

## **BVA response to UK-New Zealand FTA: Trade and Agriculture Commission call for evidence**

### **Introduction**

The British Veterinary Association (BVA) is the national representative body for the veterinary profession in the United Kingdom. With over 19,000 members, our primary aim is to represent, a keen interest in all issues affecting the profession, including animal health and welfare, public health, regulatory issues, and employment matters.

We welcome the opportunity to respond to call for evidence on the UK-New Zealand FTA. As the UK takes control of its trade policy, it should be assertive in spreading animal welfare norms via trade agreements. Therefore, existing animal health, animal welfare, public health, veterinary medicines, workforce, and environmental protection standards must at least be maintained and opportunities to improve and enhance standards and outcomes should also be taken.

### **Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) measures**

will still have to meet the same food safety and biosecurity standards in New Zealand and the UK

FTA. As such, the UK retains the ability to ban goods based on animal or public health grounds. This would not apply to barriers that are based on animal welfare grounds or environmental concerns.

We welcome that the SPS chapter contains provisions to support cooperation on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Both parties recognise that AMR is a serious threat to human and animal health. The UK was one of the first countries to establish a National Action Plan (NAP) on AMR. New Zealand has had a NAP

the general anti-cruelty and duty of care provisions. Codes created under the Act provide detailed standards for transport, painful husbandry procedures, commercial slaughter, and specific requirements for farm animals. The Code of Welfare for the Commercial Slaughter of Animals requires that all large mammals must be stunned, so that they are immediately rendered insensible and must be maintained in this state until death.