

Alok Sharma, MP for Reading West

6th September 2016

Dear Constituents,

Thank you for your recent email regarding dog meat in East and Southeast Asia.

Like you, and as a dog owner, I view the trade and consumption of dog meat with abhorrence, particularly where it involves cruelty to animals.

The dog meat industry in Asia is often accused of poor treatment of animals during slaughter and this is clearly unacceptable. The Government takes animal cruelty extremely seriously and is committed to improving animal welfare standards globally, not just in the UK. There can be no place for cruel and inhumane practices anywhere in the modern world.

It is important, however, to remember that in some parts of the world dog meat has been a traditional food for centuries. In a small number of countries, its sale and consumption are legal and it is still eaten today. Nevertheless, the Government is prepared to challenge cultural norms and it will continue to try to influence these countries in the most effective way possible.

I can confirm that I will be responding, as the Minister for Asia and the Pacific, to the Westminster Hall debate on this issue on 12th September.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me about this important issue.

Yours sincerely,



Alok Sharma MP

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