

Commissioner David Byrne  
Rue de Loi - B-1049  
12th April 2002

Dear Mr Byrne

**Re: Community Wide Ban on the Import of Dog and Cat Fur**

I have received a number of letters from my constituency calling for the ban on the import of dog and cat fur at community level. As Vice-President of the Parliament's Animal Welfare Intergroup I feel very strongly about this matter and call for an immediate ban.

I am in absolute agreement with the declaration on the trade in dog and cat furs by the European Parliament which is:

- concerned at the fact that, in recent years, the trade in dog and cat furs has steadily increased, especially in the Asian countries
- whereas dogs and cats are not just domestic animals but also have close ties with human beings and are in many cases useful to people with disabilities
- concerned about the fact that consumers are not always aware that the products they buy are made from these furs
- whereas the United States has already prohibited imports of dog and cat fur products
- commending the Italian government, which was the first European government to ban the imports and marketing of this type of fur

calls on the European Union

- to prohibit all forms of marketing or importing of such furs
- to introduce legislation to protect these animals
- to adopt a plan for the provision of impounding and car services by public bodies with a view to remedy the protection of stray animals

The European Parliament Written Declaration concerning this issue will close for signature on the 16th April.

I trust you will do all you can to support the ban on the import of cat and dog fur at community level.

Yours sincerely

Dr Caroline Lucas MEP