



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

January 2020

Dear Constituent,

A Response to the Animal Cruelty Sentencing Campaign

Thank you for contacting me about animal cruelty sentencing in Scotland.

I understand your concerns on this issue and I agree that 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.

Unfortunately, it appears Scotland is falling behind when it comes to the protection of animals. With among the lowest animal cruelty sentences in Europe, there is very little deterrent. I believe Scotland must at least match the five-year maximum term being legislated for in England.

After my colleagues in the Scottish Parliament warned they would use the opposition majority to change legislation, the Scottish Government announced a consultation on animal welfare. The public response to this consultation demonstrated overwhelming support for an increase in the maximum sentence for animal cruelty offences and, according to the Scottish Government, will be taken into account for future legislation.

My MSP colleagues have worked tirelessly to promote animal welfare issues such as: the better protection for police dogs and other service animals, known as Finn's Law; the improvement of pet shops licencing; and the compulsory use of CCTV in abattoirs. I am pleased that the Scottish Government has now agreed to implement these proposals, which I truly hope will be delivered.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alister Jack".

The Rt. Hon. Alister Jack MP
Dumfries and Galloway constituency.