

# Animal Welfare Standards

## Volume 777: debated on Thursday 18 December 2025

Dec 18 2025

[Download text](#)

[Previous debate](#) [Next debate](#)

House of Commons data for 15 December 2025 is currently being processed. Data for this date may temporarily appear incomplete.

[Adrian Ramsay](#)

[\(Waveney Valley\) \(Green\)](#)

[Share this specific contribution](#)

12. What steps her Department is taking to help support farmers to adopt higher animal welfare standards. (907025)

[The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs](#)

[\(Emma Reynolds\)](#)

[Share this specific contribution](#)

Our animal health and welfare pathway scheme provides funding to farmers to improve the health and welfare of their livestock. It also supports veterinary visits to discuss health and welfare, and it provides capital grants for equipment and infrastructure to improve animal welfare. I am pleased that 7,000 farmers have already signed up to receive funding.

[Adrian Ramsay](#)

[Share this specific contribution](#)

Merry Christmas, Mr Speaker.

The Animal Law Foundation's report "The Enforcement Problem" shows that only around 2.2% of farmers were inspected in 2024 and only around half of complaints about farmed animal welfare led to any inspection. Even when non-compliance is detected by local authorities, only 2% of cases lead to prosecution. Allowing those breaches is terrible for animals and terrible for the farmers who do comply with the rules. How will the forthcoming animal welfare strategy ensure that credible complaints are consistently investigated, and that enforcement bodies have the resources and duties needed to act when animal welfare concerns are raised?

[Emma Reynolds](#)

[Share this specific contribution](#)

I can confirm that further details on this issue will be set out in the animal welfare strategy, and I thank the hon. Gentleman for raising it. He is right that we need to have a closer eye on enforcement and work more closely with councils to ensure that there is better enforcement.

© UK Parliament 2025

[Cookie policy](#) [Cookie settings](#) [Privacy notice](#) [Accessibility statement](#)