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Hi,

Earlier this week I wrote to ex Prime Minister Gordon Brown who made a pledge on behalf of the three main U.K. political party leaders to devolve more powers from London to Scotland. I also wrote to Lord Smith of Kelvin whom the present Prime Minister has appointed to oversee the transfer of further decision making from Westminster to Holyrood.

I have asked Gordon Brown and Lord Kelvin to include control of scientific procedures on animals in the transfer of power from the U.K. Government to the Scottish Government.

You can read our appeal to Lord Kelvin on the news section of our website (might be another few hours before that is posted!): <http://www.animalconcern.org/news.htm>

Last year over 600,000 experiments were carried out on living animals in Scottish laboratories. A wide variety of animals from rodents to primates were subjected to procedures which very likely included poisoning, surgery, deprivation and deliberate infliction of pain. Many animals would have been used in procedures involving genetic modification and cloning. Cloning routinely results in the birth of mutated and disfigured animals which soon die or have to be put down.

I cannot tell you much more because the use of animals in experiments is conducted under the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act of 1986 which does more to protect the identity and location of laboratories and researchers involved in animal research than it does to protect animals used and killed in research. Currently the 1986 Act is policed by the Home Office and a handful of inspectors (I think there might be two for the whole of Scotland) who have powers to enter laboratories.

To change the law to gain increased restrictions on the type of experiments allowed, improved conditions for the animals used and more openness about where the research takes place we currently have to persuade 650 MPs at Westminster. If control of vivisection is devolved we have to persuade just 129 MSPs of the need for change. Please contact your MP and your Constituency and Regional MSPs and ask them to move and/or support a call to have control over scientific procedures on live animals transferred from Westminster to Holyrood.

Go to these links and pop in your postcode to get the e-mail links to your

MP: <http://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

MSPs: <http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/32438.aspx>

Ask your MSPs and MP if they will support our call for the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act to be devolved and let me know what they say.

If you are a supporter of other animal welfare/rights groups please ask them to also contact Lord Kelvin and join the call to devolve the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act.

If you have any other contacts you think might support this call please forward this e-mail to them.

Cheers 4 now, John

PS: It's World Animal Day this Saturday, 4th October. It will be marked by marches all over the world to protest at the massacre of elephants, rhinos and lions. In the UK there will be events in EDINBURGH, BIRMINGHAM and LONDON. This link will give you more info and links to your nearest march:

<http://actionforelephantsuk.org/global-march-elephants-rhinos-4-october-2014/>

I'm afraid I'll be marking World Day for Animals by taking part in several committee meetings!