

Terms of Reference

1. The Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) in the exercise of its power under sections 131 and 133 of the Enterprise Act 2002 (the Act) hereby makes an ordinary reference to the Chair of the CMA for the constitution of a group under Schedule 4 to the Enterprise and Regulatory Reform Act 2013 for an investigation into the supply in the United Kingdom of veterinary services for household pets, including the supply of prescribed veterinary medicines for such pets.
2. The CMA has reasonable grounds to suspect that a feature or a combination of features of the market for the supply of those goods and services in the UK prevents, restricts, or distorts competition.
3. For the purposes of this reference:
 - (a) 'household pet' means an animal such as a dog or a cat, but not a farm animal, that is kept for companionship or protection and habitually resides in the owner's dwelling.
 - (b) 'veterinary services' includes but is not limited to the provision of:
 - (i) first opinion practice services;
 - (ii) out-of-hours first opinion services;
 - (iii) referral centre services;
 - (iv) animal hospital services;
 - (v) pet cremation services;
 - (vi) diagnostic laboratory services; and
 - (vii) pet care plans.
4. 'Prescribed veterinary medicines' means prescription-only medicines prescribed by a veterinary surgeon and prescription-only medicines prescribed by a veterinary surgeon, pharmacist, or suitably qualified person.