

**RVC**

**ROYAL CHARTER**

**REVISED**

**NOVEMBER 2007**

**AT THE COURT AT BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

**The 23rd day of February, 1956.**

**PRESENT,**

**THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY**

**IN COUNCIL**

WHEREAS there was this day read at the Board a Report of a Committee of the Lords of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, dated the 22nd day of February, 1956, in the words following, viz.:-

"YOUR MAJESTY having been pleased, by Your Order of the 29th day of July, 1955, to refer unto this Committee the humble Petition of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, K.G., and others, praying for the grant of a new Charter of Incorporation to the Royal Veterinary College and Hospital in substitution for the existing Charters of the said College and Hospital:

"THE LORDS OF THE COMMITTEE, in obedience to Your Majesty's said Order of Reference, have taken the said Petition into consideration, and do this day agree humbly to report, as their opinion, to Your Majesty, that a new Charter may be granted by Your Majesty in terms of the Draft hereunto annexed".

HER MAJESTY having taken into consideration the said Report, and the Draft Charter accompanying it, was pleased, by and with the advice of Her Privy Council, to approve thereof, and to order, as it is hereby ordered, that the Right Honourable Gwilym Lloyd-George, one of Her Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State, do cause a Warrant to be prepared for Her Majesty's Royal Signature, for passing under the Great Seal a Charter in conformity with the said Draft, which is hereunto annexed.

*W.G. Agnew.*

# ELIZABETH THE SECOND

by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and of Our other Realms and Territories Queen, Head of the Commonwealth, Defender of the Faith.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME,  
GREETING!

WHEREAS by a Royal Charter of Her Majesty Queen Victoria dated the sixteenth day of April in the thirty-eighth year of Her Reign (hereinafter referred to as "the Original Charter") it was granted, ordained and declared by Her Majesty that Field-Marshal His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and others therein named together with such others who were then Subscribers to the College therein mentioned and who should at any time thereafter become Subscribers thereto according to the Bye-Laws therein mentioned should be and for ever thereafter continue to be one Body Politic and Corporate by the name of "The Royal Veterinary College" by which name they should have perpetual succession and a Common Seal with power to acquire and hold (notwithstanding the Statutes of Mortmain)-lands, tenements and hereditaments to the yearly value of £4,000 as therein mentioned, and the said Original Charter contained directions as to the government of the said Royal Veterinary College by a President, Vice-Presidents, Governors and the Treasurer, to be elected from the Subscribers as therein mentioned with power to enact Bye-laws as therein mentioned and by the said Original Charter Her Majesty reserved to Herself, Her Heirs and Successors power as therein mentioned to revoke and make void that Her Royal Charter or to add such modifications, conditions and provisions thereto as Her Majesty, Her Heirs or Successors should think fit:

AND WHEREAS Her Majesty Queen Victoria did on the first day of June in the fortieth year of Her Reign grant a Supplemental Charter varying and extending the Original Charter:

AND WHEREAS in exercise of powers conferred by the Original Charter and the said Supplemental Charter, Bye-laws and Regulations have been duly enacted including regulations relating to the government of the said College, regulations for the teaching of Students and the grant of Prizes, Certificates and Exhibitions to Students and in relation to other matters:

AND WHEREAS under and by virtue of a Charter of Incorporation in substitution for the aforesaid Charters granted on the sixteenth day of November in the first year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward the Eighth whereby the name of the said College was changed to the Royal Veterinary

College and Hospital and under and by virtue of a Supplemental Charter granted on the thirteenth day of January in the eleventh year of the Reign of His Majesty King George the Sixth the Royal Veterinary College and Hospital (hereinafter called "the College") is a Body Corporate and Politic with the powers and liabilities in the said Charter of Incorporation and the said Supplemental Charter set forth:

AND WHEREAS the said Charter provides that one of the objects of the College was to apply for admission as a School of the University of London (hereinafter called "the University"):

AND WHEREAS application for that purpose was made and granted by the University, so that as from the first day of October One thousand nine hundred and forty-nine the College was admitted as and became a School of the University:

AND WHEREAS a Petition has been presented to Us by

HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER, Chancellor of the University,

FIELD-MARSHAL HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS HENRY WILLIAM FREDERICK ALBERT DUKE OF GLOUCESTER, President of the College.

HAROLD ROPER ROBINSON, Esquire, Doctor of Science of the Victoria University of Manchester, Fellow of the Royal Society , and Vice-Chancellor of the University, and  
THE COLLEGE.

AND WHEREAS We are minded to comply with the Prayer of such Petition:

NOW THEREFORE KNOW YE that We by virtue of Our Royal Prerogative in that behalf and of Our special grace, certain knowledge, and mere motion have given, granted, willed and ordained and Do for Us, Our Heirs and Successors give, grant, will and ordain, notwithstanding anything contained in the previous Charters or any of them, as follows, that is to say:

1. The Body Corporate constituted, appointed and established by the Original Charter by the name "The Royal Veterinary College" shall henceforth be known by that name and not by the name "The Royal Veterinary College and Hospital" as provided by the hereinbefore recited Charter granted in the first year of the Reign of His Majesty King Edward the Eighth and by the name "The Royal Veterinary College" shall and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded in all Courts whether of Law or Equity either in Our United Kingdom of Great

Britain and Northern Ireland or in Our Colonies or Dependencies and shall have perpetual succession and a Common Seal which may be changed or varied by them or at their pleasure.

