

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

17<sup>th</sup> July 2017

*Dear Constituent,*

**RE: ANIMAL TESTING.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of animal testing.

Like you, I believe that animals should only be used when there is no practicable alternative and I welcome the support and funding for the development and dissemination of techniques that replace, reduce, and refine, the use of animals in research (the 3Rs).

However, the carefully regulated use of animals in scientific research remains a vital tool in improving the understanding of how biological systems work and in the development of safe new medicines, treatments and technologies.

Without animal testing, it is considered highly likely that a large number of potentially dangerous new medicines would be tested in healthy volunteers and patients in clinical trials. However, encouraging new cutting-edge approaches to science will ensure that standards of animal welfare are improved.

Advances in biomedical science and technologies are all providing new opportunities to reduce reliance on the use of animals in research. As part of this, a *Non-animal Technologies Road Map for the UK* has been produced, which offers an approach for the UK to develop, exploit and deploy new non-animal technologies for long-term economic and societal benefit.

The UK life science sector's *Concordat on Openness in Animal Research* was launched in 2014, and I welcome that it provides new opportunities for transparency and debate in this area. Ultimately, however, EU and UK law requires safety testing on animals before human trials for new medicines can begin and I believe animal research still plays an important role in providing vital safety information for potential new medicines.

I will continue to follow this issue with interest and support any improvements that can be made in animal welfare and animal testing.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

*Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**