



Veterinary Medicines Directorate

Promoting animal health and welfare
by assuring the safety, quality and
efficacy of veterinary medicines



www.gov.uk/vmd
www.vmdconnect
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Date: 16th April 2026

Dear Stakeholder

Call for Evidence on veterinary medicines containing fipronil or imidacloprid

We are writing to invite evidence submissions and views to help determine whether point-of-sale advice is necessary for all veterinary medicines containing fipronil or imidacloprid.

Fipronil and imidacloprid are active substances in veterinary medicines widely used for the treatment and prevention of flea and tick infestations in cats and dogs. Many veterinary medicines containing these active substances are currently classified as AVM-GSL, meaning they can be sold without professional advice, for example, in supermarkets. Given the emerging evidence of environmental contamination, we are reviewing whether this route of supply remains appropriate. The review will explore whether requiring professional advice at the point of sale could support responsible use and disposal to help reduce environmental risks.

This Call for Evidence seeks data on environmental impacts of fipronil or imidacloprid and on how any potential changes to their supply routes might affect animal welfare, pet owners, businesses, and access to these medicines.

As the UK authority responsible for deciding how veterinary medicines can be supplied, we must balance animal health and welfare, public health, environmental protection and continued access to veterinary medicines. Evidence gathered through this call will help ensure any future decisions are proportionate and evidence based.

The Call for Evidence will run for 8 weeks.

The following documents may be found on Citizen Space:

- Call for Evidence document
- Privacy notice

Responses

Our preferred way of receiving responses is through the Citizen Space platform (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool).

If you are unable to use Citizen Space, you can download the Call for Evidence documents and return your response via email to consultation@vmd.gov.uk.

Responses should be received by 11th June 2026.

Confidentiality and data protection

Information you provide in response to this Call for Evidence may be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation, including the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

If you would like the information you provide to be treated as confidential, please tell us and explain why. For example, for commercial sensitivity, please tell us what the likely harm might be. We will consider your request, but we cannot guarantee confidentiality in all circumstances. Any decision to withhold information will be made in line with the relevant legislation, including the Freedom of Information Act and the associated public interest test. Automatic confidentiality disclaimers generated by IT systems will not be treated as confidentiality requests.

We will process your personal data in accordance with applicable data protection laws. For further information about how we handle personal data, please see our [Privacy Policy](#). The owners of Citizen Space, [Delib Ltd](#), will also have access to your personal data. Read [Delib's privacy notice](#) for information on how they use your personal data.

We will publish a summary of the responses received on GOV.UK. The summary may list the organisations that responded, but it will not include personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely,

Abi Seager
Chief Executive

The Veterinary Medicines Directorate