2. We do also hereby for Ourselves our Heirs and Successors license, authorise and for ever hereafter enable the said College or any person on its behalf to acquire not only all such lands, tenements and hereditaments as may be from time to time exclusively used and occupied for the immediate purposes of the said College but also any other lands, tenements and hereditaments whatsoever situate within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to hold all or any lands which the said College is hereby authorised to acquire in perpetuity or on lease or otherwise and from time to time, but subject to all such consents as are by law required, to grant, demise, alienate or otherwise dispose of the same or any part thereof.

3. And We do hereby also for Ourselves Our Heirs and Successors give and grant Our licence to any person or persons and any Body Politic or Corporate to assure in perpetuity or otherwise or to demise to or for the benefit of the said College any lands, tenements or hereditaments whatsoever within Our United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

4. In this Charter unless the context otherwise requires:

"The College" shall mean "The Royal Veterinary College".

"The Council" shall mean the Council of the College for the time being.

"The Statutes" shall mean the Statutes of the College for the time being in force under or by virtue of this Our Charter.

Words importing the singular number only shall include the plural number and *vice versa*, words importing the masculine gender only shall include the feminine gender and words importing persons shall include corporations.

5. The object of the College is to advance higher education in the art and science of veterinary medicine and surgery and related subjects.

In furtherance of the above object, the College shall have the following powers:

(A) To teach and train students in the principles and practice of veterinary medicine and surgery and the sciences which inform them and in broader scientific domains; in

particular to provide programmes of study or instruction to prepare students for the degrees of the University of London and joint degrees with other institutions.

- (B) To provide facilities for the study of the ways in which animals may be maintained in good health both generally and in relation to the health and well-being of the people at large.
- (C) To treat and care for injured and diseased animals.
- (D) To investigate and practise methods of preventing and curing diseases of animals and generally to provide facilities for and to encourage and to conduct research in veterinary and other related branches of knowledge and learning, and to organise, encourage and stimulate post-graduate study in those branches.
- (E) To solicit, receive and administer in the interests of the College all kinds of grants, gifts, subscriptions, donations, legacies and endowments whether absolute or conditional, to act as trustees for or in relation to any such gifts, legacies and endowments and to retain any such gifts, legacies and endowments in their original form of investment for so long as may be thought fit.
- (F) To require the payment of fees in respect of programmes of study or instruction.
- (G) Subject to the provisions of Article 2 of this Our Charter to purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property which may be necessary or convenient for any of the purposes of the College.
- (H) To erect, maintain, alter and improve any buildings upon any lands held by or belonging to the College, and to provide the same with all proper and necessary fixtures, fittings, apparatus, instruments, appliances and conveniences.
- (I) To provide or arrange for the provision of student accommodation and other places of residence and recreation for students and others whether on property of the College or elsewhere.
- (J) To borrow or raise money at interest upon banking account or otherwise and to secure or discharge any debt, liability or obligation, whether of the College or any other

person, upon such security as the College may think fit for the furtherance of the purposes of the College.

- (K) To enter into guarantees, contracts of indemnity and suretyship and to draw, make, accept, issue, execute, endorse, and discount any instruments and securities, whether negotiable or otherwise, as the College may think fit for the furtherance of the purposes of the College.
- (L) To act as trustees or managers of any property, endowment, legacy, bequest or gift for purposes of education or research.
- (M) To print and publish any newspapers, periodicals, books or leaflets, and produce and distribute films of a documentary or scientific character with a view to furthering the purposes of the College.
- (N) To exploit for the College's benefit any facility or resource of the College, including study, research or knowledge, or the practical application of study, research or knowledge, belonging to the College whether alone or jointly.
- (O) To subscribe to any charities, and to grant donations for any charitable purpose, and to provide or join in any superannuation fund or scheme for the benefit of the members of the staff of the College.
- (P) To employ staff in such positions as may be required and prescribe their conditions of service.
- (Q) To prescribe rules for the discipline of students and to provide procedures for the hearing of complaints by students.
- (R) To co-operate and collaborate with other institutions.
- (S) To incorporate into the College any other institution, or any branch or department of another institution, and take over its rights, property and liabilities, for any purpose not inconsistent with this Our Charter.

