*DRAFT template letter to MPs on the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill:*

* *Please adapt this letter and make it as personal as possible*
* *Find details of your MP at* [*www.writetothem.com*](http://www.writetothem.com)
* *Member resource on* [*Engaging with your MP*](https://mybva.bva.co.uk/my-member-resources/engaging-with-your-mp.html?_fr=dd25d649)

[Insert address]

[insert date]

Dear [insert name of MP]

As a veterinary professional and resident in your constituency of [insert constituency], I am urging you, as my MP, to support the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill as it progresses through the House of Commons.

This crucial piece of legislation will help to crack down on illegal smuggling of pets into Great Britain, sometimes conducted by criminal gangs who dupe new owners into buying sick or poorly socialised pets. This new legislation reduces the number of animals that can travel under pet travel rules, introducing new powers to enable the government to bring in restrictions such as increasing the minimum age that puppies can enter the country.

These powers will also help to prevent diseases such as *Brucella canis* from being imported, and enable the government to bring in measures to ban the import of dogs with cropped ears, closing the loophole which currently enables this painful, unnecessary mutilation to continue illegally in the UK.

[*Add text here about your personal experiences in relation to the above i.e. why these measures are needed. This will be especially powerful if you can link that to the MPs constituency to make it more relevant to them.*]

This Private Members’ Bill is sponsored by fellow vet and MP Danny Chambers. The measures it contains have widespread support from animal welfare and veterinary groups, and I was pleased to see received cross-party backing as it passed it its second reading on Friday 29 November. It must now be supported to progress through the remaining stages.

Its passage into law is wanted by many different groups, including vets, animal welfare charities, parliamentarians and the general public. Previous attempts to introduce similar legislation received cross-party support, but due to time constraints, have disappointingly failed to become law.

I ask you to support this Bill at every opportunity, and to urge the Government to deliver on its promised commitments to animal health and welfare by ensuring this important piece of legislation finally becomes law.

Yours sincerely

[insert name]