

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

11th October 2023

Dear Constance,

RE: DOG EAR CROPPING

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

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*. Since the *Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Act 2021* came 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.

Finally, Ministers plan to take forward measures originally in the *Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill*, including those relating to puppy smuggling, individually through other means during the remainder of this parliament. I am aware that the Government would be supportive of legislating to ban the import of dogs with mutilations, such as cropped ears and docked tails, as a single-issue Bill when parliamentary time allows. I will certainly press Ministers on your views as to prioritising such legislation within the busy legislative programme.

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