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Breeding of Beagles for Scientific Research:

The unnecessary and prolonged suffering of defenceless animals has no place in a civilised society. I and other Opposition MPs stand in defence and protection of animal rights. All animals deserve protection.

I want to see the Government undertake a comprehensive review of animal testing with a view to improving practice, limiting animal suffering and increasing transparency, as well as having a long-term objective of phasing out animal testing entirely. Additionally, I would like to see it invest more in non-animal technologies, which are becoming more sophisticated by the year. They are clearly the future.

This country should lead the world with high animal welfare standards. No animal should suffer unnecessary pain and degradation. Some argue that research on animals is a necessary evil and a key tool for scientific process, but as times, science and views all change so too must our behaviour. I do not believe it is a binary decision to be for animal welfare or human welfare as these can and should live alongside each other.

It is welcome that animal testing practices have improved and advanced over recent years, but a recent increase in testing on some animals is worrying. I am also concerned about the lack of transparency on animal testing project licence applications, as well as the continued permissibility of 'severe suffering' under UK law. In 2021, thousands of animals were involved in procedures judged as 'severe' or 'non-recovery' in terms of harm caused.

I believe current law which governs animal testing regulations, the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 is out of date for modern animal welfare standards and is not properly enforced.

I also want to see the Government remain firm in the UK's commitments during trade negotiations, to avoid becoming more reliant on ingredients and chemicals that have been tested on animals abroad. The offshoring of animal cruelty and poor standards is unacceptable.

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