



# Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain

Helping pharmacists achieve excellence

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Dear

**Veterinary Pharmacy Group (VPG) offers its members free membership of the Animal Health Distributors Association (AHDA)**

The implementation of the Veterinary Medicines Regulations in 2005 created a radical shift in the way veterinary medicines are distributed and controlled in the UK. It has increased the status and competence of the agricultural merchant network with the introduction of suitably qualified persons (SQPs) as prescribers and suppliers. These changes have brought pharmacists and merchants closer together in a new legal environment and many pharmacists now employ SQPs.

For several months VPG and AHDA have been in discussion to explore how both organisations can work together for mutual benefit and to ensure a consistent and effective service to animal owners

One such result has been a combined lobby to VPC to re-consider their decision not to re-classify sheep enzootic abortion and Orf vaccines to POM-VPS. This alone has earned a promise to re-consider. Likewise, DeposeL selenium injection has also had a similar joint approach. It will be our intention to lobby for the further reclassification of ectoparasiticide products for cats and dogs to follow the recent very successful reclassification of Frontline for fleas.

Given the considerable common ground that now exists between VPG members and AHDA members VPG has, after careful consideration and negotiation with AHDA, decided to enable its membership to become AHDA members until April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The VPG now has a seat on AHDA Council and a member of AHDA Council will attend VPG Committee meetings to enable the organisations to get closer.

AHDA currently has 68% of the value of the POM-VPS and NFA-VPS markets. The combined lobbying strengths of both organizations will increase that value to 80% making a

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huge difference to the political lobbying strength and serving VPG and AHDA members interests better from a single focused approach.

The VPG has agreed with AHDA that all VPG members will have access to free membership of AHDA until April 30<sup>th</sup> 2010. After that time VPG members have the option to continue membership having had a chance to assess its benefits for them as individuals. As a full AHDA member, a number of additional business and personal benefit savings become freely available as well as savings on the annual AHDA conference (21/22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008, Coventry).

To complete this initiative, VPG members are requested to now complete the special AHDA membership form enclosed and post, fax or email to the AHDA Secretary General, Ian Scott as soon as possible to ensure maximum benefits from this unique alliance.

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Yours sincerely

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