- (T) To carry on any activity whatsoever and in such manner that is not inconsistent with the charitable status of the College and that in the opinion of the Council is conducive to the furtherance of the purposes of the College.
  - (U) To do anything else necessary or convenient, whether incidental to these powers or not, in order to further the object of the College.
6. The Government of the College shall be vested in a Council (hereinafter called "the Council") which shall be the supreme governing body of the College.
  - 7 Subject to the provisions of this Our Charter and of the Statutes the Council shall have ultimate responsibility for the affairs of the College and, through delegation to the Principal, shall ensure the effective management and control of the College and the administration of all the property and income thereof; with power (except where otherwise specifically provided) to delegate all or any of their powers to committees or sub-committees from among their own number or otherwise appointed for the purpose.
  - 8 The College shall show no discrimination on account of political belief, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, race, ethnic origin, religion, or social background against any person in determining whether he or she is to be admitted as a member of staff or Council, or as a student, or to hold any advantage or privilege of the College.
  9. Academic staff shall have freedom within the law to question and test received wisdom, and to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions, without placing themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges.
  10. The Statutes set forth in the Schedule hereto shall be the Statutes of the College and may be added to, repealed or altered in manner hereinafter provided.
  11. The Council shall have full power, but subject always to the provisions of this Our Charter, to add to, repeal and alter the Statutes.
  12. No addition to, repeal of or alteration in the Statutes shall have any force or effect unless and until the same shall have been approved by at least two thirds of those present and voting at a Meeting of the Council convened by twenty-eight days written notice specifying clearly the substance of the proposed addition, repeal or alteration, nor until it shall have been approved



by the Lords of Our Most Honourable Privy Council of which approval a certificate under the hand of the Clerk of Our said Council shall be conclusive evidence Provided Also that no Statute shall have any force or effect if it be repugnant to the provisions of this Our Charter or to the laws of Our Realm, or to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University of London so long as the College shall remain a College of the said University.

13. Proper accounts shall be kept of the income and expenditure of the College, which accounts shall be audited in every year by Auditors who shall be appointed by the Council. Every such Auditor shall be a member of a recognised supervisory body (as defined in Part II of the Companies Act 1989) who is eligible for appointment under the rules of that body. The Auditors shall make a report to the Council, and such report together with the audited accounts shall be presented annually to the Council.
14. It shall be lawful for the Council with the sanction of two consecutive Special Meetings thereof called for the purpose to surrender this Our Charter subject to the sanction of Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council and upon such terms as We or They may consider fit and to wind up or otherwise deal with the affairs of the College in such manner as shall be directed by such Meetings or in default of such directions as the Council shall think expedient having due regard to the liabilities of the College for the time being.
15. The Council may by resolution in that behalf passed at any meeting by not less than two-thirds of the Members of the Council present and voting (being an absolute majority of all the Members of the Council) alter, amend or add to this Our Charter provided that so long as the College remains a College of the University of London no such alteration, amendment or addition shall be repugnant to the Statutes and Ordinances of the University of London and such alteration, amendment or addition shall when allowed by Us, Our Heirs or Successors in Council become effectual so that this Our Charter shall thenceforward continue and operate as though it had been originally made and granted accordingly. This provision shall apply to this Our Charter as altered, amended or added to in manner aforesaid.
16. Save as regards the constitution, appointment and establishment by the name of "The Royal Veterinary College" of the Body Corporate mentioned in Article 10 of the Original Charter dated the sixteenth day of April One thousand eight hundred and seventy-five, the provisions of the Original Charter together with the provisions of the Supplemental Charter dated the first day of June One thousand eight hundred and seventy-seven, the provisions of the Charter dated the sixteenth day of November One thousand nine hundred and thirty-six and the

provisions of the Supplemental Charter dated the thirteenth day of January One thousand nine hundred and forty-seven are hereby repealed as from the date of the first meeting of the Council to be held after the granting of this Our Charter.

Provided that:

- (1) Nothing in this repeal shall affect the validity or legality of any act, deed or thing done or executed or of any dealing in property or of any investment made under the provisions of any of the Charters or Supplemental Charters hereby repealed.
- (2) All contracts entered into prior to the date hereof with or by the College under the name of "The Royal Veterinary College and Hospital" shall be as valid and effectual and may be enforced by or against the College as fully and effectually as if the College by its present name of "The Royal Veterinary College" had been a party thereto in lieu of the College by its said former name.
- (3) Nothing in this repeal shall repeal or affect the validity of any Bye-laws, rules or regulations under the provisions of any of the Charters or Supplemental Charters hereby repealed but such Bye-laws, rules and regulations shall continue in force and shall apply to the College as if the same were validly made under the provisions of this Our Charter unless and until the same be altered, repealed or replaced by any other Bye-Laws, rules or regulations made under the provisions of this Our Charter.

17. Lastly We do by these Presents for Us, Our Heirs and Successors grant and declare that these Our Letters shall be in all things valid and effectual in law according to the true intent and meaning thereof and shall be taken, construed and adjudged in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the College as well in Our Courts of Record as elsewhere by all Judges Justices Officers Ministers and other subjects whatsoever of Us, Our Heirs and Successors any non-recital or other omission, defect or thing to the contrary notwithstanding.

IN WITNESS whereof We have caused these Our Letters to be made Patent.

WITNESS Ourselves at Westminster the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_  
in the \_\_\_\_\_ year of Our Reign.

BY WARRANT UNDER THE QUEEN'S SIGN MANUAL