

Photography and Filming Policy

We are broadly in favour of students using cameras and mobile devices equipment to record their work in anatomy practical classes; the act of taking these images/ videos as well as incorporating them within study and revision notes can be a powerful learning tool. However, we operate a strict policy controlling the use and distribution of images and videos taken in practical classes (and beyond), in particular those involving cadaver tissue and live animals. **Please read the policy carefully – you will be asked to sign to demonstrate your understanding, and to indicate your agreement to adhere with the policy.**

Consequences of any breach of our policy are serious and may result in individual students or whole cohorts of students losing the privilege to use technology in practical classes. Breach of a policy to which you have signed is an issue of professional misconduct and may be considered as such by the RVC and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS).

The Policy

- Any image or video taken of cadaver tissue or RVC owned live animals must be for use solely by the person taking the image, and for educational purposes only.
- Under **no circumstances** should images or videos of cadaver tissue or RVC owned live animals be shared outside of the RVC community. This includes the sharing via email, and text message with friends and family.
- Under **no circumstances** should images and videos of cadaver tissue or RVC owned live animals be uploaded to any social media site. **This includes accounts that have been set to 'private'**.
- The definition "Social media" includes and is not restricted to:
 - Facebook
 - Instagram
 - Twitter
 - What's app
 - YouTube
 - Snapchat
 - Blogs/ personal websites
- "Cadaver tissue" in the context of this policy includes any whole, or part of a deceased animal in fresh or preserved form, dissected or undissected, that might cause offence to or be considered graphic content by the general public, or social media moderators.
- Under **no circumstances** should students record demonstrators and lecturers in dissection classes or ISF tutorials without their **explicit permission**. Permission must be verbally sought **on each occasion** where you wish to video teaching staff demonstrating material. Teaching staff are under no obligation to consent to being filmed.
- Under **no circumstances** should students publish images of RVC owned teaching material (e.g. lecture slides, laminates, practical handouts or dissection guides) on social media. These are copyright of RVC and distribution in this way constitutes copyright infringement.
- Students using cameras, phones and technology in practical classes do so at their own risk. The RVC takes no responsibility for any dirtying/ contamination/ loss/ damage of equipment brought into classes.

The Explanation

We realise that students enjoy sharing their learning with their wider peers and social circles. However, there are many professional and ethical issues arising from the sharing of cadaver and live animal images. Some specimens may have been donated by generous public donors: being confronted by an online images of one's deceased and dissected pet would not be acceptable. Some sectors of society (including some vet students) do not fully understand or agree with using animals for dissection, even for teaching veterinary professionals. Sharing sensitive images may attract you or the college unwanted attention from such individuals or the groups to which they affiliate themselves with. This risk exists even when social media accounts are set to private: you never truly know the motivations of your followers, and anyone can screenshot and widely distribute your content in seconds. Similarly, sharing images that are tagged to, or otherwise associated with the RVC, may give the viewer the impression of the RVC's consent to opinions and views expressed, including the context of the photos being shown. This of course, can be extremely damaging for the college's reputation.

Beyond the first two years of study, you will be tempted to take and share images of real patients (or diagnostic images of) – encountered on placements, or within the RVC hospitals. There are ethical issues associated here too, in particular surrounding client confidentiality and breaches of the data protection act. The RCVS takes issues such as these extremely seriously and you could find yourself under investigation for professional misconduct.

IF IN DOUBT, DON'T SHARE IT!

Find out more about RCVS professionalism guidelines for students, and their view on social media use here: <https://www.rcvs.org.uk/news-and-views/publications/fitness-to-practise-a-guide-for-uk-veterinary-schools-and/>