

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

26<sup>th</sup> November 2021

*Jean Contrevent,*

**RE: ANIMAL TESTING.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding animal testing, and the debate that was held on the 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Although I was unable to attend the debate in person, I have read your comments on this with great interest.

I am proud that the UK has consistently led the way on animal welfare, and it is right that we cement our status as a global leader by continuing to raise the bar. I am pleased that the Government's first-of-its-kind 'Action Plan for Animal Welfare' committed to maintaining high standards of protection where procedures are undertaken on live animals for scientific or educational purposes.

Indeed, animal research still plays a role in providing vital safety information for potential new medicines. It is worth remembering that, as a result of findings from animal studies, a large number of potential new drugs never get as far as being tested in humans. Some aspects of the toxicological assessment of new medicines cannot be adequately assessed in humans, and animal data will be the only kind available.

Without animal testing it is highly likely that a large number of potentially dangerous new medicines would be tested in healthy volunteers and patients in clinical trials, and I know Ministers believe that this would be quite unacceptable. However, animals are only used when there are no suitable alternatives, and by encouraging new cutting-edge approaches to science we will ensure that standards of animal welfare are improved. I am opposed to animal tests where alternative approaches could be used.

I am assured, however, that animals are only used in research when there are no suitable alternatives, and any tests are carried out under controls that keep suffering to a minimum. This is known as the last-resort principle, which has been retained and strengthened in the new Environment Act and certainly, I am opposed to animal tests where alternative approaches could be used.

I hope this offers you some reassurance that the Government is deeply committed to maintaining the very highest standards of animal welfare in research.

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,*

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tom Pursglove'.

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