one competencies equal to those of a new graduate from a pre-registration human-based program are being externally audited and verified by the UK Centre of Professional Qualifications, RAMP will be able to publish their findings later in the year.

Did you know ?

On our private registrant page, we are posting industry insights as they present to us, so if you are a registrant make sure you join the group.



RAMP President Jo Paul at the National Equine Forum

Renewals Update

Thank you if you have renewed and an even bigger thank you if you attached all the correct documentation first time!

Our new admin system is in place and has coped well with the renewal process, some CPD data was lost in the migration, but this was due to bugs in the old system. We are sorry if you did lose data but hopefully, we now have a system that will ease the administration process for our hard-working admin officer Sharon, ultimately reducing the admin costs associated with administering RAMP.

Thank you to Rohallion, our development company for producing the system on time and the support given in the first few days of renewals.

National Equine Forum

RAMP president Jo Paul and Co-founder Vav Simon attended the National Equine Forum in March 2022. We connected with many representatives of welfare organisations including World Horse Welfare, the RSPCA and BEVA. Topics were wide and varied including the BHS contribution to the new highway code, worm resistance in equines, workforce diversity, concerns about shortage of a skilled workforce in the equestrian industry and social licence to own and ride horses.

A hot topic currently is if we lose social licence that we will be banned from riding horses in the future. Those people that are for and against the use of horses for leisure purposes will be constant however it is the agnostic and ambivalent population we must reassure that the best care is taken to look after horses. RAMP see competent regulation of MSK professionals will play a part in evidencing the care owners and the veterinary establishment take to care for animals.



RAMP - A National Register of Professionals

Social Media update

You may have noticed RAMP have started a strong social media campaign and have increasing our presence on both Facebook and Instagram.

At the time of writing (mid-April 2022) the RAMP public Facebook page has increased its following by nearly 700 and now has 5289 follows, with a reach of 21,000 organic views over the past 2 months. We re-booted the Instagram account and following has more than doubled to 137 followers. We have so far targeted animal organisations and intend to follow all our registrants in the coming weeks to promote your practices.

RAMP hope you will take advantage of the competitions that are posted in the Registrants group page which help us select a Practitioner of the month. Each month a practitioner will be chosen and will be able to post a 100-word advert on the RAMP public page about their practice, with an image, so it is worth keeping an eye on the group page.



In the spot light!

London Vet Show 2022 update

Having managed to secure a really good position at LVS 2022 we continue with the marketing and organisation to maximise impact to delegates. We are being joined by ACPAT, IRVAP and McTimoney on the stand presenting a multi-disciplinary approach to musculoskeletal care.

The Higher Education Institutions and the PAs not able to be with us have an opportunity to present a small advert on our large video wall. The wall will run a continuous loop giving maximum exposure and showcasing the high-quality work that our registrants offer.

A monthly newsletter that LVS sends to all the vets, vet organisations, insurance companies and other stakeholders contains our regular updates. The pre-event guide which is only 8 pages long hosts the RCVS on 6 of those, and the other 2 contain big adverts from companies like Zoetis and IDEXX. This year RAMP will be included in this area which is a huge accolade and something which can cost between £10- £30k, but we have secured a huge discount on this. It will list our talks and demos and allow Vets to mark these activities into their daily schedule.

Invitations to visit our stand will be going out to the RCVS and insurance companies. We hope this joint venture will demonstrate the professionalism of our registrants and launch a new era of understanding between the Vets and the Allied Professions.

Stop the Press !

RAMP are offering a 47% subsidy to vets attending the London Vet show this year. Please pass details of your vets to Dr Vav Simon for collation
vavsimon@gmail.com

This is an amazing opportunity to to market your skills and RAMP to your local vets !

DEFRA Update

Within our regular communications with DEFRA and the RCVS we were asked what we thought of the RCVS "Recommendations for the future of veterinary legislation" document that has been passed to DEFRA following the consultation from 2021.

It is possible that parliamentary time might be given to this consultation a bit sooner than expected. RAMP has responded with a 14-page document giving our thoughts regarding the level of training, scope of practice and competence of our Registrants.

As RAMP registrants we urge you to contact your MP to ask them to support autonomous practitioner status for those practitioners who practice to RAMP Gold Standard and are willing to be robustly regulated.

We feel it is essential to impress upon both DEFRA and the RCVS at this stage, before any decisions are made, that our registrants are fully competent professionals, and that RAMP is already functioning as a competent regulator.

Being knowledgeable regarding MSK work we feel able to advise on this process and have raised numerous issues that we consider must be addressed to achieve an appropriate standard and future proof re-organisation.

Equine Fitters

Equine Fitters Move Towards Voluntary Regulation.

RAMP was invited to contribute to the discussion at the recent Equine Fitters Conference.

Dr Vav Simon DC AMC FRCC, co-founder and Past President of RAMP travelled to Saddlers Hall, London on 27/1/22 to share experiences about setting up a new independent regulatory body for professionals.



Dr Vav Simon at the Equine Fitters Conference

Like the MSK industry, there is no statutory regulation requiring that a person fitting a saddle, bit, bridle or harness meets suitable standards of training, conduct or professional development.

Neither is there a voluntary governing body like RAMP to set minimum standards for training and education.

In 2020, the working groups of The Saddlers Company and The Worshipful Company of Loriners began talks to form a regulatory body to oversee all equine fitting. Presentations given at Conference included Philip Napier, Clerk to the Saddlers Company who introduced the day which was attended by over 60 people both in person and by live streaming via zoom. A full programme started off by addressing the vision for this initiative with a presentation from Sue Dowthwaite, Past Master of the Loriners Company. The welfare of, and relationship with the horse was discussed with Roly Owers, Chief Executive from World Horse Welfare. He illustrated the need for change and the social licence around our care of the animals we have such a deep and varied relationship with.

