

Richard Burden MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS, LONDON, SW1A 0AA

HORSE TETHERING

Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to contact me about the #BreakTheChain campaign against horse tethering.

Tethering can cause harm to horses in a number of different ways, and is not a long-term solution for animal management. The practice limits a horse's ability to socialise with other horses and to exhibit its normal behaviour of running and grazing freely. Despite these risks, tethering remains an all-too-common practice, with the RSPCA receiving over 5,000 complaints relating to tethered horses in 2018 alone.

As someone who cares about animal welfare, I am proud of Labour's record. A Labour Government will appoint an Animal Welfare Commissioner to guarantee the consistent enforcement of animal welfare requirements as set out in the Animal Welfare Act (2006). This Commissioner will oversee the delivery of the duty of care that is enshrined in the Animal Welfare Act, ensuring that practices such as tethering are not permitted to continue where they infringe on an animal's fundamental welfare. In the meantime, I will continue work with my fellow Labour MPs to hold the Government accountable for the lack of enforcement of animal welfare policies.

Thanks again to everyone who has contacted me on this issue.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Burden'.

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