Dear [name of candidate]

**British Veterinary Association 2017 General Election Manifesto**

I am writing to you as a veterinary surgeon in your constituency and a member of the British Veterinary Association (BVA) to share the BVA’s General Election manifesto calling on politicians and policymakers to commit to improving animal health and welfare in the UK. I am pleased to enclose a copy / attach a copy / [enclose a link here] [NB. delete as appropriate]

The UK veterinary profession is made up of over 26,000 veterinary surgeons and over 11,000 veterinary nurses, working to improve the health and welfare of animals, to monitor and control the spread of diseases, and to assure the safety of the food we eat. 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. As such the profession is in a unique position from which to offer the next Government informed advice on animal health and welfare.

BVA is the leading representative body for the veterinary profession in the UK. The BVA manifesto is framed under four key areas:

- securing a successful outcome for animal health and welfare after Brexit;
- safeguarding animal health;
- promoting animal welfare; and
- recognising the vital role of veterinary surgeons.

It highlights 20 evidence-led recommendations, based on scientific research and the expertise and experience of our members, for the next Government to consider in terms of domestic policy setting and throughout the Brexit negotiations.

We are urging the next Government to:

- Guarantee working rights for non-British EU vets and veterinary nurses (VNs) currently working and studying in the UK, and for British vets and VNs working in the EU, at the existing level with no time limit to ensure the need for veterinary services can be met.
- Maintain current animal health and welfare standards and prioritise them in all trade negotiations to develop a unique, high standard of animal health, welfare and food hygiene as a selling point for the UK.
- Commit to maintaining a single standard for meat produced for both domestic and export markets based on current standards of food hygiene legislation and enforcement, including veterinary certification and controls.
- Guarantee the UK veterinary profession ongoing access to all existing veterinary medicines licensed through the EU regulatory systems in order to meet animal health requirements, whilst continuing to play a leading role in tackling antimicrobial resistance internationally.
• Ensure any public money to replace the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is used to support and incentivise public goods, including animal health and welfare, disease surveillance, biodiversity and environmental stewardship.
• Develop a regulatory and legislative framework to ensure the UK continues to be a globally attractive place for research and development (R&D) and ensure reciprocal surveillance data sharing with Europe to detect new and emerging diseases.

We all know that UK voters care deeply about the health and welfare of all animals. We want the next Government to put animal health and welfare high on its agenda and to embrace the concept of ‘One Health’, recognising that the health of humans is inextricably linked with the health of animals.

A copy of the manifesto has already been sent to all main political parties’ manifesto-writing teams and we were pleased to see some of our policy recommendations captured in your party’s manifesto commitments for the next Parliament.

Yours sincerely,

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

Enc.

BVA Manifesto for 2017