

Rt Hon Dr Thérèse Coffey MP  
Secretary of State  
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs  
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9 February 2023

Dear Secretary of State

### **Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill**

On behalf of the British Veterinary Association and our specialist divisions listed below, we are 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.

Representing nearly 20,000 members, BVA has long campaigned for action on many of the areas addressed by the Bill, which are some of the most significant animal health and welfare issues. 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 and livestock worrying, prohibit the import of dogs or cats with mutilations, including dogs with cropped ears, review zoo standards and implement a robust and effective licensing system for all privately kept primates. Given their negative impact on animal health and welfare, addressing these issues is vitally important.

This Bill is a golden opportunity to improve the lives of millions of animals and it is essential that it continues its passage to become law. Nine months have now passed since its second reading in the House of Commons, and we are therefore urging you to prioritise this vital piece of legislation and set a date for its remaining stages.

Yours sincerely



Malcolm Morley  
BVA President

BVA Divisions:

Michael Park  
Association of Government Veterinarians

Charlotte Tobin-Williams  
Association of Veterinary Students

Monica Bando  
Association for Veterinary Teaching and Research Work

**British Veterinary Association**  
Patron: Her Majesty The Queen

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Charlotte Pace  
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Stuart Patterson  
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Nick Perkins  
Goat Veterinary Society

Ngaire Dennison  
Laboratory Animals Veterinary Association

Gemma Thwaites  
Pig Veterinary Society

David Wilson  
Sheep Veterinary Society

Michael Watts  
Society of Greyhound Veterinarians

Ryan Davis  
Society of Practising Veterinary Surgeons

Richard Casey  
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Mike Jessop  
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Kate Sharpe  
Yorkshire and the Humber Division

cc Professor Christine Middlemiss CB, CVO

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