

THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES: WHAT'S IN A NAME?

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INTRODUCTION

The veterinary school that was established in Edinburgh in 1823, almost two hundred years ago, has had an interesting and rich history.^{1,2,3} Recent studies have revealed details of some of the personalities who created its academic foundations, and these investigations have also shown that the early beginnings can be traced back to the 1600s.⁴ Other studies have given substance to the architectural structures that this school, and its neighbouring veterinary schools, took from inception.^{5,6,7} The lives and contributions of several of the main characters that played important roles in the development of this school have been sketched out^{8,9,10,11} and these recent studies have added to the information that was published earlier.¹² Nevertheless, in this process of exploration, various other gaps in our appreciation of the veterinary school have begun to make themselves more obvious. For example, what the veterinary school was called by people locally, nationally and internationally really mattered to the ones who worked and studied there. This example naturally raised a further series of specific questions; how was the veterinary school referred to in the past; what events caused it to change its name; how did the school come to have the name it now bears?

The assemblage of information that comprises this article seeks to explore the answers to these questions. It shall also try to show that notions of 'presence', 'style' and 'quality' reflected, characterised and still contribute greatly to the perception of Edinburgh's veterinary school, both locally and more widely. The personal ambition and confident appreciation of self worth inherent within the school's founder, William Dick, coupled together with consistently correct guidance from a well-connected early mentor, Dr John Barclay, the presence of an appropriately organised agricultural environment, The Highland Society,^{13,14,15} and the educational legacy of the Scottish enlightenment, each contributed to the creation of a veterinary school with character, in Edinburgh.^{4,16}

In order to give some structure to this information, the various names of the veterinary school are presented sequentially as they appeared in documentary sources of various kinds, with the year of first appearance indicated in brackets. Where evidence is found of the last year that a particular name was relevant, it too is indicated. It will rapidly become clear that there has been considerable overlap in nomenclature. Some of this was perhaps deliberate. Some of it was clearly due to the vagaries of common usage.

THE HIGHLAND SOCIETY'S VETERINARY SCHOOL IN EDINBURGH (1823 -)

It was at the well-attended General Meeting of the Highland Society of Scotland, held on Monday 7th July 1823 in the Hall of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, that approval was given to financially support 'a course of lectures in this city on the veterinary art, embracing the knowledge of the causes, prevention, and cure of the diseases of horses, black cattle, and sheep'.¹⁷ Advertisements published in the local press that autumn made it clear that the 'Course shall be illustrated by proper Anatomical demonstrations, and that the Lecturer shall be provided with a Forge, and other Appendages, proper for the practical instruction of Country Farriers. The commencement of the Course and hour of Lecture will be accommodated to the convenience of Students attending the Agriculture Class in the University'.¹⁸ William Dick was appointed, and it was clear from a report of his introductory lecture, that he considered the knowledge contained in his course to be desirable to all practical agriculturalists, and indispensable to farriers.¹⁹ Subsequent advertisements revealed that the fee to attend the course was a modest two guineas.²⁰ It was also transparently obvious from these and subsequent advertisements and reports that the lectures were under the Patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland, and that a committee of that organisation had been charged with their Superintendence.²¹ Because of this arrangement the new institution initially came to be known locally as the 'Highland Society's Veterinary School in Edinburgh'.²² As will be seen below, it would not be the only name ascribed to this institution by the population of Edinburgh, and those beyond.

SCHOOL OF VETERINARY SURGERY (1825 -)

The first official name to be applied to the early form of the institution was the 'School of Veterinary Surgery'. It is initially to be found mentioned in a circular drafted by the Highland Society and sent to agricultural societies, noblemen, landowners and farmers throughout Scotland.²³ Indeed, there is a published report of this circular having been read at the inaugural meeting of the Kelvin Club. This farmers' club had been formed in Kilsyth 'for the purpose of

improving the breeding of cattle, and for the encouragement of agriculture in general'.²⁴ Its members represented 15 parishes of Stirling, Dumbarton and Lanark. As a consequence of this call for suitable students, young farriers and other 'likely lads' were dispatched to Edinburgh from different parts of Scotland.¹⁶

EDINBURGH VETERINARY SCHOOL (1828 -)

The success of the expanding course of lectures and the need to maintain a continuous supply of students led to the publication, in 1828, of the first advertisement for the 'Edinburgh Veterinary School' (Fig. 1).²⁵ It stated that Mr. Dick would be giving a course of lectures on 'the anatomy and diseases of domestic animals'. Comparable advertisements appeared regularly in the Scotsman newspaper for the following ten years.²⁶ Attendance cards were issued to those students who had enrolled and paid their two guinea fees. One, in the name of Charles Reid, is dated 14 November 1828 and signed Wm. Dick. It entitled the bearer to attend 'lectures on the veterinary art by W. Dick, Veterinary Surgeon' at the 'Edinburgh Veterinary School, under the patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland'.²⁷ Curiously, in the same year, the manuscript text of the Certificate, soon to be issued by the Highland Society to those veterinary students who had passed the Highland Society examination, was headed simply 'Veterinary School'.²⁸ In its final form, however, the certificate heading was 'Edinburgh Veterinary School' and had the appearance shown in Fig. 2.^{29,30}

It was also reported in a letter to the editor of the Caledonian Mercury newspaper that an additional course of 20 lectures, two per week, had been discretely given in the autumn of 1828 to 'a class of persons in the higher stations'.³¹ This comprised 'a condensed, but very able and instructive, account of the structure, functions and diseases of the horse.' The correspondent suggested that the course should be given again, and that advertisements would make it more widely known to an interested audience.

