MSP DETAILS

NAME

CONSTITUENCY

EMAIL/CONTACT ADDRESS

Dear XXXXX MSP,

**BVA Manifesto for Scotland’s vets and animals**

I am writing to you as a veterinary surgeon in **[name of constituency]** and a member of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), which is the leading representative body for the veterinary profession in the UK.

The veterinary profession in Scotland works to improve the health and welfare of animals, to monitor and control the spread of diseases, to assure the safety of the food we eat, and to facilitate trade. The profession is relatively small, but our reach is significant, and our role is critical to the health and welfare of not only animals, but the rest of society too. We feel the profession is in a unique position from which to offer informed advice on animal health and welfare.

***[Insert a brief description of the work you do]***

Ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections, the British Veterinary Association Scottish Branch is calling on all parties to commit to improving support for vets and animals across 5 key categories:

* Animal welfare
* Education
* Employment
* Fireworks
* Agriculture

The asks that resonate strongly with me are:

***[Delete as applicable]***

**Animal welfare**

Improve the welfare of farmed fish

* We are calling for the implementation of legislation based upon the principles of humane slaughter of farmed fish as set out by the Animal Welfare Committee. While current practice under veterinary oversight sets a high standard for fish welfare at slaughter, legal protective measures must be implemented to maintain Scotland’s reputation as a leader in animal welfare. As an interim measure, statutory guidance under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 must be issued without delay.

Ban electric shock collars

* We are calling for a complete ban on the sale and use of electric shock collars for dogs and cats. These are used as an aversive method of training. Evidence shows that reward-based training is not only the most effective training method for animals but also makes sure they are protected from any pain or suffering as part of their training.

**Education**

Teach children about animal welfare and animal sentience

* We are calling for animal welfare and sentience to be part of the national curriculum. Children should learn about animals' needs, our duty of care, and the meaning of sentience so they grow up treating animals and people with compassion and respect.

Ensure veterinary education is properly funded and supported in Scotland

* We are calling for financial barriers for universities and students to be removed, so more homegrown talent, particularly from rural areas, can enter the profession. There must also be supporting initiatives highlighting the variety of career options available to those with a veterinary degree.

**Employment**

Support the veterinary workforce

* We are calling for the visa/sponsorship process for international vets to be streamlined, to attract and support veterinary talent from overseas and sustain the vital roles they contribute to in Scotland, including public health.

**Fireworks**

Tighten the regulation of fireworks

* We are calling for the recommendations of the Fireworks Review Group — such as, placing further restrictions on the days and times fireworks can be set off — to be implemented as soon as possible and for the effective application of Firework Control Zones across the country.

**Agriculture**

Champion the veterinary voice in farming policy

* We are calling for the veterinary profession to be recognised as key partners in shaping agricultural policy. The Government must commit to maintain the current level of resource spent on the scanning surveillance network to safeguard both animal and public health. Endemic diseases can only be eradicated through partnership working between farmers, vets and government.

This is because **[Insert your reasons for your choices]**

I encourage you to [read our manifesto](https://www.bva.co.uk/media/6397/bva-manifesto-for-scotlands-vets-and-animals-2026-final.pdf) and include our asks in your party’s manifesto.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or the BVA Public Affairs team at publicaffairs@bva.co.uk if you would like further information on any of BVA’s manifesto asks.

I hope I can count on your support.

Kind regards

*Include your name and contact details and/or your practice address if you are in practice within the constituency.*