

PRIME MINISTER

Robin Corbett writes to ask you to take a sympathetic attitude to the proposed Council for Animal Welfare. As an MP in the last Parliament, he was a leading figure in the pressure that led to the proposal.

The Home Secretary and the Minister for Agriculture have this matter under careful review. I understand that they will not propose to go ahead with the Council but will aim to obtain the same results without creating a new quango. They will be consulting you before taking a firm decision but, in the meantime, should we ask Mr. Whitelaw to reply to this letter on your behalf?

MAD *Yes please*
mf

15 June 1979



FAWCE

Farm Animal Welfare Co-ordinating Executive

the body which links caring societies

Chairman: Robin Corbett

Hon. Secretary: ~~David Luetchford~~

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R15/0

Dear Prime Minister,

6 June 1978

You may remember that your predecessor was kind enough to tell me in a Written Reply on March 22 (Hansard Col. 718) of that government's decision to establish a Council for Animal Welfare. Its purpose was to review existing legislation and recommend legislative and other action on any animal welfare matter and to propose improvements in the existing advisory machinery.

This announcement was widely welcomed on all sides of the House, by this committee, the RSPCA and all of the other caring societies and did represent a significant development in official attitudes over animal protection.

I write to ask whether you will now give sympathetic consideration to this proposed Council, which is a logical extension to the welcome section in the Conservative election manifesto on animal welfare. I appreciate that it does go somewhat further than that, but do want to stress how widespread and sustained is public concern over animal protection in all of its aspects.

The establishment of such a Council, or some similar body, with an independent chairman and having a majority of animal welfare interests on it, would do much to show that your Government acknowledges this concern and believes it right to respond in this way to it.

I do hope, on behalf of FAWCE and the other societies, that you will now feel able to come to the conclusion that it would be right to go ahead on this.

Thank you for your consideration.

yours sincerely

Robin Corbett
Chairman.

Rt. Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP,
Prime Minister.