In the autumn of 1829 William Dick moved the teaching of his students from the rented accommodation in the Calton Convening Rooms to private accommodation in Clyde Street. This was probably to the old building at number 8 on the north side of Clyde Street, which was adjacent to and part of the courtyard where his practical classes and the forge were located.^{7,16} On this site, in 1833, the first purpose-built Veterinary School in Scotland would be constructed. By that time students, largely farriers, were already being recruited from England and North America, as well as from all over Scotland.³² By 1839 it can be estimated that about 160 young men had been issued with the Highland

EDINBURGH VETERINARY SCHOOL.

Under the Patronage of the
HIGHLAND SOCIETY of SCOTLAND.

MR DICK will commence his **COURSE** of **LECTURES** on the **ANATOMY** and **DISEASES** of **DOMESTIC ANIMALS**, on *Friday the 14th inst.* The **Introductory Lecture** will be given at **3 o'clock P. M.**, instead of **7 P. M.** as formerly advertised, when **Mr DICK** will be glad to see any of the friends of **Veterinary Science** present.

Ticket for the Course, Two Guineas.
Clyde Street, 11th Nov. 1828.

Fig. 1. The First Advertisement for the 'Edinburgh Veterinary School', from *The Scotsman*, Wednesday, 12 November, 1828, p. 4, c. 1



Fig. 2. The Heading of the Certificate awarded to Charles Reid in 1828

Society certificates and were practicing veterinary medicine throughout the British Isles and beyond, in Canada, Australia, Mexico, Cuba and Africa. Taken together these developments appear to have contributed to a change in the local perception of the status of the Edinburgh Veterinary School.

THE EDINBURGH VETERINARY COLLEGE (1830 -)

The name 'College' can first be seen in 1830 in a press article reporting on the use in Wales of a new veterinary surgical procedure which had uniquely been tried and tested successfully by William Dick in Edinburgh.³³ Advertisements for the London Veterinary College were often to be seen on the same newspaper pages as those for the Edinburgh Veterinary School. The difference in nomenclature was clear, and yet William Dick, his students, and other practicing veterinarians knew that he was offering in Scotland a broader and agriculturally more relevant course of veterinary instruction.³⁴ He was keen to attract more students from south of the border, to attend his lectures and to learn in the new veterinary facilities in Edinburgh. One expression of this 'marketing' was his wording of an advertisement placed in 1836 in a London newspaper – 'Edinburgh Veterinary College – Under the Patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland' (Fig. 3).³⁵



Fig. 3. The First Appearance of 'Edinburgh Veterinary College - Under the Patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland', from *The Standard*, Saturday, 12 November, 1836, p. 1, c.2

The following year an advertisement was published in another English newspaper reporting that Thomas Phillipson had studied at the Veterinary College, Edinburgh.³⁶ Within the veterinary school itself it is clear that there had been a change in the daily usage of the name. Reports of the examination results in 1839 and 1840 were published as coming from the Edinburgh Veterinary College.³⁷ A certificate was awarded to Mr. John Wright Charles

V.S. as a Member of the Edinburgh Veterinary Medical Society for the 5th Session 1839-40; it was signed by William Dick as President, and headed 'Edinburgh Veterinary College'.⁷

We can only imagine the discussion that appears to have taken place among the students of the 1830s concerning the relative status of their veterinary school, the drift that its name was taking towards Edinburgh Veterinary 'College', and the beneficial impact that this change might have on their future opportunities for employment. Two events seem to have brought this discussion to a head. The first of these, the formation in Edinburgh of the Queen's College (see below), was a direct consequence of higher education in Edinburgh not being concentrated solely within the University; teaching was being offered in a wide range of technical and other subjects by a formal collection of independent teachers and those associated with professional Colleges such as the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.³⁸ The second, in 1839, was an end-of-session gift, from the students to William Dick, of a fine piece of silver made by Mr. Millidge, Princes Street, Edinburgh, inscribed 'founder of the Edinburgh Veterinary College'.³⁹ Shortly afterwards, in March 1840, a petition, requesting that the title 'Edinburgh Veterinary College' be officially conferred on the Clyde Street School and the title 'Professor' conferred on William Dick, was signed by 45 students and sent with a covering letter to the (now named) Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland. On the 24th April 1840 the Directors of the Highland and Agricultural Society discussed these proposals and gave approval to both requests.⁴⁰

Thereafter, the name Edinburgh Veterinary College regularly appeared in the press.⁴¹ For example, in 1844 an advertisement from Thomas Skea reported that his veterinary establishment would be under the supervision of his brother [Joseph Skea qualified 1843] a licentiate of the Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁴² In the autumn of the same year it was under the banner 'Edinburgh Veterinary College' that the start of the new session was advertised.⁴³ The College was also recorded in the Post Office Annual Directory and Calendar from 1844 (and subsequently) under the entry for William Dick: Dick, Wm. Veter. Surgeon to the Queen, and professor of veterinary medicine, Veterinary College, Clyde Street.⁴⁴

In the University of Edinburgh's Centre for Research Collections there is a card in the name of John J. Dalton, dated 1857, giving the right of the bearer to attend 'Lectures on the Veterinary Art' by W. Dick, Veterinary Surgeon at the 'Edinburgh Veterinary College under the patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland'²⁷ as well as a letter dated 24 April 1858 to the Highland Society

which is written on headed note paper printed 'Veterinary College, Edinburgh'.⁴⁵ Even as late as 1874 this name was being used.⁴⁶

