

BVA submission to Department for International Trade call for input: Trade with Israel

Introduction

1) The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body f(r)-ary

world. The involvement of veterinary surgeons on farm and in abattoirs protects public health, food safety and animal health and welfare as well as providing assurance to trading partners. Veterinary advice and involvement at all stages of negotiations will serve to facilitate acceptable trade.

- 10)** The UK requires a veterinary workforce with the capability and capacity necessary to facilitate international trade. To continue to trade, the UK must have enough appropriately trained Official Veterinarians (OV) to meet the additional demands for export and import certification. If that requirement is not fulfilled, it could present a significant barrier to trade and limit any opportunities for the farming and food sectors that may be found in a new FTA.
- 11)** FTAs contain provisions relating to animal health, animal welfare and public health: areas which

Any discussions on the removal of quarantine that would allow free access to pet animals would raise very significant concerns about diseases which are endemic in other countries.

16)

29) Animal welfare is a global concern and ensuring the health and welfare of sentient animals is important as a marker of social progress, as well as for the role it plays in achieving other sustainability objectives. UK citizens see value in the welfare of farmed animals. Veterinary surgeons, as qualified professionals who play an essential role in the operation of international trade, want to see a high standard of animal health, welfare and food hygiene prioritised within any trade negotiations and deals including with Israel.

30) The TAC published its report in March 2020. Key amongst their recommendations was recommendation 8 which stated that:⁸

... countries that can meet the high standards of food production expected from UK producers. It should work with trading partners within future FTA negotiations to lower tariffs and quotas to zero where equivalence is

31) The report submits that the UK should adopt a three-pillar approach to liberalising international trade. The most pertinent, for the purposes of an FTA, is pillar two, which establishes how

UK markets in FTAs would be matched to a core set of standards and technical norms in a number of areas. If trading partners could not demonstrate equivalence with core standards, then they would not be considered for zero tariff, zero quota access for those products to which the core

system requiring checks and continuous monitoring to ensure standards are maintained over time.

- 33)** Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a global health and development threat and requires urgent multisectoral action. The WHO has declared that AMR is one of the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity¹⁰ and therefore AMR must be a significant factor in UK core standards. This standard should consider both regulation (e.g., prescribing requirements) and actual outcomes in terms of antimicrobial use or sales data.

Non- stun slaughter

- 34)** Opening export opportunities for the UK's produce is welcome, but in order to capitalise on our reputation for high standards, it's essential that any future deals are only for products that are pre-stunned before slaughter. Effectively stunning before slaughter is essential as this renders animals unconscious and therefore insensible to pain, distress, fear and suffering
- 35)** While it is a statutory requirement for all animals to be effectively stunned before slaughter in the UK, there is a derogation in place to permit slaughter without stunning for slaughter in accordance with religious rites which provides for non-stun slaughter where food is intended for the consumption of Jews and Muslims.
- 36)** Ultimately, we would like to see an end to all non-stun slaughter.¹¹ However, where non-stun slaughter is permitted, the supply of meat from non-stunned animals should meet the demand of the religious communities in the UK. Therefore, the export of meat from non-stunned animals should be prohibited in law.

