



3rd December 2025

The Rt Hon Emma Reynolds MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing as cross-party Parliamentarians to request that the forthcoming Animal Welfare Strategy includes a time-bound phase-out of all confinement cages and crates in farming, alongside a properly funded package of support for farmers to transition away from this practice.

Every year, millions of farmed animals in the UK endure severe and prolonged suffering confined to crates and cages. Around [8 million](#) laying hens are kept in cages no larger than an A4 sheet of paper, unable to forage, feel sunlight, or fully stretch their wings. In addition, around 200,000 mother pigs spend nearly a [quarter of their adult lives](#) in farrowing crates, unable to turn around for weeks at a time and forced to nurse their piglets through metal bars.

The UK claims to have some of the highest farmed animal welfare standards. But despite progress in moving towards cage-free systems, millions of animals are still suffering daily, [leaving us behind a number of European countries](#). Cages for hens are either banned or being phased-out in Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, France, Slovenia and Slovakia. Farrowing crates for sows are banned in Sweden, Switzerland and Norway.

In the UK there is clear and growing public, professional and industry-level support for ending this cruel and unnecessary practice. Research from Humane World for Animals [shows](#) that over two-thirds of the public oppose the use of farrowing crates. The British Veterinary Association [reports](#) that 75% of vets are concerned about the welfare impacts of these crates. And many farmers are ready and willing to transition away from this practice, given appropriate support to do so.

This Government was elected on a mandate to deliver the most ambitious animal welfare improvements in a generation. To deliver on this promise, we call on you to ensure the forthcoming Animal Welfare Strategy includes:

- A time-bound phase-out of farrowing crates for sows, individual calf pens, and all cages used for birds, including hens, partridges, pheasants and quail.
- A comprehensive, funded package of support to help farmers transition to higher-welfare systems.

- Adequate resourcing for enforcement bodies and enhanced enforcement powers.
- Measures to ensure Parliament can properly track and scrutinise progress on the phase-out, and the Strategy more broadly.

We should be grateful for your response to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Ramsay MP
Irene Campbell MP

Fleur Anderson MP
Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle
Siân Berry MP
Bob Blackman MP
Olivia Blake MP
Richard Burgon MP
Ellie Chowns MP
Jeremy Corbyn MP
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Dame Caroline Dinenage MP
Neil Duncan-Jordan MP
Sorcha Eastwood MP
Sarah Edwards MP
Andrew George MP
Lord Goldsmith of Richmond Park
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Terry Jermy MP
Baroness Jones of Moulsecoomb
Clive Lewis MP
Kerry McCarthy MP
John McDonnell MP
Helen Maguire MP
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