THE ROYAL EDINBURGH VETERINARY COLLEGE (1840 -)

On the 20 June 1837 Victoria succeeded her uncle William IV to the throne. It was reported that in 1837 Lord Abermarle, Master of the Horse, assisted in the receipt by William Dick of royal recognition as Veterinary Surgeon to the Queen in Scotland.⁴⁷ Although the relevant documents have not yet come to light, evidence of the existence of his warrant was indicated in the newspaper report of a court case during which William Dick stated that he held 'a diploma from the Royal Household' which he would show to the judge.⁴⁸ The Post Office Annual Directory and Calendar for 1838-9 listed: 'Dick, Wm. Veterinary surgeon to the Queen, and lecturer on veterinary medicine, 8 Clyde Street'.⁴⁹

William Dick was a well respected figure in Edinburgh,⁷ and was very proud of this improvement to his status. One measure of that pride was the erection, high on the north wall of the Clyde Street Courtyard, of the Royal Coat of Arms in its Scottish form (Fig. 4). This shows the crowned and chained unicorn on the left and the crowned lion on the right.⁵⁰ It was relatively well known that the Arms of an unmarried female, or a widow, were borne on a lozenge (diamond shape). Therefore there are various references to the use of the lozenge in Queen Victoria's Royal Coat of Arms during the period after the 1837 succession and before her marriage to Albert on the 10 February, 1840. Perhaps its most publicly visible use was on the title page of the Post Office Directories for Edinburgh and Glasgow from 1838 to 1840.⁵¹ Commercial advertisements within the Glasgow Directory for 1839-40 also depict the Royal Arms in the form of a lozenge.⁵² After her wedding to Albert the lozenge was replaced by an approximately oval shape on the title page of the Glasgow directory for 1841 and thereafter.⁵³ It is noteworthy, therefore, that the Royal Arms placed on the wall in Clyde Street are also carried on a lozenge and not on a shield (Fig. 4). Could this design have been used as a visual reference to the time when William Dick had been given his new status as Veterinary surgeon to the Queen, prior to Victoria's marriage to Albert in 1840? This is not yet made clear by documentary evidence. However, presented below are other pieces of evidence to support the suggestion that this may indeed have been the case.

In 1838, following representations made by Lord Sutherland, the graduates of the Edinburgh Veterinary School became eligible for commissions both in the Queen's Army and in the army of the East India Company.⁵⁴ There had also been discussion in 1838 and 1839 among Edinburgh's 'extra-academical lecturers' (those who gave lectures outside Edinburgh University), largely

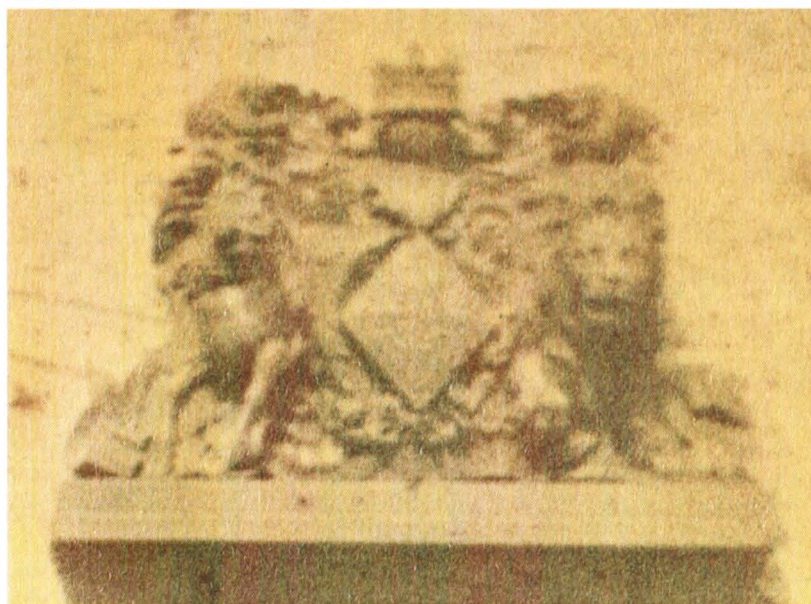


Fig. 4. The appearance and location of the Royal Coat of Arms on the north wall of the Veterinary College courtyard in Clyde Street

comprising Fellows of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons in the city, but including William Dick, which resulted in the establishment in 1839 of 'The Queen's College of Edinburgh'.⁵⁵ The Edinburgh Veterinary College participated in this venture from the outset. Lectures in Veterinary Surgery were offered by William Dick in the 1839-40 session, starting at 7pm on Wednesday 6th November, 1839, and were subsequently offered in the 1840-41 and in 1841-42 sessions also.^{56,57} In addition to those in the medical profession, others participating in the venture included teachers of Botany, Mathematics and a number of ancient and modern languages.⁵⁷

Taken together, these circumstantial pieces of evidence suggest that the sculpted Royal Arms may have been carved and erected in Clyde St during this period of the reign of Victoria, between 1837 and 1840. If so, then it is not very surprising that on Saturday, 2 May, 1840, we find the words 'Royal' and 'College' applied to the former Edinburgh Veterinary School for the first time (Fig. 5).⁵⁸



Fig. 5. The First Appearance of 'Royal' in the Name of the College - *The York Herald, and General Advertiser*, Saturday, 2 May, 1840, p. 4, c.6; see note 58.

How the students and staff of the Edinburgh Veterinary College responded to the changes taking place during the years 1837-1842 is not clear from the documentary evidence examined so far. That it was being discussed among them can be surmised from documentary information subsequent to that period.

ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE, EDINBURGH (1843 -)

Inclusion of the word 'Royal' in the naming of the Edinburgh Veterinary College can also be found in an article published in 1843, first in the *Farmer's Magazine* and then reprinted in the *Veterinarian*.⁵⁹ Mr. W. Haycock was listed

as 'V.S. (Member of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh) Huddersfield'. It was not until the following year, on the 8 March 1844, that the profession's governing body, The Royal College of Veterinary Surgery, was created.⁶⁰

During the early 1840s the general readership of the press was introduced to the concept of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh. For example, reports of the Edinburgh examination results for the 1844-1845 session were headed 'Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh',⁶¹ as were the reports of the exam results for session 1845-1846.⁶² Students of the College as well as those who had completed their studies contributed to the spread of the name. In 1844 the 'Medica Societas Collegii Regii Veterinarii Civitatis Edinensis' (Medical Society of the Royal Veterinary College of Edinburgh) was instituted and certificates were awarded from April 1844 onwards (Fig. 6).⁶³ Early in 1846 an advertisement in the Dundee Courier intimated that Mr. John Tait was a Member of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁶⁴ Similar advertisements appeared in England to indicate that Edward McNaughton was a Member of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh,⁶⁵ and that Henry Samuel Rowe had attended the course at the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁶⁶ James Farrall similarly advertised in the Dublin press that he was a Member of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁶⁷ Mr. J.W. Glass advertised that he was a Graduate of the Royal Veterinary College of Edinburgh,⁶⁸ and Mr. W. Williams advertised that he had been awarded the prize for 'the best essay on the Chemistry of Oils, etc', at the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁶⁹ Other examples of this way in which the name became widely known are the following advertisements: Mr. W. Williams reported that he was a Member of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh⁷⁰; Mr. John Edwards reported that he obtained his diploma from the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh⁷¹; James Moore indicated that he was a Member of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh, and had published a book⁷²; Mr. Edwards, advertised that he was a veterinary surgeon, and had qualified at the Edinburgh Royal Veterinary College⁷³; and Mr. Justus Littler reported that he was a student at the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh, and had received four silver medals for the best written examinations on materia medica, cattle pathology and physiology and the best general examination.⁷⁴ There are in our archives lecture note-books belonging to David Jones, R.V. College, Clyde Street, Edinburgh, one of them containing 'Lectures on Chemistry & Anatomy', dated Nov 4th 1877, and the other 'Horse Pathology - October 1880'; they both have bookplates printed 'FROM THE Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh'.⁷⁵ There are also lecture notebooks on Cattle Pathology, Medicine dated Oct/Winter Session 1887-88 which have the same address hand-written on the first page.⁷⁶



Fig. 6. The Heading of the Certificate of 1844 to Alexander Robertson

At the College staff level too, advertisements presented the Edinburgh Veterinary College under its 'Royal' banner. It was reported in 1853 that Mr. William Mayor of Penrith had been selected by William Dick as one of the examiners of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁷⁷ Four years later, it was reported that Mr. James McCall had been appointed to the Chair of Anatomy and Physiology in the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁷⁸ In 1867 Professor William Williams was appointed Principal and Professor of Pathology in the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh.⁷⁹ He served as Principal from 1867 until 1873, at which point he retired from the Veterinary College in Clyde Street to found the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh.⁵ At some point in time in the early 1870s, Principal Williams sent bills from the Clyde Street College pre-printed 'Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh'.⁸⁰ During the short time that William Fearnley was Principal (1873-1874) certificates were issued under the heading 'Royal Veterinary College Edinburgh' in testimony of students having attended three sessional courses of lectures and general instruction at this institution.⁸¹ Student recruitment advertisements for the Edinburgh Royal Veterinary College appeared in 1874; these also drew attention to the Bursaries that were available.⁸² John Gray McKendrick was appointed 'Professor of Physiology at the Edinburgh Royal Veterinary College' in 1874.⁸³ In the autumn of 1874, Mr. Colin C. Baird intimated that he would be available for consultation 'on all matters connected with the science and practice of his profession at the Royal Veterinary College, Clyde Street, where he will carry on business on his own account as formerly'.⁸⁴ The report of the 1878 prize-giving ceremonies was similarly inscribed.⁸⁵ There is also correspondence to show that the name Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh was in regular use during this period.⁸⁶

EDINBURGH VETERINARY AND ZOIATRIC COLLEGE (1849-1866)

The phrase 'diseases of the lower animals' was used by William Dick as part of the title of one of his earliest public lectures, on the 19th November 1818.⁸⁷ It is interesting, therefore, that thirty years later the phrase reappeared in another form, as part of the name 'Edinburgh Veterinary and Zoiatric College'. The definition for zoiatria in a dictionary of the period⁸⁸ was 'zo-e-âtre-a, s. (zoon, an animal, and iatria, medical treatment, Gr[reek]) the treatment of the diseases of the lower animals. This name for the Veterinary College was first listed in the 1849 edition of the New Edinburgh Almanac⁸⁹ and the College remained so named in this publication until the Almanac of 1866.⁹⁰ A circular⁹¹ from the 'Edinburgh Veterinary College', dated 1861, served as a simple Prospectus, and indicated that the course of study embraced:

'1st Zoiatrics, Veterinary Medicine, and Surgery ... Professor Dick 4 P.M.'

This was also the first part of the course advertised in the Almanac of 1849, and a similar mention of Zoiatrics was found in another advertisement listing the course of study.⁹² Other than being mentioned in these almanacs and advertisements, the term appears to have been very rarely used elsewhere. The few publications where it does crop up seem to represent (almost) the only times that the word 'zoiatric' has ever been used in the English language. One example appeared some ten years after its first mention, in an advertisement seeking candidates on behalf of 'The Board of Agriculture, in a Populous and Prosperous District of America', which had resolved 'to establish a Veterinary School'. It was seeking to appoint a person 'prepared to deliver a regular course of lectures on veterinary surgery during the winter, as well as occasional lectures on popular and practical subjects at the different annual provincial shows, and to furnish occasional contributions to a monthly agricultural periodical'. The advertisement used the Edinburgh Veterinary and Zoiatric College as the contact mailing address.⁹³ Later that month, and again in 1862, the results of the public examination of the students were reported as coming from this same address.⁹⁴ At about that time the report of a legal case concerning former students of the Edinburgh Veterinary and Zoiatric College, Clyde Street was published.⁹⁵ The use of this name appears to have stopped following the funeral of William Dick in 1866.⁹⁶

EDINBURGH ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE (1849 -)

It seems that the first time that this form of words may have appeared was in 1849, on the certificates of attendance at lectures on Chemistry and Pharmacy, Veterinary Anatomy and Physiology, Veterinary Materia Medica, and Diseases of Cattle. They were inscribed: 'Edinburgh Royal Veterinary College'.⁹⁷ Thereafter there were occasional reports using this form of words, such as in the Dublin press of the results from the annual examinations.⁹⁸

By the Autumn of 1874 this collection of four words became more routinely used when referring to the College, and this seems to have coincided with the promotion of Thomas Walley to the post of Professor of Anatomy and Principal of the College.⁹⁹ The order in which 'Royal' and 'Edinburgh' appeared was not always consistent. In September an advertisement published in the Scotsman was under the banner 'Royal Edinburgh Veterinary College' with Principal Thomas Walley as the person to contact to obtain a copy of the prospectus.¹⁰⁰ The word order was changed to 'Edinburgh Royal Veterinary College' on the front cover of the 1874-75 Prospectus.¹⁰¹ This wording was used in Oliver & Boyd's New Edinburgh Almanac and National Repository for the year 1874 (p.709). Interestingly, the word 'Royal' was then dropped from this publication for the next 16 years and was reintroduced in 1891.¹⁰²

This was also the brief period of time (1875-1876) when questions were raised in the press about the origin of the title 'Royal'. Correspondence from 'Mackcam',¹⁰³ asked, 'Did not a Principal of a school a short time ago write to the editor of a Yorkshire paper to the effect that Mr. I---, whose status had been questioned, was a "Member of the Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh?"' In addition, 'Observer' commented,¹⁰⁴ 'Further, men holding certificates of the Highland Society style themselves, not only veterinary surgeons, but actually write M.R.C.V.S.E to their reports.' He went on to note:

'Is it not remarkable that the advertisement contained in the *Veterinary Journal*, "Royal Veterinary College, Edinburgh" should appear in the *Veterinarian* as "Veterinary College, Edinburgh?" I was all along of opinion that the word "Royal" was assumed.'

Professor Williams, by then Principal of his own New Veterinary College in Edinburgh,⁵ replied 'I quite agree with "Observer's" opinion that the title "Royal" Veterinary College, Edinburgh, is assumed.'¹⁰⁵ Ironically, there is also the suggestion, made by Professor Walley, the Principal of the Clyde Street College, that the first Prospectus from Williams' New Veterinary College may have carried the word 'Royal' and that the whole of that print-run (perhaps?) had to be destroyed before general distribution took place.¹⁰⁶

However, by this time, as indicated above, the inclusion of the word Royal in the title of the Edinburgh Veterinary College at Clyde Street had become a commonplace, with several decades of usage.¹⁰⁷ It is interesting, therefore, that on one occasion, in 1874, the Glasgow Veterinary School was also called 'Royal'.¹⁰⁸

THE DICK VETERINARY COLLEGE (1873 -)

On the 1st December 1873 Mary Dick, William Dick's sister, wrote to the Edinburgh Town Council, who were the Trustees administering the Clyde Street College, with the suggestion:

'In consequence of the establishment of a New Veterinary College in Edinburgh by Mr. Williams I think it would be for the advantage of the College under the management of the Magistrates and Town Council, that it should bear the name of my late brother, and I have to suggest that it should in future be known as "The Dick Veterinary College".¹⁰⁹

The Trustees agreed.¹¹⁰ However, they did not act immediately. Although the advertisement for the 1875 winter session at the College was addressed as 'Dick's Edinburgh Royal Veterinary College' in *The York Herald*,¹¹¹ the opening ceremony of the 1875 session was reported locally as that of the Edinburgh Royal Veterinary College.¹¹² The opening of the 1876 winter session was similarly reported.¹¹³ However, by 1877, the Veterinarian reported the opening of 'Edinburgh (Dick's) Veterinary College',¹¹⁴ and in the following year that was what was used as the postal address in a letter to the editor of *The Veterinary Journal*.¹¹⁵

It is probably during this period that the local people of Edinburgh and Leith began referring to the veterinary school as the 'Dick Vet'. When and where this first took place is no longer known, but it is clear from the oral tradition that the name was associated with the institution, and transferred in 1916 to its new buildings at Summerhall following the closure of the Clyde Street facilities. Suggestive evidence that it occurred quite early comes from newspaper reporting.¹¹⁶ Graduates and undergraduates also used the terms 'the Royal (Dick)', 'the Dick Vet', and some abbreviated the name further and referring to the College as 'The Dick'.

