

Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP
Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
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26 October 2022

Dear Secretary of State

Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill

On behalf of the British Veterinary Association (BVA), I would like to offer our sincere congratulations to you on your appointment as Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

I am writing to urge the Government to deliver on its promised commitment to animal health and welfare, by ensuring the continuation of the crucial and long-awaited Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill through Parliament.

On behalf of more than 19,000 veterinary professionals, BVA has long campaigned for action on many of the areas addressed by the Bill, which are some of the most pressing animal health and welfare issues of our times. With this in mind, we are calling on the Government to ensure that the Bill continues to include these vital measures, such as those designed to tackle puppy smuggling, prohibit the import of dogs with cropped ears, review zoo standards, impose a ban on keeping primates as pets and introduce mandatory, reliable pre-import testing for dogs with unknown health statuses.

While we recognise that recent national events have rightly and understandably led to changes in the parliamentary programme in recent weeks, we are urging you not to let this important piece of legislation slip through the net as a result. The Bill is a golden opportunity to improve the health and welfare of billions of animals and it must continue its passage into law.


With this in mind, we are urging you to place this vital piece of legislation high on the agenda and we are calling for your support to ensure that the Bill fulfils its commitment to all of the areas highlighted above. Given its importance to animal health and welfare, I would welcome a meeting to discuss this further with you. I can be contacted at president@bva.co.uk or via Alison Ramsay, our Head of Policy and Public Affairs at alisonr@bva.co.uk.

Your sincerely



Malcolm Morley
President BVA

cc Professor Christine Middlemiss, Chief Veterinary Officer

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