



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

October 2019

*Dear Constituent,*

Thank you for contacting me about animal welfare.

The UK has some of the highest animal welfare standards in the world and it is right for us to cement our status as a global leader by continuing to raise the bar.

I recognise the strength of feeling among the public that all animals should be subject to the highest possible welfare standards.

The Prime Minister strongly believes animal welfare is a high priority for his government and I know that the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs agrees and is keen to set ambitious animal welfare goals, seeking to reward farmers for environmental stewardship and improving the health and welfare of animals.

There is no place in this country for animal cruelty. I want to make sure that those who abuse animals are met with the full force of the law. That is why a commitment has been made to increase the maximum custodial penalty for animal cruelty from six months' imprisonment to five years' imprisonment.

I am also pleased to report that a new law passed earlier this year will ban the use of wild animals in travelling circuses. The Government is also considering whether anything needs to be done to better protect primates as pets.

The Government has been clear it will not compromise the high quality of British food or agricultural standards in any free trading relationship and is committed to maintaining high standards on animal welfare and food safety after the UK leaves the EU.



The Animal and Plant Health Agency takes potential breaches of animal welfare legislation and codes very seriously and investigates all allegations. Where welfare regulations are breached, appropriate action will always be taken.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Chris".

**CHRIS HEATON-HARRIS MP  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR DAVENTRY**