

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

15th July 2023

Dear Anthony,

RE: DOG EAR CROPPING

Thank you for your recent correspondence about the cropping of dogs' ears. I have read your comments with interest.

I would like to assure you that the UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and the Government is fully committed to delivering its manifesto commitments on animal welfare.

The practice of non-exempted mutilations, such as cropping dogs' ears, is abhorrent and has rightly been banned in the UK for 15 years. The cropping of a dog's ears is an offence under the *Animal Welfare Act 2006*. Now that the *Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021* has come into force, anyone convicted of such an offence faces being sent to prison for up to five years, or receiving an unlimited fine, or both.

However, I am aware that the importation of dogs with non-exempted mutilations, such as cropped ears or docked tails, is still allowed under the current pet travel rules. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) ran a consultation on changes to the commercial and non-commercial movement of pets into Great Britain, which included a proposal to ban the import of dogs with cropped ears. DEFRA is carefully reviewing the feedback gathered from the consultation. I look forward to reading the Government's response in due course.

Turning to your broader concerns about the *Kept Animals Bill*, the Bill, introduced in June 2021, was designed to implement several Government ambitions for animal welfare, including banning the live export of animals, seeking to prevent pet theft, and new measures to tackle livestock worrying. I am aware that the Bill's multi-issue nature means that there has been considerable scope creep, and it risks going beyond the original commitments in the Conservative Manifesto on which I was elected and those set out in the action plan. Therefore, the Government will now be taking forward measures in the *Kept Animals Bill* individually during the remainder of the parliament.

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 PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE