WELSH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO GENERAL MOVEMENT LICENSES - BVA / WELSH BRANCH RESPONSE

1) The BVA is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom and has over 15,000 members. Our primary aim is to represent, support and champion the interests of the veterinary profession in this country, and we therefore take a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues and employment matters.

2) The BVA’s Welsh Branch brings together representatives of the BVA’s territorial and specialist divisions, government, academic institutions and research organisations in Wales. The Branch advises BVA on the consensus view of the Welsh members on Welsh and United Kingdom issues. We have also consulted with our relevant species divisions via our committee, the Veterinary Policy Group.

3) We were pleased to have been given the opportunity to contribute to the Welsh Government consultation on the General Movement Licenses which were previously updated in 2010 and are being revised again to reflect changes to legislation. We understand that the Welsh Government has also used the opportunity to make some of the wording clearer.

4) We are supportive of the amendments to formatting and wording which bring clarity to the licences and ensure all notifiable diseases are referred to, rather than just Foot and Mouth Disease. We also support the change to allow the movement of deer to non-agricultural premises under the GML, rather than under a separate specific licence, and steps to ensure that the GML for pigs reflects the Pigs (Records, Identification and Movement) (Wales) Order 2011.

5) We note that the GMLs apply to pigs, sheep, goats, cattle and deer, however, we are concerned about the potential for the movement of camelids to spread disease, particularly given practices surrounding mating, where a male camelid can visit 10-15 farms in one day. We note that in England, the camelid industry has developed a voluntary health surveillance scheme including pre and post movement TB testing and recording of camelid movements and we request clarification from Welsh Government on steps which might be taken to address the potential for camelids to spread disease in Wales.