

BVA submission to the International Trade Committee inquiry on UK trade negotiations: Agreement with the Gulf Cooperation Council

Introduction

- 1) The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 18,000 members, our primary aim is to represent,

fork, ensuring. They also play a unique role in international trade which is recognised around the 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.

- 9) 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

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.

- 15) It is imperative for mechanisms beyond the TAC to be developed to give due regard to the impact of trade deals on animals which will be considered sentient beings under legislation currently before Parliament i.e., beyond agriculture and aquaculture sectors. Engagement with the veterinary profession will be vital for government to meet this duty. the