THE DICK ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE (1876 -)

The linking of these words can first be found in a report of the presentation of prizes at the end of the year.¹¹⁷ There is also a printed certificate, under the elaborately inscribed heading 'Dick's Royal Veterinary College Edinburgh' to Mr. R. Hyde who performed with great credit the duties of 'Visitor Dresser & Dispenser' during the session 1892-1893.¹¹⁸

ROYAL (DICK'S) VETERINARY COLLEGE (1877 -)

An adjustment to the order in which the words appear occurred in advertisements for the start of the winter session 1877,¹¹⁹ as well as in reports of opening ceremonies¹²⁰ and prize-givings.¹²¹ It is highly likely that the name over the entrance to the courtyard of the veterinary college was amended at about this time (Fig. 7). Several of the other lecture notebooks belonging to David Jones, including one entitled 'Insertion & Origin of Muscles ... Nov 24th 1879', another entitled 'Physiology Lectures Winter Session 1879', and a third entitled 'Introductory Surgery ... Summer Session 1880' are addressed 'Royal (Dick's) Vet College, Clyde Street, Edinburgh'.¹²² Two more are entitled 'Lectures on Medicine ... Session 1887-1888' and are either addressed 'Royal Dick's Vet. College' or 'Royal (Dick's) Veterinary College'.¹²³ An invitation card to the opening at the Royal (Dick's) Veterinary College, Clyde Street, of the 63rd



Fig. 7. Drawing of the Clyde Street College (~ 1877) with the Words 'Dick's Royal' Over the Entrance to the Courtyard

Winter Session on Wednesday 27th October, 1886, is held in the University's Centre for Research Collections.¹²⁴ Student advertisements, such as the one that reported that John Roberts had passed his first examination in anatomy, chemistry and botany and had received a first-class certificate of merit stated that this was done at the Royal (Dick's) Veterinary College, Edinburgh.¹²⁵ The advertisement from Mr. John Roberts reported that he had matriculated at the Royal (Dick's) Veterinary College, Edinburgh in 1878, and graduated in April, 1881.¹²⁶ Others advertised their examination successes in a similar fashion.¹²⁷

Student advertisements were matched by those from the college itself (Fig. 8) and in the form of words used in the 1884-85 Prospectus and subsequently until 1890-91.^{27,128,129,130} By 1888 the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Register listed the Dick Vet as 'Royal (Dick's) Veterinary College'¹³¹ and it continued to be listed in this way until 1896.¹³² Correspondence on printed letter headings with the address 'Royal (Dick's) Veterinary College (off St Andrew Square), Edinburgh' are present in the archives.^{27,91}

ROYAL (DICK) VETERINARY COLLEGE (1886-1951)

The next small adjustment in the name was the dropping of the apostrophe 's' from 'Dick's'. A newspaper report on the progress being made in the rebuilding of 'The Royal (Dick) Veterinary College' in 1886 was one early example of this¹³³ as was the report of its opening the following year.¹³⁴ An Irish newspaper reported that one of the students of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh, Mr. A.E. Mettam, had gained the Fitzwygram prize of fifty guineas.^{135,136} The Prospectus of the College first used this form of words in 1891 and continued thereafter until 1951.^{137,138} Advertisements in London and other city newspaper carried this form of words: Royal (Dick) Veterinary College, Edinburgh.¹³⁹ The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons began using this title in 1897, and continued until 1951.¹⁴⁰ A letter in 1900 from the Principal J.R.U. Dewar to the editor of the *Scotsman* newspaper, with details of comparative student numbers was similarly addressed,¹⁴¹ as was a report in 1903 by the same newspaper of the process whereby the college was to be reorganized.¹⁴²

The first meeting of the new Board of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College took place within the Dick College, Clyde Street, Edinburgh on Monday 24th July 1905, Sir William Turner in the Chair.¹⁴³ Just over one year later, on August 4th 1906, the Edinburgh Corporation Act¹⁴⁴ named the Veterinary College in Clyde Street, Edinburgh as the 'Royal (Dick) Veterinary College'.¹⁴⁵ Although it had been proposed that the University of Edinburgh would initiate degrees in Veterinary Medicine at that time, it was not until five years later, on the 24th

ROYAL (DICK'S) VETERINARY COLLEGE,
CLYDE STREET (off St Andrew Square),
EDINBURGH.

*Founded by the late Professor Dick in 1823, and endowed
by him at his decease in 1866.*

Trustees.

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES,
AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDINBURGH.

Patrons.

THE HIGHLAND AND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND,
and numerous Noblemen and Gentlemen.

Clerk.

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ARCHIBALD BAIRD, M.R.C.V.S. (late V.S. Scots Greys), Assistant to Mr Baird.

C. BRODIE ALLARDICE, } Assistants to the Professor of Chemistry.
EDWARD J. YULES, }

THE ROYAL VETERINARY COLLEGE is the only endowed Veterinary School in Great Britain. During Professor DICK's lifetime, and since his death, the College has educated upwards of two hundred Veterinary Surgeons.

It numbers among its Graduates those occupying the highest and most responsible positions in the Profession, both at home and abroad, including the principal Veterinary Surgeon to the Army, and the Principals of all the other Veterinary Colleges in Great Britain and the Colonies.

Prospectus and full particulars on application to the PRINCIPAL.

CLASSES open to AMATEURS.

