

RAMP

**JOIN NOW
HAVE YOUR SAY**

**INFLUENCE
THE FUTURE
OF YOUR
PROFESSION**



RAMP has been busy promoting the register to the veterinary profession, welfare sector and public. I hope you have noticed a difference in the social media post on the RAMP page. This is due to the hard work and skill of Lucinda Stott and Alice Frampton who are co-opted members of RAMP Council, who I hope will step onto full Council at the AGM IN Jan 24.

RAMP attended BEVA Congress where we spoke to veterinary professionals, it was satisfying many had heard of RAMP and the work we are doing. There was still confusion regarding the difference between RAMP and the Professional Associations, as BEVA also support ACPAT. We were able to explain the remit of the different organisations and thank the ACPAT representatives for sending delegates to our stand for a full explanation. I also attended the World Horse Welfare Conference and the Institute of Registered Veterinary and Animal Physiotherapists (IRVAP) Conference where I was invited to give a clinical talk as well as the keynote talk on 'Forging the Future of the Animal NMSK Industry'. I thank IRVAP for the warm welcome and the many questions.

I am delighted to say the hard work put in by RAMP Council over the past few years has been rewarded by DEFRA acknowledging RAMP as an industry regulatory body, this is a huge step forward. Although it does not make any difference to the way RAMP will work and registering is still voluntary, it does mean the veterinary industry will gain comfort that the beginnings of NMSK industry regulation is in place. There has been a bit of a social media storm from practitioners who are not RAMP registered, this acknowledgment does not currently mean any change to the legislation around your practice, but focuses the need continue to build skills and deliver best practice.

There is still a huge amount of work to be done to establish statutory regulation for our professions and the rest of the NMSK industry. The RCVS is working hard to have the Veterinary Surgeons Act reviewed and updated. RAMP is lobbying to have provision for the NMSK industry as part of this updated legislation. It is important that RAMP eligible practitioners show a willingness to be independently regulated and support RAMP in evidencing they are fit to practice as independent autonomous practitioners in the veterinary world similarly to our colleagues in human practice.

Wishing you all a lovely Christmas break.

Jo Paul

RAMP President

RAMP GOES TO BEVA

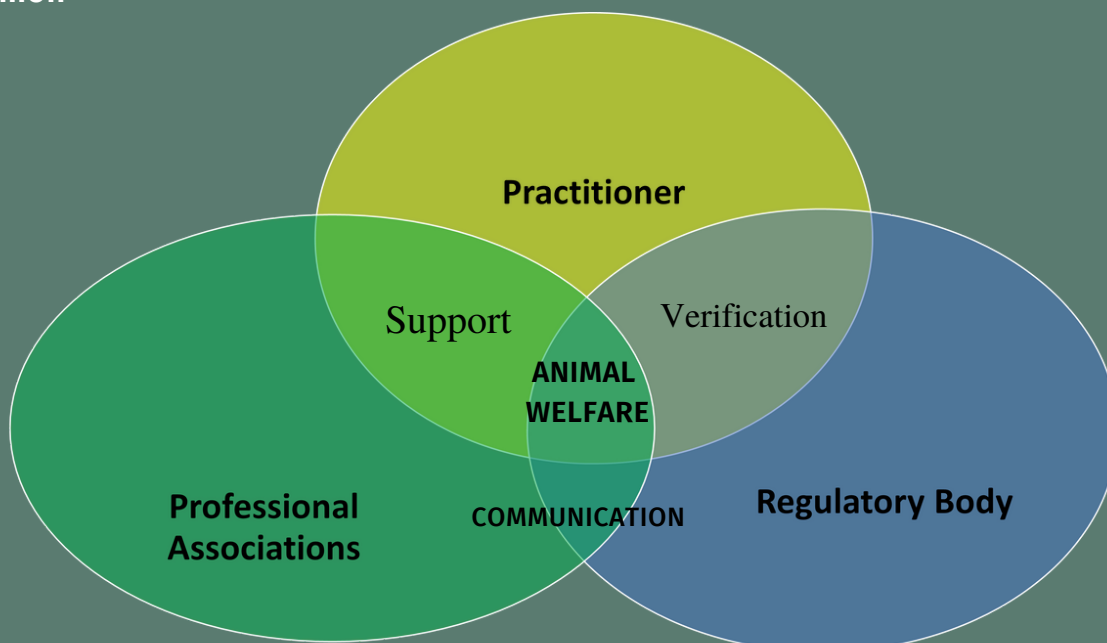
The RAMP team attended the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) congress 14th- 16th September 2023 at International Convention Centre Birmingham. Our stand drew much attention from vets, vet nurses, students and practice managers who were finding us to ask lots of questions about our role as the MSK industry regulator.

