

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) between the

Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Equine Fatalities Community Interest Company (CEPEF CIC)

and the

Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists (AVA)

This is an agreement between “Party A”, hereinafter called the Confidential Enquiry into Perioperative Equine Fatalities Community Interest Company (CEPEF CIC) (Community Interest Company 15398252 registered on the 9th of January 2024) and “Party B”, hereinafter called the Association of Veterinary Anaesthetists (AVA), a charitable incorporated organisation (CIO).

I. PURPOSE & SCOPE

The purpose of this MOU is to clearly identify the roles and responsibilities of each party as they relate with the aim to improve animal welfare, keeping excellence and high standards when providing safe anaesthesia and analgesia in veterinary patients. Both parties share the final aim of reducing morbidity and mortality in different species.

In particular and based on the common general aims of both parties, this MOU is intended to establish a close relationship between the AVA and CEPEF CIC while maintaining the full independence of both entities.

II. BACKGROUND

The AVA funded the initial project CEPEF4 with three grants with a total of 31,960 GBP within the period of July 2020 and October 2023. This allowed the CEPEF CIC to initiate the CEPEF4 project in November 2020 from which the main results and several other different research studies have been published, and more are to come.

During this process, the support given by the AVA was crucial, not only to get the CEPEF4 project started, but also to implement information technology (IT) improvements which allowed data collection to move from a portable document format (PDF) to a data collection website which included an error management system. This website and the IT improvements also enabled improved data management and analysis.

III. CEPEF CIC RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

With this MOU, the CEPEF CIC:

- 1) Aims to continue with its line of research on morbidity and mortality in different veterinary species on a not-for-profit basis with the main objective of providing benefits to the veterinary community by carrying out epidemiological research into a number of conditions in domestic animals whose predisposing causes have yet to be identified.
- 2) Will prioritise AVA funding over other funding bodies, but will seek funding from other funding organisations

- 3) Will consider the journal of the VAA, Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia (VAA), as one of the first options for publication.
- 4) The CEPEF CIC commits to update the AVA membership with interim reports verbally twice a year at AVA Spring (April/May) and Autumn (September/October) meetings in the “AVA updates” session and in writing on a quarterly basis. Further information may be requested from the CEPEF CIC for the AGM if required.
- 5) The AVA will be acknowledged as a funding body when the results are presented in local/international meetings and when published in scientific journals.

IV. AVA RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THIS MOU

With this MOU, the AVA:

- 1) Understands that the CEPEF CIC holds solely the Intellectual Property (IP) of their studies.
- 2) Will support the CEPEF CIC whenever possible, when applying for different funding. However, to avoid any conflict of interest, any application of the CEPEF CIC to the AVA Foundation will follow the official route.
- 3) As the CEPEF CIC will consider the journal Veterinary Anaesthesia and Analgesia as one of the first options, and the AVA will support the APC fee as per the information below but will have no influence on Editorial or reviewer decisions. The decisions of the Editor in Chief are final.
- 4) Will promote the results of the research performed by the CEPEF CIC.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

Any modification or termination of this MOU should be agreed between the two parties, the CEPEF CIC and the AVA.

VI. DURATION

This agreement will remain in force for an initial period from June 2026 to January 2029 and will renew automatically each year unless one of the parties shall give notice of their intention to cancel via email to the email address of the key contacts of each party. Any cancellation will need to be provided to the other party at least 90 days before the date of annual anniversary of this agreement.

VII. FUNDING

- The funding will consist of a total sum of £20 000 to be distributed between June 2026 and January 1st, 2029 (30 months).
- Monies will be claimed in arrears by submission of a standard expenses form (as recommended by current Charity Commission guidance).
 - Receipts will be requested for individual expenses in excess of £50.
- All reasonable expenses will be refunded.

- Expenses will be refunded up to 4 times in any 12-month period with the total funding to be distributed equally over the funding period.

VIII. EFFECTIVE DATE AND SIGNATURE

This MOU shall be effective upon the signature of Parties A and B authorized officials. It shall be in force between June 2026 to January 2029.

Parties A and B indicate agreement with this MOU by their signatures.

**CEPEF CIC members are Miguel Gozalo-Marcilla, Polly M. Taylor, G. Mark Johnston, Regula Bettschart-Wolfensberger and José I. Redondo.*

Signatures and dates

Dr. Miguel Gozalo-Marcilla

Louise Clark

Principal Investigator of CEPEF CIC.

President of AVA (CIO)

Signing on behalf of the CEPEF CIC.

On behalf of the AVA Board of Trustees



Date 19th May 2026

16th May 2026