

RAMP

NEWSLETTER

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THE FUTURE
OF YOUR
PROFESSION**



The parliamentary time we were hoping for in the May Newsletter has not materialised due to the disarray in Westminster over the summer. In many ways disappointing however it has given the MSK industry more time to build the case for fully regulated autonomous practice for RAMP eligible practitioners.

The summer theme has been communication, I have connected with Veterinary Professional Associations and other allied professional groups as it is important other professions within the industry appreciate the high professional standards demanded of RAMP registrants.

As a result of the work done on evidencing standards RAMP was delighted to receive a statement from BEVA advocating registrants to their members, however with endorsement comes responsibility on all our shoulders, to maintain the highest professional practice.

Another achievement is the Eccdis report via the Office of Professional Qualifications that externally audited the educational mapping for RAMP Pathway entry. I was relieved to learn the process was judged as fit for the purpose of equating to a single RAMP accredited BSc course.

A stand hosted by RAMP at London Vet Show with IRVAP, ACPAT and McTimoney practitioners all presenting throughout the two days. This was a huge opportunity to showcase the skills of the MSK practitioner and thanks goes to Vav Simon who led this project and as a result has a few more grey hairs!

RAMP has moved at pace and although there is still work to do, we have developed our standards and policies each year, we were assisted in the beginning by the generosity of the statutory regulators in the human professions who allowed us to use their already tried and tested standards. RAMP is gaining the respect of other stakeholders as running a competent register, work still must be done to bring all RAMP eligible practitioners on board to evidence to the decision makers we are professions that are open to scrutiny and if allowed to practice to full capacity can make a positive difference to animal welfare.

Best Wishes for 2023
Jo Paul
RAMP President



RAMP thanks Gemma Dransfield from BEVA Council who has worked with us to communicate our standards and we are delighted to receive the following statement

"BEVA is happy to recommend the Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners (RAMP) to its members. BEVA considers that RAMP registered musculoskeletal professionals have demonstrated sufficient education, experience, and voluntary regulation to provide confidence to UK equine vets when choosing an allied professional to work alongside to maintain and improve animal health and welfare"

MSK Regulation from a Veterinary Perspective

RAMP called an open webinar which all the MSK professional association members were invited, with representatives from BEVA, RCVS, DEFRA and BSAVA. This can still be viewed from the RAMP website News page. However, the general outcome was the Veterinary Professional Associations seem to have sympathy with RAMP eligible practitioners within our professions, gaining autonomy if we are robustly regulated and we can achieve a change in the legislation.

Ben Myering reported the RCVS do not hold this view and currently wish allied professions to remain under veterinary referral system that many clinicians find unworkable. So, there is still much work to do if a sensible working model is to be found into the future. What is clear is we are missing the input of around two thirds of eligible MSK practitioners, the more registrants we have the louder our voice will be. If you agree with RAMP aims, we need evidence of your support in the form of you registering as soon as possible to add your voice to development of your profession in animal care.

PARLIAMENTARY TIME

The Parliamentary time we are waiting on is to allow the RCVS to offer regulation to other professions. This is mainly directed at the Veterinary Nurse profession but may end up being offered to other allied professions. In the event MSK professions are considered RAMP want to be ready to advocate for workable standards that will maintain the integrity of the three professions we represent. There would have to be a second piece of legislative change to award any potential protection of title.

It is therefore important to remember we are at the beginning of this journey.



RAMP Attend RCVS Reception at the House of Lords

Jo Paul attended the reception to launch the need for parliamentary time for a change in legislation to allow the RCVS to regulate other professions. Members of the multidisciplinary team gave short presentations detailing their particular contribution to the veterinary services.

Chiropractor Emma Fretwell who is a co-opted RAMP Council Member gave an excellent account of the need for MSK practitioners to work alongside vets and for any future legislation to include fully regulated practitioners delivering their full scope of practice.

Education Standards Externally Audited

The process developed by the RAMP education team was externally audited by Ecctis via the Office of Professional Qualification. The audit concluded the process is robust, well articulate and fit for purpose. Ecctis issued RAMP with an Executive summary which can be accessed on the RAMP website.

This was a huge step forward to evidence that the mapping process RAMP has created produces similar topics, credits and practical education that would be delivered in a human based professional BSc program and the educational criteria for the initial and pathway route are equivalent.