We explained how we do the due diligence regarding our registrants allowing vets peace of mind when referring or liaising about MSK care. Vav Simon, Sonya Nightingale, Jo Paul and Lucinda Stott explained how the Complaints procedure worked and Vav chased a complaint there and then for a visiting vet. He was delighted to see that RAMP was now providing a comprehensive service that was of use to vets in practice and how easy it was to use.

We also explained the difference between Professional Associations and RAMP as an Industry Regulatory Body.

Promoting the high quality of our Registrants professionalism was broadcast widely over two very busy days on the stand. These events are imperative for RAMP to promote the register and take time to allow the wider veterinary industry to communicate with us and learn about the work being done.

Dr Vav Simon



COUNCIL UPDATE

The AGM is all to close and another RAMP year comes to an end.

The call went out for Registrants to come forwards for election onto Council for 2024-26. We were delighted to have several applicants whose names will be published later this month.

Co-opted Council members from 2023 have agreed to apply for full Council along with a few faces old and new.

The AGM will take place via Zoom on Monday Jan 22nd 2024 at 7.30pm.

Council member Focus: Julia Brooks MSc DO (Hons)

WORK LOCATED: Sussex and Dorset

JOB :Registered Osteopath of over 40 years.

INTERESTING FACT ABOUT JULIA.

Working knowledge of Welsh and coauthored "Osteopathic Treatment of Horses "

WHY DID YOU WANT TO JOIN RAMP COUNCIL?

I was really impressed with the way RAMP handled the pandemic, keeping everyone up to speed with regulations and finding a way to practice safely and legally. I was interested in joining a team that provided this support and represent osteopaths within such a organisation.

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACHIEVE IN YOUR TIME ON COUNCIL?

To be involved with the development of a framework within which the NMSK professions can work with the veterinary profession in a safe and legal way to provide the best care for our animals. This may mean establishing a more regulated, accountable industry while retaining the unique approaches of the individual professions.

HOW DO YOU FIND BEING ON RAMP COUNCIL?

Acronyms of the various stakeholders/organisations are a bit of a headache!

DO YOU THINK RAMP ARE MAKING PROGRESS?

From the reports received from the main protagonists in RAMP, there seems to be engagement by the stakeholders and some agreement as to the direction of travel.



SAVE THE DATE!

REGISTRANTS Q&A

REGISTRANTS Q&A VIA ZOOM, FEBRUARY 22ND 2024 AT 7.30PM.

These forums are open to all RAMP registrants and give a chance for questions to be put to the RAMP Council

INSURANCE REPORT

RAMP CONTINUE TO LOBBY THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY TO INCLUDE RAMP REGISTRANTS ON THEIR PROVIDER LISTS. MOST COMPANIES SAY THE ARE ACCEPTING RAMP REGISTRANTS, IF REGISTRANTS HAVE AN ISSUE REGARDING PAYMENT FOR TREATMENT DELIVERED, PLEASE CONTACT RAMP AND WE WILL INVESTIGATE.

DEFRA Statement

The acknowledgement from DEFRA that RAMP is acting as an industry regulatory body is a huge step in evidencing, we are moving towards competent regulation of the neuromusculoskeletal professions in animal care.

