

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

19th February 2021

Dear Constance,

RE: ANIMALS AS SENTIENT BEINGS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of animal sentience; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

As an animal lover myself, first and foremost I believe animals are sentient beings who can feel pain and suffering, and I would like to reassure you that strong action is being taken to reduce their risk of harm.

I am pleased that the Government is committed to further strengthening our world-leading animal welfare standards and I understand that my ministerial colleagues are in the process of refining proposals for the manifesto commitment on the introduction of laws on animal sentience to be delivered. I know that Ministers are still considering the best legislative vehicle to bring forward these reforms when parliamentary time allows and are engaging with interested organisations and other Government departments as necessary.

In the meantime, the Government's policies on animal welfare continue to be driven by its recognition that animals are sentient beings. I believe that this commitment to the protection of animal welfare is demonstrated by my ministerial colleagues' continued support for the *Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill*, which passed its second reading in the House of Commons recently.

Having left the EU, the UK has the opportunity to do even more. I was pleased to have been elected on a manifesto pledge to end excessively long journeys for slaughter and fattening, and a consultation process is now underway on proposals to deliver this commitment. Ministers will also be consulting on the commitment to implement the *Ivory Act* and consultations have already been carried out on the commitment to ban primates as pets, as well as on mandatory cat microchipping, which I look forward to seeing the outcomes of. I am also encouraged that this Government has committed to ban imports from trophy hunting of endangered animals.

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