

NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENTS REPORT

If you thrive on continual challenges which stretch, confound and reward, then involvement with RAMP never disappoints!

It was rewarding that the Professional Associations (PAs) worked together with RAMP to inform the representation RAMP made to DEFRA at the end of May, and then wider consultation meetings attended by the PAs and RAMP in July. There has been no feedback to date from DEFRA on those meetings, but we believe a public consultation is due before the end of 2025.

The discussions at DEFRA implied that it was desirable that the Veterinary Allied Professions (VAPs) do come under a statutory regulatory structure within the wider veterinary healthcare model. RAMP believe that the standards we have put in place would create the foundations of competent regulation of Chiropractic, Osteopathy and Physiotherapy (MSK) practitioners in animal care.

The challenge is to ensure all registrants understand the responsibility they accept as statutory regulated professionals. RAMP has strongly advocated for the MSK professions that autonomous practitioner status is essential for the effective integration of these practitioners into animal practice. RAMP will support all registrants to maintain the level of professionalism expected but it is now the responsibility of all registered practitioners to fully comply with the voluntary regulatory processes in place to evidence the confidence RAMP has in the industry is justified.

I am sure you are all up to the task!

Wishing you all a great end to 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Jo', is written at the bottom of the page.

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MIRIAM MAIN: RAMP SMALL ANIMAL VETERINARY ADVISOR

1. **Work location:** The Veterinary Wellness Centre in Edinburgh.
2. **Greatest influencer/ mentor?** This is too hard! I would say Neil & Rona Frame from Frame and Swift in Penrith. They filled me with the correct balance of confidence, competence, resilience and self-reflection to make a great vet. They juggled being parents, vets and business owners in their own unique way, showing that it is possible (though often very difficult). I am sure without their influence I would not have been brave enough to open my own practice.
3. **Interesting fact about Miriam:** As well as being a vet, I am also an International Board-Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC), helping (human!) mothers from pregnancy to weaning to reach their breastfeeding goals.
4. **What attracted you to join RAMP Council?** I have always thought MSK professionals are under-utilised in veterinary medicine, and I have been pleased to be proved right with excellent results from our multi-disciplinary team in our practice. Even as someone interested in MSK work, I find it confusing to know who is appropriate to refer to and feel very happy that RAMP is there to help. I wanted to assist RAMP and was encouraged by my excellent colleague Amanda.
5. **How do you find being on RAMP Council?** It is interesting having a small window into other professional's world. Meetings are regular enough to keep us all in the loop, but not so frequent as to be hard to fit in amongst working full time and caring for family. I recommend anyone considering it to go for it!
6. **Tea of Coffee person?** Coffee all the way!





THE WEBINAR VET

RAMP was honored to be invited to present an event on the Webinar Vet CPD online platform. The event lasted three hours and covered the work done by RAMP as a Voluntary Industry Regulatory Body as well as presentations explaining clinical practice in each of the three professions. RAMP Council members Vav Simon, Sonya Nightingale, Julia Brooks, Holly Davidson and Jo Paul all presented and special thanks went to Mel Haines who gave an informative presentation, 'Clinical Reasoning in Veterinary Physiotherapy for Hip Dysplasia'.

This was followed by a Q&A session which was sponsored by Wimba. This live event was attended by Jenniffer Latchford and Emily Hall from Wimba along with a panel from the clinical presenters. Questions were diverse and covered a host of interesting subjects from treatment under sedation to behavioral issues in clients.

Both events can be watched at <https://thewebinarvet.com/videos/how-can-interdisciplinary-working-enrich-my-clinical-practice-and-service-user-outcomes>



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BVA LIVE & BEVA CONGRESS 2025

The RAMP team attended both the BVA live and BEVA Congress. Attendance at these events is essential to answer questions from the veterinary profession to help integrate regulated MSK professionals into a reformed veterinary healthcare model. The lack of regulation in our industry has meant there is some confusion over the level of practice RAMP registrants can provide. Communication at these events when everyone has time to talk is instrumental in assuring vets that if they have any concerns about the practice of a registrant, or questions about the MSK sector they can speak to RAMP.

PUBLIC EVENTS

This year to increase awareness RAMP attended several public events. So, in 2025 we attended the National Equine Show, Paws in the Park; Sussex, Edition Dog Live and Dogfest Bristol and Yorkshire. The aim was to involve registrants in the hosting teams and engage with the animal-owning public. These events are well attended, and we had lots of positive exchanges with both the public and other exhibitors and no doubt informed those who came to speak to us.

However, most of these events are expensive to attend, and so the pilot of 2025 revealed that it may be more productive to spend RAMP limited funds on a social media professional to promote RAMP profile with the public for 2026. RAMP will still attend the events we are invited to provide information about RAMP and will still be looking for interested registrants to support the RAMP Councilors at the events we do attend.

Thank you to Lucinda Stott, Amanda Stears, Julia Brooks and Jo Paul for attending the summer events.



RAMP

EDITION DOG OR CAT MAGAZINE AND LIVE EVENT

RAMP has an agreement with Edition Dog which will provide the publication with quality articles from registrants but also gives an opportunity for the authors to promote their own businesses and the RAMP register. If any registrant wants to submit a small animal article, the process is to send it to RAMP for proof reading at communications@rampregister.org .

