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
Colin Mason
British Cattle Veterinary Association

David Rendle
British Equine Veterinary Association

Alison Speakman
British Small Animal Veterinary Association

James Whitmore
British Veterinary LGBT+

Charlotte Pace
British Veterinary Nursing Association

Richard Jackson
British Veterinary Poultry Association

Stuart Patterson
British Veterinary Zoological Society

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
Veterinary Management Group

Mike Jessop
Veterinary Public Health Association

Kate Sharpe
Yorkshire and the Humber Division

cc Professor Christine Middlemiss CB, CVO