Vav Simon discussed why Voluntary Regulation is the answer and how RAMP built the register and the organisation piece by piece. Catherine Morris gave an overview of the development of the Equine Fitters Council before the Saddlers Company Past Master, Hugh Thomas, described the next steps in the plan. Then a question and answer panel responded to questions from senior vets, saddlers, loriners and members from equine assisted therapies. Jane Nixon, Director of the British Equine Federation and Consultant Veterinary Surgeon to the Society of Master Saddlers joined the panel. This was a constructive and optimistic gathering that reminded Vav of the early days of RAMP's evolution. It was very encouraging to learn that RAMP was highly respected and forefront in the minds of senior representatives from the equine industry. The work done by RAMP Council addressed many of the same areas of concern raised by the Musculoskeletal industry.

By setting standards of training and practice, this takes our registrants into the arena of regulated professionals that vets and animal owners want to work with and as an industry regulator RAMP has also clarified the landscape for care for animals, simplifying areas of responsibility with vets and owners.

This emerging Equine Fitters Regulation Council is strongly supported by long-experienced senior figures in the industry. From our experience, we are sure they are tackling the task well and will take the professions forward. RAMP has offered to continue to support EFC in their efforts.

Categories of Care

As a result of a Veterinary Defence Society article in Vet Practice magazine in Aug 2020 which aired concern about Vets granting consent for animals which they had not seen to be assessed by MSK practitioners, RAMP received many pleas for help as many Vets were refusing consent. This was an issue for the vets, MSK practitioners and the public who wished to access best care for their animals.

RAMP instigated a review to clarify the existing requirements of the Veterinary Surgeons Act and determined that work on healthy animals did not require a veterinary referral.



This was passed onto the RCVS, who presented it to their legal team, had it passed by their standards committee and have now published this on their website as guidance to the vets.

This means that MSK practitioners do not need a referral to assess and treat healthy animals that present for performance enhancing care or those that present for maintenance care to optimise wellbeing. **However**, you have a professional duty to contact the vet if you identify a new pathology during your visit. There is still a requirement for a referral for animals that have active pathology or are unwell and under current veterinary care.

For clarification and case studies, see the RAMP Facebook pages.

RAMP default descriptions

RAMP do not distinguish between the practitioners of the three contributing Professions that make up its Registrants, however we do often get asked for descriptions of each profession by journalists and members of the public.

Therefore, RAMP Council have developed the following three descriptions that will be used as default:

CHIROPRACTIC

Animal Chiropractic is a profession within animal health care that is concerned with the preservation, improvement, and optimisation of the neuro-musculoskeletal system. Using precision adjustments to stimulate reflex actions within the body, encourages the bones of the skeleton to realign to their optimum position. This frees nerve impingement which improves health, soundness and performance. It is a suitable care system for post operative rehabilitation as it aids balance, Improves circulation, and stimulates soft tissue healing. Practitioners pay specific attention to the nervous system throughout the consultation process as it directly impacts on the treatment plan, after care and rehabilitation packages they provide.

PHYSIOTHERAPY

Animal Physiotherapy is a science and evidence-based, holistic approach that uses clinical assessment based on a sound understanding of anatomy, biomechanics, physiology, and pathology within a multidisciplinary model to evaluate the animal client. The Animal Physiotherapist works with the owner to develop a treatment protocol based on their assessment using a "whole body" approach considering the animal's role and function.

The aim is to promote tissue repair and movement in soft tissues and joints; restore or improve range of motion, proprioception, strength and co-ordination to regain optimal movement patterns and function.

OSTEOPATHY

Animal Osteopaths work to restore the body to a state of balance that is suitable for the individual through touch, manipulation, stretching and massage which can help to improve mobility to joints, release tension to muscles and connective tissue as well as improving both blood and nerve supply. It is common for osteopaths to suggest exercises to promote healing, health and injury prevention. Practitioners that use osteopathic techniques on animals use their extensive knowledge of anatomy and physiology to localise the underlying cause of disease. This allows practitioners to treat the whole being, from muscles and bones to the organs (viscera) and the neurological system.

News Just In.

Special Insurance offer with Balens.

RAMP has negotiated a dedicated block scheme with Balens Insurance. This offers full cover for a very good rate of £85 per annum, down from last year.

Additional Employers Liability is also available for those who take students out on visits.

This has been agreed because Registrants following RAMP's Gold Standard quality of practice have reduced insurance risks.

Balens are willing to dovetail new cover with your current scheme. This is a very good offer and worth considering.

National Equine Welfare Council



RAMP is delighted to be accepted as a Welfare member of the NEWC and RAMP president Jo Paul was given a 5-minute slot in the program of the 2022 AGM to inform the members about RAMP and its aims.

NEWC is involved in many projects and has 2 categories of membership one for members who house and look after welfare cases and the welfare membership which is for organisations concerned with equine welfare.

RAMP and NEWC have similar aims in working to improve equine welfare by influencing standards within their specific Industries. At the AGM Dr David Marlin, who is the NEWC president related the very real issue that owners may find it difficult to access and afford winter feed due to the combination of post covid and Ukrainian war on inflation and supply.

NEWC chair Nic De Brauwere reported the great value of NEWC was to connect many organisations and to work together for the common aim.

For RAMP it is exciting to contribute our learning in uniting different factions of the same industry but also to be part of the wider efforts. We look forward to working with the members of this new found partner to promote the use of highly skilled and regulated MSK practitioners.

Contact us– As always we are happy to hear from our members. You can contact us via email on :

info@ramregister.org or find us on Facebook or Instagram.