



HE Ambassador Liu Xiaoming
Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the U.K
49-51 Portland Place
London
W1B 1JL

Giles Watling MP & Henry Smith MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

10th August 2019

Dear Ambassador Liu,

In our capacities as officers of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Animal Welfare (APGAW), we write to acknowledge and welcome recent correspondence from your embassy regarding China's willingness to make new contributions to animal protection, including targeted actions on the dog meat trade.

By way of introduction, the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare, established in 1990, is made up of more than 200 Members of Parliament alongside associate organisations and individuals with an interest and expertise in animal welfare, including veterinarians and scientists. The aim of APGAW is to promote and further the cause of animal welfare by all means available to the Parliaments at Westminster and in Europe, mainly through the development of effective wide-ranging legislation. Information about some of our current focal topics is available on our website <https://apgaw.org/about-apgaw/what-we-do/>.

In the email sent on 25th June to the UK Director of Humane Society International, Claire Bass, your Press and Public Affairs Section signalled China's readiness to work with the international community on animal welfare improvements. In this regard, we of course warmly commend China's recent extremely important ban on ivory trade. Additionally, on the topic of dogs and the dog meat trade, we are encouraged to hear that relevant Chinese government departments are taking actions to discourage the inhumane killing and consumption of dogs. APGAW has had considerable involvement in the welfare of dogs kept as companion animals in the UK, which has led to consideration over the welfare of dogs overseas, and the dog meat trade being an area of particular concern to many APGAW members, as well as the British public at large. We would be very pleased to understand more about the challenges faced by the Chinese authorities in tackling the illegal aspects of the dog meat trade, how these are being overcome, and whether we might be able to offer any assistance from the UK in terms of our experience of managing stray animals, their welfare, and associated disease control. Therefore, we feel it would be very beneficial to meet to discuss China's developments on more general animal welfare laws, and to share the UK's own developments on a new law recognising animal sentience as well as how a model like APGAW could work in China.

We are pleased to commend the work of Humane Society International (HSI) on the dog meat trade, and would welcome their attendance at such a meeting with you. We understand from HSI that this charity is licensed to

operate in China under a temporary activity authorisation¹, and works in partnership with national animal organisations on topics including animal care and rescue, animal related research, and animal protection education. It would be pleasing to forge greater ties between animal charities and experts in the UK and their Chinese counterparts, to promote collaborative developments in animal welfare in policy and practice, and APGAW would be delighted to be a part of facilitating this.

I hope that we will have the opportunity to meet in person to discuss the above points, and look forward to hearing from you. We are contactable through our Parliamentary offices by writing to Giles Watling/Henry Smith MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, email at admin@apgaw.org or phone on +44 (0)776 4247098.

Yours sincerely

Giles Watling MP
Vice Chairman of APGAW

Henry Smith MP
Co-Chairman of APGAW

¹ Under the People's Republic of China Law on the Management of Foreign Non-Governmental Organisations' Activities within Mainland China