Although the article is not expected to be an academic paper it should be aimed at other professionals with references and images. Articles for the public version of the magazine can be submitted also but please make it clear which reader you are aiming for. Articles can be between 600-1500 words.

The first article was published at the end of September, when RAMP was lucky enough to talk to Barbara Houlding about Canine Specific Physiotherapy Practice. The next article will be published in December advising readers on RAMP.

Also, RAMP is invited to Edition Dog Live Event 2026, and we will be asking for registrants to volunteer to attend with a member of the RAMP Council nearer the time.

EDITION
DOG Live



BRITISH FARRIER AND BLACKSMITHS ASSOCIATION



RAMP was grateful to the British Farrier and Blacksmith Association (BFBA) committee for the invite to attend their annual conference Farriers Focus event on September this year. Collaboration with the Farriers is one of the most productive elements for MSK professionals in equine practice for the benefit of movement pattern rehabilitation. For best practice this relationship needs to develop to extend from individual practitioners to the professions as a whole.

Some Farriers were concerned that some MSK practitioners discussed foot balance with the owners rather than with the Farrier and therefore misunderstandings were created. It was discussed that MSK practitioners should be discussing joint aims with the Farriers, so each professional could contribute their specific skillset. There were useful conversations with farriers which revealed that communication needs to go both ways and hopefully we can continue to discuss this at future events.

RAMP was delighted that registrants Sarah Read and Hannah Crook joined us on the stand. Sarah said: *Over the course of two days, we had some valuable conversations with farriers about how we can better open and maintain lines of communication between farriers, MSK professionals and other members of the multidisciplinary team. Many conversations were sparked by a general frustration with the lack of regulation within the MSK industry and the knock-on effect on standards of care and communication.*

By discussing the work RAMP is doing in their tireless quest for regulation and autonomy and the stringent qualification, CPD and insurance requirements for RAMP members, we were able to allay some concerns and provide delegates with the necessary resources to enable them to make contact with and refer clients to RAMP registrants with confidence.

I felt RAMP was well received at the conference and came away with the overwhelming impression that MSK industry regulation would be a welcome progression from farriers' points of view.

RAMP hope that volunteer registrants will come forward to assist at these events when the opportunities arise in 2026.

OTHER NEWS



WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? ALLIED PROFESSIONAL OR PARAPROFESSIONAL

RAMP believe that regulated and degree level practitioners belonging to a profession should be given the title Professional Allied to Veterinary Medicine or Allied Professional. Traditionally in the veterinary healthcare sector our professions have been referred to as Para-professional (or even non-qualified people) which seem like people who work alongside professionals. It is so important that we all, gently and respectfully ask to be referred to as an Allied Professionals and always refer to yourself and colleagues with the same title.

COMPETITION MARKETING AUTHORITY

Early proposals derived from the investigation into Veterinary Services for Household Pets did not mention Allied Professionals other than Veterinary Nurses. It was disappointing not to be considered in the initial proposals despite the extensive contribution from our Council at each stage of the consultation. RAMP have made a response to this effect.

UNIVERSITY OF LANCASHIRE

Jo Paul and Lay Council member Dr Su McAnelly attended the opening of this brand-new School Veterinary of Veterinary Medicine. They were impressed with the incredible teaching resources and philosophy adopted in the University and wished they were students again!

RAMP BRANDED CLOTHING

RAMP branded clothing can be ordered from JS Teamwear 'trade' site, and the collection includes smart polo shirts, soft shell and padded gilets, coats and hats.

Registrants can purchase items by visiting RAMP's dedicated page on JS Teamwear's website and entering the password THORACICSLING at checkout.

<https://jsttrade.com/product-category/trade-clients/register-animal-musculoskeletal-practitioners/t>



RAMP

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

RAMP was invited to exhibit at both the IRVAP and NAVP Conferences in September. Both were a huge success and brought many practitioners from all sides of the industry together. Lucinda and Jo attended both events and had a busy time answering delegate questions.

At the NAVP Conference, Jo was invited to record a reel explaining the difference between RAMP and the Professional Associations and the importance of joining both. The reel was published on the NAVP social media and shared on the RAMP Facebook page.

At the IRVAP Conference, Jo Paul gave an update on RAMP and spoke about what RAMP wants to achieve in the coming years, asking for industry to support efforts by preparing for statutory regulation.

Later at the conference dinner Jo was extremely honored to receive an IRVAP Award of Excellence as Advocate for the Allied Professions. This is a huge accolade for Jo and RAMP, acknowledging collaboration with this respected Professional Association.



RAMP

ALICE FRAMPTON

RAMP is sorry to announce that Alice Frampton has stepped down from Council. Alice was an active member of Council who had a large part in the marketing team and last year took the role of equine event organiser. RAMP is very grateful for all the work she has done over the past few years and wish her all the best with her future.



RAMP STILL HAVE VACANCIES FOR 2026- 2028 COUNCIL MEMBERS.

RAMP is always looking for committed volunteers for RAMP Council. This year we are looking for Lay members and Chiropractic practitioners in particular.

COUNCIL NEWS