



Register of Animal Musculoskeletal Practitioners

Pembroke House

Middle Lane

Shotteswell

OX17 1JQ

Dear CMA

Please find RAMP comment on the Market Investigation into Veterinary Services for Household pets working documents.

It is encouraging to confirm that most clients trust the recommendations of their veterinary professionals and RAMP reiterate that it is essential for the musculoskeletal allied professions (MAPs) to work in collaboration with the veterinary profession.

However, RAMP have concerns regarding the statement in Regulatory Framework for Veterinary Professionals and Veterinary Service, pg 39, 3.3.

*The question of which type of veterinary professional should be permitted to carry out specific clinical tasks is rightly reserved to the RCVS and is not within the CMA's remit.*

This implies that the CMA has decided not to take responsibility to consider the current underutilisation of the highly skilled, degree level MAP workforce, within veterinary care options presented to owners. This impression is reinforced by only one mention of associated allied professionals, with no further comment in the same document pg45, 3.26.

It is difficult to understand if MAPs are considered in a similar context to Veterinary Nurses or as professionals providing a specialist service. As documented in the RAMP consultation response in April 2024, many of the concerns surrounding both groups are pertinent to MAPs. Therefore, it is disappointing that it is not defined where highly trained allied professionals sit in a well-functioning market.

The CMA has reported concern around information asymmetry which limits owners' engagement and awareness of available treatment choices. Therefore, RAMP would urge the CMA to consider and clarify the role of suitably qualified allied professionals within the veterinary healthcare model. This may encourage vets to include MAPs in contextualised care plans, when presenting safe and competent care options to owners.

Regards,

Jo Paul

RAMP President for RAMP Council

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