

# MARY GLINDON MP

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR NORTH TYNESIDE

"I'm so proud to represent the amazing people of North Tyneside".



## ANIMAL WELFARE (KEPT ANIMALS) BILL

Thank you for contacting me about the Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill.

People want Britain to be a beacon for animal welfare. I believe in a vision where no animal is made to suffer unnecessary pain and degradation and where we continue to drive up standards and practice.

The Animal Welfare (Kept Animals) Bill underwent its Committee Stage scrutiny in November 2021. This Bill includes much of that for which the Opposition has long advocated, but I believe it needs strengthening.

I agree it is inhumane and wrong to keep primates as pets. The Bill does not deliver on promises made, as its licensing system allows for the continued breeding and selling of primates. I am also concerned local authorities will not have adequate power or resources to implement the system. The Opposition tabled an amendment at Committee Stage to introduce a full ban in the Bill, but disappointingly the Government voted this down.

I have long supported measures to ban live exports of animals for slaughter and fattening. In recent years we have still seen animals exported and I share welfare concerns about what many of those animals experience in being transported for a long time. It is worrying that there has been a rapid decline in numbers of local abattoirs in the UK, as this has consequences for distances travelled by animals for slaughter.

We need proper action on the issue of puppy smuggling. The Bill introduces a limit of five puppies and kittens per vehicle, but I think it should be three. Furthermore, I support increasing the minimum import age for puppies to six months and increased maximum penalties for those who illegally import dogs.

The cropping of dogs' ears is cruel and I want to see legislation that is both tighter and properly enforced. It is clearly wrong that it is legal to import such animals. The Government ran a consultation from 21 August to 16 October 2021 on changes to rules for the import of dogs, including cropping. I welcome this but I am concerned it has not brought forward measures quickly enough.

Thank you once again for contacting me. I will support efforts to improve the Bill as it goes through its parliamentary process

Yours sincerely,

Mary