

I am writing as your constituent to ask you to support the Animal Sentience Bill, which will have its second reading in the House of Commons on 18 January.

As someone who loves animals, I know that they are sentient – meaning that they can experience emotions such as joy, pleasure, pain and fear. This has been repeatedly proven to be the case by numerous scientific reports, including examples of [elephants](#) showing empathy, awareness of death in [primates](#) and even [pigs](#) enjoying computer games.

UK law is currently out of step with this scientific consensus. Whilst Ministers were bound to recognise animal sentience when we were members of the European Union, this fell out of our law in January 2021.

With the support of all major parties, the Government has pledged to remedy this through the introduction of the Animal Welfare (Sentience) Bill. The Bill recognises the sentience of animals and establishes a new committee to scrutinise Government policy to consider whether policies will have an adverse impact on the welfare of animals as sentient beings.

I support these necessary measures to enshrine sentience in UK law. Please will you speak in support of animal sentience during the second reading debate and vote in favour of the Sentience Bill?

The bill is supported by a group of over 50 animal welfare charities, known as the [Better Deal for Animals](#) coalition. The coalition will be holding a special briefing session for MPs on the bill on the morning of 18 January – you can register to attend by emailing Matt Browne of Wildlife & Countryside Link on matt@wcl.org.uk

New legislation to recognise animal sentience in UK law was contained in the 2019 Manifestos of every major party. I hope that the House of Commons can come together on this issue and show that the UK truly is a nation of animal lovers.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.