

Speech to the Annual BVA Annual Scottish Dinner

Anna Judson, President of the British Veterinary Association

Tonight, I will talk in more detail about both the Competition and Markets Authority review and the XL Bully ban and the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

I will also talk about the urgent need for reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966, to create legislation which is fit for purpose and enables the veterinary professions to thrive in the face of such challenges.

As many of you know, at the end of 2023, the Competition and Markets Authority launched a review into the UK veterinary services market for pets. Its initial findings led to a proposal to undertake a Market Investigation Reference, and BVA responded to that consultation jointly with the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, the Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons, the British Veterinary Nursing Association, and the Veterinary Management Group.

We want to ensure informed consumer choice within the veterinary services market and this external scrutiny is a welcome opportunity to reflect

on the profession. However, we are also acutely aware of the impact the CMA review is having on the profession. Inaccurate and unfair media reporting, characterising vets as scammers who are , is leading to many veterinary teams reporting increased levels of abusive behaviour from clients, both in person and online.

Of course, this portrayal of vets as a practising vet of more than 30 years, who knows first-

We have developed guidance for our members and the wider veterinary profession on how practices can be more transparent in relation to vet fees and practice ownership, improving how we explain prescribing and dispensing options for veterinary medicines, and ensuring we explain the different treatment options which take into account the full range of clients' circumstances, what we know as vets as providing contextualised care .

will help move the profession forward.

One area in which we fully agree with the CMA is around its concerns about the outdated regulatory framework which is no longer fit for purpose. Alongside the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, we have been lobbying for reform of the Veterinary Surgeons Act 1966 for some time and have secured cro87 1g)3)61fo)5)8ca.839544 841.68 reW*nB-

Dangerous Dogs Act is ineffective and hard to enforce. It must be replaced with breed