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Imports of Dog and Cat Fur – EDM 345

Thank you for contacting me about the fur trade.

As a Government whip, I cannot vote on EDMs.

I support the highest standards of animal welfare so I am pleased to note that the importation of fur products is tightly regulated. It is illegal to import furs derived from cats or dogs, or products made from them; in addition the fur and skin of endangered animals or fish cannot be imported without a valid permit.

Meanwhile, under European regulations, it is prohibited to import furs or fur products from 13 wild animal species originating in countries where they are caught by leg-hold traps, or trapping methods that do not meet international standards of humane trapping. Strict rules are also in place in the European Union to ensure that animals kept for fur production are kept, trapped and slaughtered humanely.

Once the UK has withdrawn from the EU, it will be for the Government and Parliament to consider future policies, taking into account the outcome of exit negotiations. I am certainly not aware of any intention to lessen the existing standards, and will be interested to monitor the position as it develops.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me.

Kind regards,

Craig Whittaker MP