

# Animal Health Update

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## Vet workforce shortage



**UK veterinary workforce shortages continue:** sharp post-Brexit fall in EU-trained vets and limited domestic supply has created pressure across all sectors.

**Demand for equine veterinary services is rising,** but the pool of vets willing to work in equine practice is not keeping pace.

**Workload and wellbeing concerns remain significant,** with long hours and high on-call burdens cited.

**Practical impacts** — reduced vet availability, longer response times, and increased costs.



## CMA market investigation on veterinary services



CMA's provisional decision (Autumn 2025) found "competition problems" across the veterinary sector.



Investigation focused on companion-animal care



Many of the proposed remedies will impact on equine practices.



The CMA report puts pressure on government to modernise the **Veterinary Surgeons Act**.

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# Potential New Veterinary Surgeons (Services?) Act

01

The 1966 VSA needs modernising.

02

Reform may may impact on how allied professionals are regulated.

03

A new Act could address accountability, and emerging modes of practice such as telemedicine and digital decision-support.

04

Goal would be to improve clarity, consistency and public confidence, supporting safer and more efficient veterinary care.