

JEREMY QUIN MP
Member of Parliament for Horsham



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

6th September 2016

Dear Constituent,

RE: DOG MEAT DEBATE

Thank you for contacting me about the dog meat trade in East and Southeast Asia, which was debated in the House of Commons last year.

Although I view eating dog meat as abhorrent I recognise that there are different cultural viewpoints on this. However notwithstanding one's cultural viewpoint I am very concerned at what you say regarding the means of rearing and slaughtering the dogs concerned.

I therefore agree that it is appropriate that the Government continues to try to influence those countries. There have often been accusations against countries in Asia of cruel treatment towards animals, and the Government has made clear that there can be no place for cruel or inhumane practices anywhere.

The Foreign Office Minister, James Duddridge MP, vowed during a recent debate on this issue,

"We will continue to raise these important issues in the most effective way possible, which is not always through megaphone diplomacy, although sometimes speaking loudly is needed. Where it is needed, we are prepared to speak loudly."

I am glad to know that the Government is speaking on behalf of the British people on this issue.

I also warmly welcome the work that non-governmental organisations such as Animal Asia Foundation, the Humane Society International, the International Fund for Animal Welfare and the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals do in Asian countries to protect dogs' welfare.

An important part of the battle is to convince people to care about animal welfare and change their own behaviour. Thanks in large measure to these organisations' activism as well as the British Government's consistent influence, dog meat consumption is, as you know, declining in several countries across the region, especially among young people.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeremy Quin'.