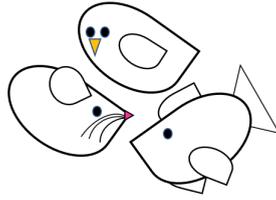


**ANIMAL CONCERN**



**LEGISLATE TO LIBERATE**

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**Established in 1988 as Animal Concern (Scotland) Limited we changed our name to Animal Concern in 1992 as several of our campaigns were international.**

**It incorporates the Scottish Anti-Vivisection Society which was founded in 1876.**

Mairi Gougeon MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Dear Minister,

I write concerning the proposed Scottish Veterinary Service which will take over the duties of the APHA in Scotland.

This would be a major step forward for animal welfare but only if the SVS is fully resourced and empowered to properly police all sectors of animal agriculture in Scotland. That would mean providing the SVS with its own transport to conduct unannounced inspections of salmon farms.

At the moment I understand that any (if any) visits to salmon farms are facilitated using boats operated by the owners of the farms. Knowing a visitor is expected I'm sure that like anyone preparing for a guest, the farms make sure everything is spic and span before arrival.

It would also be sensible to request that responsibility for the welfare of animals in research laboratories in Scotland be devolved from the Home Office to the Scottish Government and the SVS. Can you tell me if the Scottish Government is considering seeking transfer of this responsibility?

I'd be grateful if you would tell me who is on the Board which is meeting for the first time later this month to decide on the format and future workings of the SVS. If necessary please regard this as a request under Freedom of Information legislation.

Yours sincerely,

John F. Robins,  
For Animal Concern