Veterinary Opinion: Tim Davies MRCVS

As vets, however much we may desire it, we are in no position to ensure that the only animal MSK practitioners that practice alongside us, are those that have the right professional skills, are properly qualified, and able and safe to practise throughout their career.

RAMP is the only UK body that has the structure, organisation and registration criteria to reassure vets that their registrants are animal MSK practitioners that are properly qualified and insured, with career long unambiguous professional standards required to be met. When these standards are not met, RAMP has robust procedures in place to address shortcomings.

RAMP provides vets with the knowledge that RAMP registered MSK practitioners meet the criteria we require for regulated, safe MSK provision for our clients and their animals.



AUDIT and CPD Update

RAMP will be updating renewal CPD guidance over the next few months and although the hours and types of CPD will remain constant, the guidance on which type of CPD and guidance on the reflective summaries will be clarified. Please look out for the update at the beginning of 2023.

RAMP Survey MSK Practitioners

97% think
animals
deserve the
same level of
MSK care as
humans

**87 % THINK FULLY
REGULATED VETERINARY
MSK PRACTITIONERS
SHOULD BE ABLE TO
WORK WITHIN A STRICT
SCOPE OF PRACTICE, AS
FIRST OPINION
AUTONOMOUS
PRACTITIONERS WITHOUT
VETERINARY REFERRAL**

RAMP instigated a survey in June 2022 of the MSK industry to ask how they wanted to move forwards, many of you responded, and as a result RAMP has pulled together a MSK regulation package to present to the veterinary profession. The survey also gave respondent's the chance to comment on RAMP performance, the replies were happily mainly positive and it was good to catch a few myths which have been addressed in posts on the RAMP-Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners Facebook page

87% believe regulation
essential for the future
of MSK professions

**88% OF RESPONDENTS THINK
ANIMAL WELFARE WOULD BE
IMPROVED IF FULLY REGULATED
RAMP ELIGIBLE PRACTITIONERS
WORKED AUTONOMOUSLY
WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT OF
A VETERINARY REFERRAL.**

RAMP Practitioners Marketing Statements :Update 2022

RAMP has been working with the Regulatory bodies to clarify the description of practice of animal treatment using the techniques of Chiropractic, Osteopathy and Physiotherapy. A recent focus has been the use of professional titles within that sphere.

While there is no statutory legal recognition of protected titles for the practice of these techniques with animals, it is accepted that animal practitioners have been in practice for over 60 years - before the Veterinary Surgeon's Act Exemptions Order was put in place.

1. The General Chiropractic Council (GCC), General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) and Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC) (who regulate Physiotherapists), recognise and accept that the regulation of animal practice with these techniques is separate from the regulation of the human practice.

2. The use of protected titles in animal practice must be clearly prefixed by a term relating to animals and used without any intention to deceive the public by stating, showing or implying that the practice relates to the treatment of human patients.

3. All three Councils are likely to take enforcement action up to and including prosecution of any person they find misusing protected titles by implying or offering to treat human patients with these techniques if they are not statutorily regulated - that is a current registrant of the GCC, GOsC or HCPC.

4. In regulating misuse of title all three Councils have stated following allegations or reports of title misuse, their approach will be targeted, proportionate and applied consistently, focusing on title misuse which presents a risk to human patient safety and public protection. Any Practitioner reported to the regulators would be contacted and informed of the allegation and given a chance to amend the situation prior to any action to prosecute.

Accordingly, RAMP is updating its requirements of its registrants:

a) In order to clearly demonstrate that there is no intention to deceive, all RAMP registrants, who are NOT ALSO registered with the GCC, GOsC, or HCPC if using any of the title 'Chiropractor', 'Osteopath' or 'Physiotherapist' MUST prefix that title with an animal-related term. E.G., 'Animal', 'Equine', 'Canine', etc.

b). All RAMP registrants must make it clear that they do not treat human patients with these techniques unless they are also separately registrants of the GCC, GOsC and HCPC and avoid any implication that they do so. They must review websites and other professional material to ensure this.

c). All RAMP registrants must publicly correct and clarify any potential confusions arising from other people implying that they treat human patients with these techniques.

The Health Care Professions Council's (HCPC) primary aim is to protect the public by regulating 15 health and care professions in the UK.

