

Animal Health announces a new organisational structure

Animal Health is to align its operational structure with key partner organisations, developing closer and more collaborative relationships to deliver shared objectives in animal health and welfare. The new structure will be introduced from 1 April 2009.

The changes will provide a single integrated organisation where the entire organisation's expertise can be effectively brought to bear for the benefit of customers, as well as improved consistency in delivery and enhanced quality assurance.



As part of the changes, Animal Health is to appoint three new director posts, dedicated to each of its largest customers, who will oversee field-based operations in England, Scotland and Wales. These three posts will each be supported by a Veterinary Business Partner.

In England only, the operational structure will be changed to align to the Government Office Regions. Currently Animal Health operates from 15 divisional offices in England, five in Scotland, and three in Wales, each headed by a Divisional Veterinary Manager.

In England the 15 divisions will be replaced by eight regions, each aligned with the Government Offices regional structure. Each Region will be led by a Regional Operations Director working closely with a Regional Veterinary Lead and a regional management team. The post of Divisional Veterinary Manager will disappear in England.

The current structure in Scotland and Wales will remain unchanged.

Whilst the local Divisional Veterinary Manager post will disappear in England, Veterinary Team Leaders will manage local veterinary staff, under the direction of the strengthened, regionally-based management team, which will include veterinary managers.

All Animal Health Divisional Offices and out-stations will remain open. In England **Regional Offices** will be established at the following existing locations:

- North East – Newcastle
- Yorkshire and Humberside – Leeds
- North West – Preston
- East Midlands – Leicester
- West Midlands – Stafford
- East of England – Bury St Edmonds
- South East – Reigate
- South West – Exeter

All other Animal Health Offices will remain operational and will be supported by the Regional Offices. They will be called Animal Health Offices. In Scotland and Wales, offices will continue to be called Animal Health Divisional Offices, and will be headed by a Divisional Veterinary Manager (DVM).

Changing demands and new customer expectations mean Animal Health has to constantly evolve. The environment it works in has changed, with devolution of policy making to Scotland and Wales. There is greater regionalisation in England and greater emphasis on efficiency.

The new structure is designed to improve Animal Health's engagement with the Scottish, Welsh and English agendas and customers, as well as providing excellence in professional leadership and general management. It will also provide improved delivery capability and enhanced ability to respond to disease outbreaks.