

## FROM THE OFFICE OF CHRIS LODER MP

Member of Parliament for West Dorset

### THE ANIMAL WELFARE (SENTENCING) BILL

Chris Loder MP says Springer Spaniel 'Poppy' inspired new Bill in Parliament

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## PLEASE SUPPORT MY BILL



 THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
9.30am Friday 23 October

**CHRIS LODER MP**  
Getting tough  
on animal cruelty

**PLEASE SUPPORT MY BILL**  
The Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill  
#AnimalsDeserveJustice  
[www.chrisloder.co.uk/animalwelfare](http://www.chrisloder.co.uk/animalwelfare)

- **West Dorset MP Chris Loder is determined to get tougher sentences for animal cruelty passed into law**
- **The second reading of the MP's Private Members' Bill takes place in Parliament at 9.30am on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**

Chris Loder, the MP for West Dorset, introduced his Animal Welfare (Sentencing) Bill in the House of Commons on 5th February 2020. The Private Members' Bill makes provision for the maximum penalty for certain offences under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to be increased from six months to up to five years.

The MP is determined that the second reading of his Bill, at **9.30am on Friday 23rd October 2020**, will pass through Parliament and that tougher sentencing for animal cruelty will be one step closer.

The MP, who is a fourth generation farmer's son and an advocate of high animal welfare, says his own dog Poppy, a Springer Spaniel, is his inspiration for the Bill. She was cruelly abandoned at the roadside in West Dorset but is now the Loder family's much-loved farm dog. Poppy was in a very poorly condition when the MP found her and needed emergency veterinary care for long-term issues that the previous owner should have addressed.

Chris Loder says: "Despite legislation being in place, I was shocked to learn that in 2019 the RSPCA investigated more than 130,700 complaints of cruelty against animals and secured 1,678 convictions. I believe more stringent sentencing will act as a greater deterrent against animal cruelty. We are renowned as a nation of animal lovers and I believe Britain can take now the lead on global standards for animal welfare. I look forward to my Bill contributing to raising these standards."

The MP has wide support from cross-party MPs, Defra, the RSPCA and other leading animal welfare organisations.

**For further information or images and requests for interviews, please contact:**

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