



The Rt Hon George Eustice MP
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

25 February 2022

Via e-mail: george.eustice.mp@parliament.uk

Dear Minister:

I am writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and our 1.3 million members and supporters regarding the current tragedies facing the people of Ukraine and their companion animals as they attempt to flee war. Reports suggest that these traumatised people are faced with the impossible decision of leaving behind beloved animals due to the protocol for non-commercial movement of companion animals into the EU. Similarly, the UK has strict laws on the import of animals from overseas, and we urge you to relax them to allow Ukrainian refugees to travel here with their animal companions.

Border countries including Hungary, Poland, and Romania are loosening their restrictions to make the process of admitting companion animals less bureaucratic, and we urge the UK to follow suit.

Considering the unprecedented circumstances, please suspend the UK regulations to allow Ukrainians refuge here with their animal companions and urge your EU counterparts to temporarily relax Regulation (EU) No. 576/2013 to allow fleeing people to take their companions and other animals in need from Ukraine to all EU member states.

Please cooperate with the EU member states on this matter to ensure there are enough quarantine facilities in the EU and the UK to accommodate animals without the necessary rabies vaccinations and provide them with veterinary treatment if necessary. A controlled entry of non-vaccinated or non-microchipped animals into the EU and the UK will ensure the appropriate handling of rescued animals, including animals from rabies risk areas.

Many animals in Ukraine, including dogs and cats, are neither vaccinated nor microchipped, meaning they do not have the necessary documents to leave the country with their guardians or other compassionate people and enter the UK or EU member states. A rabies antibody test by blood analysis, which would be necessary to have these animals cross the borders in line with all legal regulations, can take days or even weeks. Many vulnerable animals are therefore being left behind without their guardians or other caring people, which will lead to terrifying and prolonged deaths.

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- PETA Asia
- PETA India
- PETA France
- PETA Australia
- PETA Germany
- PETA Netherlands

Please stand up for animals in these exceptional circumstances and ensure that they can be brought to safety. They must be offered refuge, too, and are vital in giving comfort to fleeing, traumatised people in these horrible times. The people of the UK would be devastated if forced to abandon their beloved animal family members, and we must ensure Ukrainians do not have to make this devastating choice either.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mimi Bekhechi', enclosed within a hand-drawn oval.

Mimi Bekhechi
Vice President