Defra see's RAMP as a voluntary industry regulator as there is currently no statutory regulator for activities undertaken by animal musculoskeletal practitioners either in the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 and the Veterinary Surgeons Exemption Order 2015, but it does have provisions in place that mean members are accountable to RAMP in case of malpractice, even if you have no legal powers of enforcement.

Anyone can set up an Industry Regulatory Body (IRB). IRBs set standards, create policies and procedures for the industry to follow and ensure their registrants reach and maintain these standards. The significance of the latest RAMP news is that DEFRA have recognised RAMP as a regulatory body fulfilling this function. This gives the organisation credibility and encourages other veterinary industry stakeholders to work with RAMP.

It is not mandatory to register with RAMP as there is currently no statutory regulation in place in animal care as there is in human care. RAMP is a voluntary IRB which means you do not need to be registered but if you are, you prove you are willing to have your practice monitored by an impartial and independent organisation.

The more practitioners willing to join an IRB, the more likely we are to get a change to sensible legislation that maintains high standards and protects animal welfare allowing each profession to flourish.

QUESTIONS FROM INDUSTRY TO RAMP

QUESTION 1:

WHY DO RAMP ONLY REGISTER THE THREE PROFESSIONS OF CHIROPRACTIC, OSTEOPATHY AND PHYSIOTHERAPY?

JP: The honest answer is resources. RAMP is run by a voluntary council on a very tight budget. We simply do not have the resources to include other professions. This does not mean other professions cannot have an IRB it just means it is not currently RAMP

QUESTION 2:

WILL THERE BE A TIME WHEN OTHER PROFESSIONS WILL HAVE AN IRB?

JP: There is little point in RAMP regulating the three professions if the rest of the industry are not regulated in some way. Doubtless when the Veterinary Surgeons Act is revamped something will have to happen and RAMP do have some thoughts that can be put forward. However, the best advice I can offer is that PAs in other disciplines get together and decide on your own industry standards in readiness for some sort of regulation.

WITH AUTONOMY COMES RESPONSIBILITY: SACRED STANDARDS.

RAMP believes that Neuromusculoskeletal professionals who are competently regulated should be able to work autonomously within their scope of practice, closely with veterinary professionals but not necessarily with the need for referral.

Before this will ever happen there needs to be industry regulation in place and probably statutory regulation involving the RCVS. In reality this is a few years away as it requires a change to the current Veterinary Surgeons Act. However, in the meanwhile practitioners can be preparing for statutory regulation.

RAMP will be lobbying for the current RAMP entry criteria to be adopted for full registration as a Veterinary Chiropractor, Osteopath or Physiotherapist. Some practitioners who are just short of criteria should consider topping up their educational achievements to meet criteria. This can be done via CPD that has an OFQUAL accredited learning level of RQF level 4 and above. Further grandfathering onto a new statutory register is likely but not a certainty, so advice to top up over the next few years is probably prudent.

Other preparations could be reflections on your current standards of practice.

Is your practice **SACRED**?

Safe and competent assessment led clinical reasoning to effective treatment within a holistic care plan.

Accountable for care plan delivered. So can each step be justified and supported by current evidence.

Communication must be clear, timely and effective with owners, vets and other allied professional. Care must be taken to maintain confidentiality, gain consent to discuss cases and responsible use of social media.

Records must be clear and effective and kept for a minimum of seven years.

Education is a professional career long commitment. It is your responsibility to provide the best care possible and this involves keeping up to date with the developments in your profession. This commitment facilitates renewals with your industry regulator and professional association as an added bonus.

Development of your profession. Consider how you can drive up the standards of your profession by providing education or mentoring new graduates, providing clinical placement for students, conducting research, promoting your profession by proving high quality care.

QUESTION FROM A REGISTRANT

Q3: IS A CHANGE OF LEGISLATION TO ALLOW AUTONOMOUS PRACTICE FOR NMSK PRACTITIONERS A POSSIBILITY?

