

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

13th May 2022

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jean Contrevent,

RE: ANIMAL WELFARE COMMITMENTS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of animal welfare; your comments upon which I have read with great interest. I have also made your views known directly to ministerial colleagues.

As an animal lover myself, I am proud that the UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and it is right that we continue to raise the bar.

I know that Ministers are committed to legislation to ban the import of hunting trophies from thousands of species. This will be one of the toughest bans in the world, and goes beyond the Government's manifesto commitment, meaning that the UK will be leading the way in protecting endangered animals and helping to strengthen and support long-term conservation. I understand that this will be brought forward as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Regarding foie gras, I understand that the production of force-fed foie gras raises welfare concerns. This practice is already banned in England and Wales under the *Animal Welfare Act 2006*. I understand that Ministers are now able to consider any further steps that could be taken in relation to foie gras that is produced overseas using force-feeding practices. The Government is working to build a clear evidence base to inform future decisions on the import or sale of foie gras.

Finally, I know that fur farming has been banned in the UK for twenty years and there are already restrictions on some skin and fur products which may never be legally imported into the UK. The Government's call for evidence to seek views and evidence on the current fur sector will be used to inform future decisions on the fur trade. I understand that Ministers are reviewing the evidence gathered and I look forward to reading the response when it is published.

To bring matters completely up-to-date, it should also be added that on Tuesday at the State Opening of Parliament, it was announced that the Government is to deliver an *Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill* during this parliamentary session - a further important set of legislative changes in this policy area.

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