

## Environmental Policy

### Background

The British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) exists to drive excellence in veterinary practice to improve the health and welfare of small animals. BSAVA is a not-for-profit professional body, founded in 1957 to serve veterinary surgeons treating companion animals, and now includes veterinary nurses. BSAVA has over 10,000 members, the majority work in practice as veterinary surgeons or veterinary nurses.

Through our work with veterinary professionals, we recognise the importance of a One Health approach to ensure the health of animals, people and the environment. We acknowledge that our operations have an effect on the environment in terms of the use of raw materials, emissions to air and water, and waste generation and seek to minimise the impact of our work on the environment.

### Implementation

The BSAVA management, staff and volunteers are already committed to environmental sustainability including redeveloping the headquarters at Woodrow House with a focus on energy efficiency and the use of sustainable and recycled materials and leading on sustainability and community initiatives at BSAVA Congresses among others.

BSAVA Congress 2023 was audited by Carbon Footprint to highlight areas where we can help the association and delegates reduce their environmental impact. BSAVA itself also underwent a full carbon audit by Carbon Footprint for 2022 and has achieved a 79% reduction in its carbon footprint since 2019.

We work with our investment managers to ensure that our reserves are placed in ethical funds and equities. We receive a quarterly stewardship report from the managers to monitor their activities in ESG (Environment, Social and Governance) areas.

The Sustainability Working Group (SWG) is made up of interested BSAVA volunteers and staff members, with an initial purpose of exploring the feasibility of BSAVA becoming carbon neutral as an organisation, both at Woodrow House and association-wide. The association is strengthened by protecting the safety, health and environment of our employees, volunteers, members and the people of the communities in which we operate.

Our environmental commitment can be demonstrated in our established objectives and goals below:

- Exploring the feasibility of BSAVA becoming carbon neutral as an organisation, both at Woodrow House and association-wide, including setting a date to become carbon neutral
- Working towards Investors in the Environment Green level accreditation.
- Carry out an annual carbon audit for Woodrow House and explore offsetting carbon emissions while working to reduce carbon footprint
- Compliance with all applicable standards, laws, requirements, regulations and member expectations

- Publishing and distribution of an annual organisational sustainability report
- Working with suppliers to ensure they acknowledge and decrease the environmental impact of their products and transportation
- Recycling or reusing materials where possible, and ensuring that materials are disposed of in an environmentally safe way at the end of their useful life
- Implementing water and energy conservation techniques
- Minimising unsustainable transport use
- Promoting and enabling sustainable working in small animal practice through information provision, training and collaboration with other veterinary associations.

We will continue to improve our environmental management system through annual reviews and updates, taking into account any changes within legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will convey this policy to all our employees and volunteers and make certain that they are provided with proper training to increase awareness of environmental matters.

## **Responsibility**

It is the responsibility of all employees, volunteers, visitors and contractors to fully support this policy through active participation and cooperation.

The Chair of the Sustainability Working Group and appointed Green Champion have a designated responsibility for the day-to-day implementation of this policy and can be contacted via [sustainability@bsava.com](mailto:sustainability@bsava.com).

BSAVA will make this policy available when requested to interested parties including members of the public, including making a copy available on BSAVA's website.



Signed:

Date: 22/11/2023

Position: Chief Executive Officer

Policy Owner: CEO

Policy approved by: BSAVA Board Date Policy approved: 22/11/2023 Next review Date: 22/11/2024