

# BVA sustainable travel policy

## Who we are

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 19,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the whole UK veterinary profession. We provide leadership on a wide range of issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues, employment matters and the wellbeing of the profession.

## Our commitment

At BVA, we are striving to reduce our impact on the environment and to demonstrate leadership within the veterinary profession and in representing the profession in wider society.

We acknowledge that any travel required by our operations has an impact on the environment in terms of the use of fuel or energy, and through the generation of emissions. We also recognise that travelling can have an impact on staff wellbeing and work-life balance. In our environmental policy, we commit to reducing unsustainable transport use. Our aim is to manage travel requirements in a fair, consistent, and efficient manner, reducing our carbon footprint and being mindful of the impact travelling has on our staff.

## Implementation

We are committed to working with our staff, members, suppliers, contractors, colleagues, and neighbours to reduce unsustainable travel as part of BVA's operations.

### Business essential travel

For meetings and events away from the office, we will work to reduce the amount of travel required and the environmental footprint of journeys by following our travel decision tree document, which includes:

- first considering whether our staff can attend meetings and events virtually
- considering the location and accessibility of venues we hire, e.g., for events or overnight stays, to reduce mileage and improve access via public transport
- considering the form of transport being booked and choosing more sustainable options where possible, e.g., by travelling economy rather than first class, or by train rather than a flight.
- providing advice and guidance to help staff make informed decisions and sustainable choices for their travel arrangements. This may include guidance on how to reach locations for events by public transport.
- acknowledging long journey times as working hours, and supporting staff to make sustainable choices (e.g., through our TOIL policy and guidance)

### Staff commuting

For staff travelling to our office, we will work to reduce the amount of travel required and the environmental footprint of those journeys by:

- supporting staff to work from home within the framework of BVA's hybrid and flexible working policies, including through use of virtual meetings
- supporting staff with sustainable travel options, such as through the cycle to work scheme and by providing secure bike storage and shower facilities

- providing advice and guidance to help staff make informed decisions and sustainable choices for their travel arrangements, and to raise awareness of why it is important to do so

### Visitor travel

For all visitors travelling to our office or external events, we will work to reduce the amount of travel required and the environmental footprint of those journeys by:

- considering whether meetings can be held virtually, and offering virtual attendance options for in-person meetings
- continuing to promote and improve use of our AV equipment, to support hybrid and virtual meetings
- providing clear information for visitors, including on our website, showing how to reach our office and our event venues by sustainable means, e.g., by public transport

### Travel champion


- Our Travel Champion (Darren Fahy) will communicate the travel policy and any related initiatives to staff, answer staff questions around travel and travel initiatives, and gather staff feedback to continually improve the policy and initiatives.
- The travel champion will circulate an annual travel survey to staff to understand how they travel and how they can best be supported to reduce the associated carbon footprint.
- Staff can contact [greengroup@bva.co.uk](mailto:greengroup@bva.co.uk) with any questions for the travel champion.

### Responsibility

We will continue to improve our travel policy through annual reviews and updates, taking into account any changes within legislation, our organisation, and other factors. We will share this policy with all our employees and make sure they are provided with regular updates in order to increase awareness of environmental matters.

It is the responsibility of all employees and visitors to fully support this policy through active participation and cooperation. Any barriers or issues implementing the policy should be reported to the green group for discussion.

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

Signed:  Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2024

**BVA Chief Executive**