

Making Connections: the link between violence to people and violence to animals – Tuesday 10 May 2022

Paula Boyden

BVetMed MRCVS

Paula Boyden graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, University of London in 1992. She spent 11 years in general practice, initially mixed and latterly companion animal practice, before moving into a technical role in industry in 2003.

Paula joined Dogs Trust in 2010, where she is now Veterinary Director. In addition to veterinary matters, her responsibilities include Dogs Trust's outreach and public affairs work. Paula has a particular interest in the link between violence to animals and violence to people; having been involved in the subject since 2005, she is current Chair of the Links Group, is regularly involved in undergraduate training on Non-Accidental Injury (NAI) within the UK veterinary schools and has spoken widely on the subject.

Paula is a founder member and past treasurer of the Association of Charity Vets. She chairs the Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG), is vice chair of the Canine and Feline Sector group, sits on the RSPCA's Prosecutions Oversight Panel and is a member of the Scottish Animal Welfare Commission. She has sat on working groups for the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and the British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) and is a past member of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group. In 2017 Paula received BSAVA's J A Wight Memorial Award for her contribution to the welfare of companion animals.

Kate Richards

BVM&S DipM MA MRCVS

Kate graduated from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies in Edinburgh and has worked as a farm animal vet in clinical practice, the pharmaceutical industry and government. She joined the Department of Environment Food and Rural Affairs as a livestock veterinary advisor in 2003 after working as a Temporary Veterinary Inspector during the Foot and Mouth epidemic in 2001. Kate spent a decade in the UK civil service, promoted to non-veterinary roles in Cabinet Office, HMRC and was Principal Private Secretary to three consecutive Secretaries of State for Scotland.

Kate is a former trustee of the Animal Welfare Foundation. As a Council member of the British Cattle Veterinary Association, Kate invited the then Chair of the Links Group to speak to the annual Congress about the link between abuse to people and animals. That was 15 years ago.

Kate is a Non-Executive Director on the Moredun Foundation and the Scottish Agricultural College Commercial Boards and is the President of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, the UK regulator for vets and vet nurses. Kate's passion is communicating the breadth and depth of expertise within the veterinary profession, the influence and impact vets have on human health and wider society, as well as animal health and welfare. The theme for Kate's Presidential year is 'Connections that Count' and she is using her term of office to reach out and amplify the voice of the veterinary profession.