



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Helen Grant MP  
Member of Parliament for Maidstone & The Weald  
House of Commons  
Westminster  
London SW1A 0AA

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Our Ref: HG20053/BD

To whom it may concern

**Re: The critical nature of ‘pet companionship’ for many homeless people**

Following the tragic death of a gentleman called John Chadwick, his local authority, Maidstone Borough Council, adopted a very special and compassionate policy to avoid homeless people being separated from their pets when provided with temporary accommodation. This letter is seeking your support to consider adopting such a policy in your locality too.

The policy emerged after John took his own life in 2017. A close friend, a lady called Dee Bonett, recognised that separation from his long-standing companions – his cat Gizmo, and two dogs Theo and Tinkerbell – meant John could no longer face living without them. Dee took it upon herself to try and prevent such an avoidable tragedy befalling others in John’s situation. Her successful campaign resulted in MBC’s new policy for emergency accommodation, and also ensures pet keeping tenants will no longer be deemed to have made themselves intentionally homeless, if they refuse the first home offered if this does not permit pets.

During the course of her work Dee has recognised that there are people like John in many areas across our country. I am therefore pleased and proud to introduce her to you, in order to perhaps open a conversation about the issue in your area.

As Dee and John Chadwick’s local MP, I have supported Dee throughout her campaign and fully commend the efforts she has made, and the outcome that has been achieved. **The John Chadwick Pet Policy** will save lives and provide vital comfort for homeless people who have pet companions, looking to re-build a life and a future. I do hope you will embrace my introduction and that you will take the time to engage with Dee in considering this important policy.

Yours faithfully

HELEN GRANT MP