



Rt Hon Mark Spencer MP
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Dear Minister

Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill

Thank you very much for your letter dated 5 April 2023, reference PO2023/05867/AD, regarding the Kept Animals Bill.

As you note, t to date is commendable, however, we are extremely concerned by the lack of clarity in your response around the progression of the Kept commitments, including cracking down on the illegal import of dogs and puppies and banning the keeping of primates as pets, and it vital that it becomes law.

Last year, 108,155 people signed a petition to bring the Bill back to Parliament, demonstrating the huge public support it has behind it. The significant cross-party support in place for the Bill was also demonstrated in the resulting debate on 5 December 2022. The Government confirmed in response that the Kept Animals Bill would continue its passage when parliamentary time allows. The lack of a similar commitment in your recent response, or a confirmed date for its return, combined with the reports circulating that the Bill will be split up, are extremely concerning.

The Kept Animals Bill in its current form will tackle puppy smuggling and livestock worrying, prohibit the import of dogs or cats with mutilations, including dogs with cropped ears, review zoo standards