**Fig. 8. Advertisement for the Royal (Dick's) Veterinary College, Edinburgh
Published in 1884 by the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland in
its *Historical Sketch of the Agricultural Progress of Scotland from the
Earliest Times to the Present Day* (see comment 128)**

July 1911 that the University Court approved Ordinance No XXXVIII. (Edinburgh No. 13.) – Institution of degrees in veterinary science and relative regulations; these received the approval of his Majesty in Council on 16th December 1911,¹⁴⁶ and came into operation at the commencement of the 1912 summer session.¹⁴⁷ Later, in July of that year, the University Court approved the ‘Regulations suggested by the Joint Advisory Committee of the University and the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College with reference to the curriculum for graduation in Veterinary Science’.¹⁴⁸ ‘Notification of two degrees in Veterinary Science to be conferred by the University of Edinburgh, viz., Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Science and Doctor of Science in Veterinary Science’ was printed in the University Calendar for 1912-1913.¹⁴⁹

In 1916 the students moved out of the old Clyde Street College buildings into the new but unfinished buildings at Summerhall.¹⁰ Three large stained glass windows were unveiled there by Lord Provost Hutchison on 25 May 1923.¹⁰ The first mention of these can be found in the minutes of a Board meeting when ‘the Principal announced that there was a movement by graduates to fill in the staircase window in the new Buildings, and permission to do this was cordially granted by the Board subject to their approval being obtained in regard to design, etc.’¹⁵⁰ The design of these was submitted and approved by the Board on 11 October 1922.¹⁵¹ The formal opening of the completed Summerhall building took place on 19 October 1925.¹⁰

In the spring of 1927 ‘the question of a suitable Coat of Arms for the College was remitted to the Principal, to consult with the Principal of the Edinburgh College of Art [Gerald Moira 26 Jan. 1867 – 2 Aug. 1959] as to a suitable design’.¹⁵² Eight months later a design was submitted to the Board of Management and approved, subject to an alteration being made to the design for the horse’s head.¹⁵³ At the same meeting the Principal submitted drawings for three additional stained glass windows, the central one of which carried the approved design of the Coat of Arms (Fig. 9a). He proposed that these should be installed over the windows at the rear of the main entrance to the College. These designs were also approved. The total cost would be borne by gentlemen who had graduated since the new College had been erected.¹⁵⁴ The windows were unveiled on the 27th June 1928 by Viscount Novar. The Coat of Arms for the Veterinary College that had been petitioned by Orlando Charnock Bradley (Principal) and Alexander Campbell Doull (Secretary) was awarded by the Lord Lyon King of Arms on 12th January, 1931, and recorded.¹⁵⁵ It was described as ‘Azure, a saltire between a horse’s head couped in chief and in base a triple towered castle all Argent, masoned Sable, windows, flags and portcullis gules, situate on a rock proper’ (Fig. 9b).

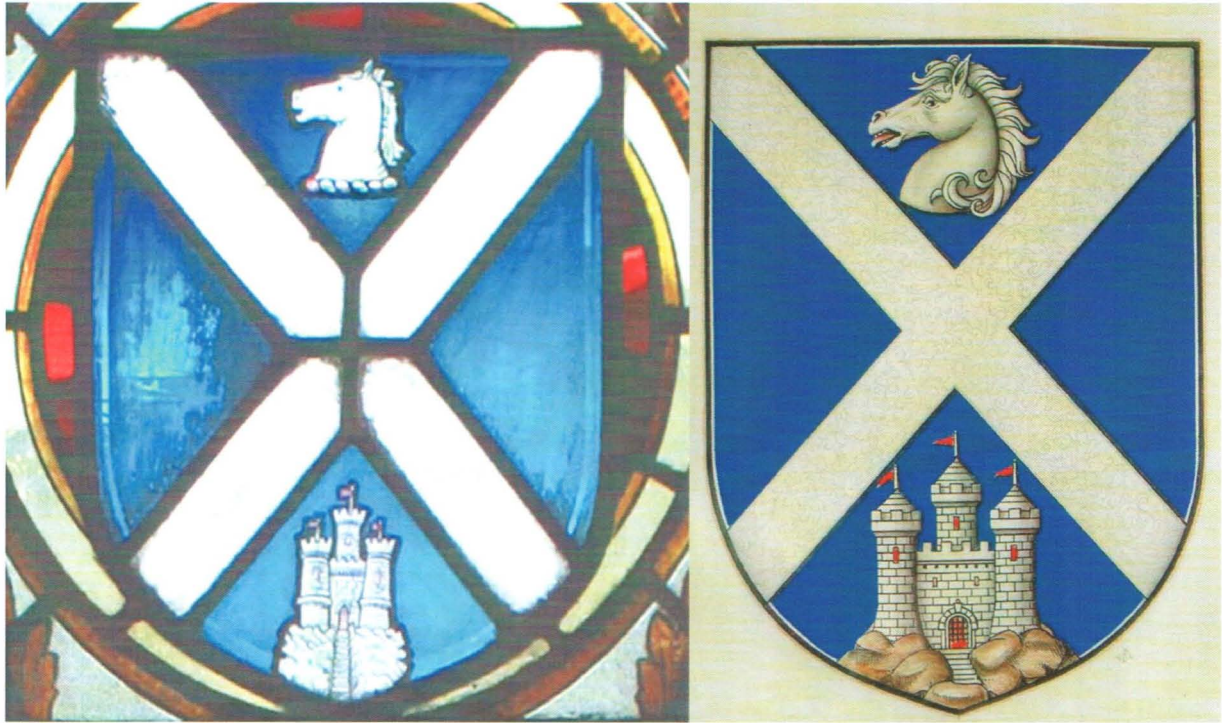


Fig. 9a. Detail from the Middle Section of the three-part Stained Glass Window Installed at the Rear of the Main Entrance to the Summerhall College in 1928, Showing the Design of the Crest Submitted as part of the Coat of Arms of the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College. 9b. The Coat of Arms for the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College Awarded by the Lord Lyon King of Arms on 12th January 1931