We understand that many RAMP registrants are dual registered with the HCPC and so may have questions about where there may be a crossover if a concern was raised about their RAMP registration or conduct. Whilst every case will have different aspects that may need to be considered, usually we would only look to investigate cases where the concerns raised with RAMP indicate a concern about a registrant's conduct, health or character that may impact public protection.

For more information about what we expect from our registrants, please visit our standards pages where we have material on our standards of proficiency and our standards of conduct, performance and ethics:
<https://www.hcpc-uk.org/standards/>
Madeleine Connor
Senior Policy Officer
HCPC

EVENTS

RAMP was proud to be a Gold sponsor for the IAVRPT conference in Cambridge in August.

The IAVRPT conference is a large international rehabilitation conference that moves around the world on a biannual basis. IAVRPT 2024 will be in Cape Town.

The International Association of Veterinary Rehabilitation and Physical Therapy, IAVRPT, is one of the only groups around the globe which enables animal rehabilitation practitioners and scientists from all backgrounds to come together with a common goal of learning from each other. To quote 'IAVRPT is dedicated to the practice, teaching, and research of veterinary rehabilitation and physical therapy, furthering scientific investigation, and providing better patient care based on sound scientific study.'

The conference also provides an unparalleled opportunity to meet and network with colleagues from around the globe and to compare and contrast the regulation issues that each face. The issues that we encounter here in the UK are mirrored in many other countries. Discussing ideas about how to overcome some of the challenges were very fruitful. However, it became very clear the RAMP is leading the way. Several countries, including Canada, are already starting to follow our model while adapting it to their needs. Many other countries are now starting to plan. RAMP will continue to liaise with, and be available to talk to, all of these colleagues so that we can all benefit from the support and interaction.

Three members of RAMP Council were present for three days of the symposium. It is hard work but very rewarding so please volunteer if you would like to help at events like these in the future.

Sonya Nightingale



London Vet Show 2022

RAMP attended the London Vet Show on the 17th and 18th November 2023 at Excel London. The stand was manned by Jo Paul, Vav Simon and Sonya Nightingale. Our large stand was located in a primary position at the show and also hosted three of the professional associations, IRVAP, McTimoney and ACPAT who understand and support the work of RAMP as the voluntary industry Regulator.

Our purpose was to present the multidisciplinary MSK work to the vet industry and to engage with the delegates to reinforce the importance of regulation.

Each professional association was provided with their own branded counter area and given the opportunity to present two lectures/ demonstrations each day of their own technique supported by a very large video wall. While promoting their own associations, they also promoted the work of RAMP as the regulator. All the talks were well attended and the variety of subjects made for very interesting viewing.

RAMP hosted a lunchtime presentation to the insurance companies, vet associations, RCVS and DEFRA with wine and nibbles, which followed up the communication Jo Paul had previously done personally with each group.

Compared to previous years where we have had to work very hard to engage the vets, we found that this year they were coming to find us. The constant stream of delegates had mainly heard of us and wanted to know more. Our prime position helped but also the ten months of newsletter promotion we did through the LVS media channels and our inclusion in the pre-event guide was successful in making our name known.

Our data collected at the show was that 677 delegates visited the stand with RAMP collecting 254, IRVAP 249, McTimoney 99 and ACPAT 75 hits. The majority visited on Thursday with 424 visitors counted. The majority were vets then vet nurses and practice managers. Many more visited and discussed various points but failed to be recorded, however well done everyone for getting our message out.

The video wall promoted each of the PA's and RAMP on a rolling advert between lectures. We were also able to display the recent BEVA statement accrediting RAMP registrants on this large wall. Many thanks to John Halstead, our technician, who put in a lot of time and ingenuity to accommodate various changes and problems and ensured that the presentations looked and sounded very professional.

The multidisciplinary approach was evidenced by the camaraderie, professionalism and happy atmosphere on our large stand, making it a successful show for all who attended.

From the show we learned that-

- 1) Vets were relieved to know that we were regulating the industry
- 2) Vets were happy to understand the level of the 'Gold Standard'
- 3) Many delegates wanted to know about complaints, disciplinary and regulation
- 4) Enquiries were made regarding where to train to be able to register with RAMP
- 5) The ease of finding the register and ability to check practitioners was received well.
- 6) Insurance companies were very interested in knowing the extent of the regulatory work we are doing.

Vav Simon

Gallery

