

Written Evidence submitted by World Dog Alliance (WDA)(AAB0002)

The World Dog Alliance (WDA) is an animal welfare organisation based in Hong Kong, which is dedicated into eradicating dog meat consumption worldwide. Since 2019, the WDA has been campaigning in the UK for this cause, including a call on a domestic ban on dog meat consumption and the promotion of International Agreement to Prohibit the Eating of Dogs and Cats.

The UK is a nation of animal lovers. Whilst the WDA appreciates the Government's intention to draft the Animal Abroad Bill, we would like to call upon the Government to join the International Agreement to Prohibit the Eating of Dogs and Cats.

The WDA believes that the UK could bring influences to the rest of world, especially the Asian nations, in the field of animal welfare. In 2018, the WDA held a Parliamentary petition to call for an end to dog meat trade in South Korea, which received over 100,000 signatures from UK citizens. With the diplomatic pressure from the UK, South Korea finally closed its largest dog meat market ahead of the Winter Olympics 2018.

The WDA is currently promoting the International Agreement to Prohibit the Eating of Dogs and Cats. The International Agreement has gained support from lawmakers across the globe. On 2 March 2020, 67 cross-party MPs wrote to Prime Minister to urge him to join the International Agreement. In February 2020, 30 bipartisan Congressmen wrote to then President Donald Trump for the same cause. A similar letter was written by 34 lawmakers in Japan, which was sent to their Prime Minister later in 2020. In June 2021, 4 Norwegian MPs wrote to their Prime Minister to sign off the International Agreement. For further information, please refer to the WDA's website. (<https://www.worlddogalliance.org/>)

The aim of the International Agreement to Prohibit the Eating of Dogs and Cats is to set up a legal framework for all nations to eradicate dog and cat meat. If the UK were to influence other countries in the field of animal welfare, the International Agreement is a good option to cement the UK as the leader of animal welfare.

August 2021