

Corporate buys four practices and sets up buying group

CVS has announced the acquisition of four practices, bringing the total number of practices it owns to 92, operating from 253 sites.

The latest practices purchased are: Crescent Veterinary Clinic of Melton

Mowbray, Leics., a single-site mixed practice which has been established for more than 100 years; Miller & Swann Veterinary Surgery in Elgin, Scotland, a single-site small animal practice; West Mount Vets of Halifax, West Yorks., a five-site small animal practice; and Anchorage Veterinary Hospital of Acle, Norfolk, a single-site tier three hospital.

■ CVS has launched a buying group which, it says, will enable independently-owned practices to benefit from the knowledge, experience and strength of the 250 practices which form CVS.

Called MiVetClub, it offers a range of services, including: discounts on a wide range of veterinary products and services, business support and management expertise, and access to CPD and other training resources.

Free app for clients to 'manage' pets

WILLOWS Veterinary Group in Northwich, Cheshire, has launched an app for iPhone and iPad for its clients "to help them manage their pets".

The practice believes it is the first in the country to launch an app and

reports that it enables clients to (a) keep a record of their pets' details, such as microchip numbers, etc.; (b) upload appointments with vet, groomer, etc., and list events like dog shows; (c) upload reminders for worm and flea treatments, etc.; (d) keep a track of the animal's weight on a graph; (e) upload contact details for all their pet contacts, with hot keys for contacting; and (f) play a tile game using their pet's photograph.

Called InfoPet, it is available from the iPhone app store.

"It is a free App that is available to all pet owners, not just our clients, and is an aid to responsible pet ownership," says David Crane, marketing manager at the practice.

Codes of conduct on RCVS app

THE RCVS has launched a free app for its codes of professional conduct for veterinary surgeons and nurses, which can be downloaded for both Apple and Android devices.

Once installed, the app provides smartphone and tablet users with a mobile-friendly version of the codes and all 27 chapters of supporting guidance.

The app offers a keyword search of the codes and supporting guidance, links to other sources of

Nominations open for awards

NOMINATIONS are now being accepted for the 2014 PetPlan Veterinary Awards.

Now in their 15th year, the categories are: Vet of the Year, Vet Nurse of the Year, Vet Practice of the Year, Vet Support Staff of the Year, Practice Manager of the Year and Petplan Insurance Adviser of the Year.

The 2013 awards received a total of 11,000 nominations from clients and veterinary staff.

To nominate a friend or colleague, visit www.petplanvet.co.uk.

Nominations close on 31st January and the winners will be announced at the award ceremony in Birmingham Town Hall on 3rd April.

999th practice

VETSAVERS, which opened in Grantham, Lincs., at the end of July, has become the 999th practice to sign up for Vets Now's out-of-hours emergency and critical care service.

Board member

ROMAIN Pizzi has been appointed to the clinical advisory board of Surgical Innovations Group (SIG) which designs and manufactures

Christmas is coming



THE BSAVA charity, PetSavers, has launched its Christmas cards for this year. Packs of 10 are priced at £3.99 and from that at least £1 goes into the PetSavers fund. They can be bought online at www.bsava.com or call 01452 726700. Practices can also be sent order forms. For details, e-mail info@petsavers.org.uk.