The affiliation of the Veterinary College to Edinburgh University was approved by the Privy Council in 1934, and took place on the 5th October 1934.¹⁵⁶ Although the Veterinary College continued to function independently of the University, the University Court remitted to Senatus Academicus the nomination of the Joint Board of Veterinary Studies to be constituted under the Ordinance. During the years of the Second World War the staff of the Veterinary College carried out a large amount of preclinical teaching for the university's medical school.²⁷

On the 12th February, 1947 the University of Edinburgh announced the purchased of the estates of the Bush and Dryden.¹⁵⁷ The Veterinary College was allocated land around the farmstead at Easter Bush.²⁷ The last calendar from the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College was published in 1951.^{27,158}

THE ROYAL (DICK) SCHOOL OF VETERINARY STUDIES (1951 – PRESENT)

On Thursday, 10th May 1951, Royal Assent was given to the University of Edinburgh (Royal (Dick) Veterinary College) Order Confirmation Act¹⁵⁹ which provided for the dissolution of the Veterinary College and for its embodiment within the University of Edinburgh, effective from 1st April 1951. One of the provisions of the Act was 'To associate the name Dick with the Veterinary School within the University retaining if possible the designation 'Royal'.' Later that summer, on the 16th August 1951, a letter was sent from the Secretary of the University, Charles H. Stewart, to the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and copied to Mr. W.M. Mitchell, the head of the veterinary school, intimating 'that His Majesty has been graciously pleased to approve the continued use of the title "Royal" by the Department of Veterinary Studies of the University'. His Majesty's pleasure was intimated to the Faculty of Medicine and to the Veterinary School,¹⁶⁰ as well as to the University Court at their first meeting in October of that year¹⁶¹; the Department would accordingly be known in future as 'The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies. On the 22nd October 1951 the Court of the University of Edinburgh made an ordinance, No. 282 (Edinburgh No 92): [Institution of Degrees in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery and Relative Regulations], and as a consequence of due procedure, on the 10th March 1952, Her Royal Highness Queen Elizabeth gave her approval.¹⁶² The veterinary school would function as a constituent part of the Faculty of Medicine for over a decade. The 1952 register from the RCVS listed the Dick Vet as 'The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, University of Edinburgh'.¹⁶³

In April 1962 consideration was given at the Faculty of Medicine to a report concerning the establishment of a Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Surgery at an appropriate time within the quinquennium 1962-67, and the recommendation was supported.¹⁶⁴ In May 1964 a report from the Board of Veterinary Studies was circulated to the Faculty of Medicine and its recommendation, that a Faculty of Veterinary Medicine be formed with effect from 1st October 1964, was approved for transmission to the Senatus Academicus and the University Court.¹⁶⁵ The University Court at its meeting on 15th June 1964 approved the proposal that the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies should begin to operate administratively as a Faculty with effect from 1st July 1964.¹⁶⁶

It was on the petition of Ian Stuart Beattie, then 'Dean of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Edinburgh', that the Royal Lyon King of Arms, on the 19th December 1977, awarded a second Coat of Arms (Fig. 10) in the name of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Edinburgh:

'Per pale; dexter, Argeant, on a saltire Azure between a thistle in chief proper and a castle on a rock in base Sable, a book expanded Or; sinister, Azure, a saltire between a horses's head coupé in chief and in base a triple towered castle all Argent, masoned Sable, windows, flags and portcullis Gules situated on a rock proper.'

This was recorded and matriculated on the 4th July 1978.¹⁶⁷

On 12 June 1990 a letter was sent from Buckingham Palace to the University of Edinburgh to say that Her Royal Highness Princess Anne had accepted the invitation to become Patron of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.²⁷

In 2002, the University of Edinburgh restructured its nine Faculties into three Colleges, in the process of which the administrative designation 'Faculty' within the University ceased to exist.¹⁶⁸ At the 2002 (Summer) Vacation Court it was decided that 'The School in the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine which replaces the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine is to be named 'The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies', with the day-to-day nomenclature being School of Veterinary Studies'. This decision was homologated.¹⁶⁸

Significant developments have taken place at the Dick Vet in the last five years. On the 1st April 2008 the Roslin Institute joined the Royal (Dick) School of



The Coat of Arms in the Name of the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine in the University of Edinburgh Awarded by the Lord Lyon King of Arms on the 4th July 1978

Veterinary Studies within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine of the University of Edinburgh.¹⁶⁹ On the 29th June 2011 researchers from the Roslin Institute officially took up residence with their partners from the Scottish Agricultural College in a new purpose-built centre on the Easter Bush Veterinary Campus of the University.¹⁷⁰ During that summer the last of the teaching staff from the Summerhall buildings transferred to the new Veterinary Teaching Building on the Easter Bush site. On 31st March 2011 Her Royal Highness Princess Anne became the Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh; her installation took place in the recently redesigned Old College quadrangle on 26th September 2011. The following day Her Royal Highness came out to Easter Bush to officially open the new Veterinary Teaching Building. The Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies was now officially re-consolidated, on the Easter Bush site.

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DID YOU KNOW?

BEAM – 'In the head of a deer, is the basis or part bearing the antlers, royals and tops.' (Taplin, *The Sporting Dictionary* 1803)