JP: RAMP would like to believe it is and are currently working to this aim, but only for RAMP regulated practitioners. We are working towards statutory regulation most likely to involve the RCVS.

However, we need to prove we can competently regulate the professions in animal care. RAMP have spent the last few years evidencing their standards and policies are fit for purpose in providing competent voluntary regulation. DEFRA now acknowledge RAMP are filling a space as an industry regulatory body. The next step is to encourage all eligible practitioners to prove they are willing to be regulated by joining RAMP. We can then evidence we are professionals willing to be responsible to an industry regulator.

Making an impact through words of identity: Working side by side.

How we identify ourselves can affect how credible the world sees us. Gone are the days when all you had to do was be good at your job, these days you have to walk *and* talk the talk.

So, whilst singing from the rooftops that you are proudly RAMP registered is one thing, it's important to also recognise your power in positioning your language in a way to pave the way for even higher level professional conversation within the industry.

The time has come to position ourselves not just as competent registrants, but also as allied professionals that are willing, safe, eager and well equipped to impact the treatment of animals and their welfare; both alongside and as viable standalone practitioners in our own right.

We already powerfully influence those around us by our collective dedication to high-quality musculoskeletal animal care. However, communicating ourselves as working alongside other practitioners in our own right, as more allied veterinary professionals, rather than simply as those with only a delegated right to operate is a crucial step towards the future of our professions. It's time to credibly stand up on our own two legs and not hide behind the work we do, to shine in the limelight of our accredited training and hard work, and to take each equitable opportunity that arises to collectively advance our professions both for ourselves and in the eyes of those who have the power to decide our future.

We all have a part to play in making sure we advance and showcase our skills best. For now, we need to continuously act and refer to ourselves as Allied Professionals, rather than allowing others to pigeonhole RAMP members as paraprofessionals. Whether in clinic, on the field or during general industry communication, we all owe it to ourselves and the animals we care for to market our skills and the positioning of our skills properly. The time is now and we need your help.

James Harrison: RAMP Council

NEWS FROM THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

IRVAP

RAMP attended IRVAP multidisciplinary seminar on October 27th 2023, at the Leonardo Hinckley Island Hotel, Burbage.

What a lovely conference, spacious, good stands, well attended, with quality speakers all day, including our Jo Paul. There were some great questions from the delegates coming to the stand, lots of entry pathway queries and some great feedback for a good job we are doing. Jo also delivered a key note talk on RAMP and its future, enlightening all the room as to where and how we aim to forward. Again great questions thrown to her, and some wonderful comments after. A worthwhile stand to have, reaching many members and potential members along the way.

Thank you to Barbara Houlding and her team on the IRVAP committee.

Emma Fretwell: RAMP Council

London Vet Show 23

RAMP hosted a theatre session at the London Vet Show 23 on Friday 17th November. Emma Fretwell, Lucinda Stott, Barbara Houlding, Sally Charlton, Julia Brooks, Diane Messum and Vav Simon all RAMP registrants delivered clinical talks and Jo Paul interspersed these with short explanations of RAMP work. Thank you to all that spoke to showcase the importance of NMSK clinical practice



THE EFFECT OF CANINE LEG LENGTH AND BACK LENGTH ON STRIDE LENGTH DURING WALK AND TROT



TAILS OF THE UNEXPECTED: A CHIROPRACTIC JOURNEY WITH EXOTICS



NOT JUST HORSE SENSE EVIDENCE BASED BENEFITS OF EQUINE CHIROPRACTIC AND PAIN PERCEPTION



THE OSTEOPATHIC APPROACH TO PROPRIOCEPTION AND THE UPPER CERVICAL SPINE



HYDROTHERAPY TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE TOILETING FUNCTIONALITY IN THE DOG



CHIROPRACTIC & ITS ROLE IN INTEGRATED VETERINARY PRACTICE: HIGHLIGHT INTO SPORTS INJURIES



BRACE YOURSELF: THE ROLE OF ORTHOTICS IN VETERINARY MEDICINE'

Gallery

