

Dear Member of Parliament,

I am writing as your constituent to ask you to support calls for a comprehensive review of the regulations surrounding the trade in and keeping of wild animals as pets in the UK.

The Born Free Foundation's report, 'The Exotic Pet-demic: UK's Ticking Timebomb Exposed' (September 2021), in collaboration with the RSPCA has highlighted the increasing importation, trade and keeping of wild animals in the UK. Data also released by the Born Free Foundation (2023) relating to the private keeping of Dangerous Wild Animals across Britain, and the two-part ITV documentary, 'Britain's Tiger Kings - On the Trail with Ross Kemp' (2021), have further highlighted this growing problem.

The vast majority of wild species are clearly not suited to live in captivity in people's homes or back gardens. The trade in and keeping of wild animals as 'pets' can cause serious levels of animal suffering, while putting the health and safety of people and other animals at risk. In some cases, rare species are taken from the wild to be traded as pets, putting wild populations under increased pressure. When captive wild animals escape or are deliberately released, they can also cause problems for our indigenous wildlife and the wider environment, and may end up being killed.

Please support Born Free's call for reform of the regulations concerning the keeping of wild animals as exotic pets and ask the Secretary of State at DEFRA to make provisions for parliamentary action to address this issue.

Thank you for your support.

*(Add your name here, and any contact details, if you wish).*