

Rebecca Evans AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-546  
Ein cyf/Our ref RE/00290/15

William Powell AM  
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales  
Chair Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

5 May 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 09 April, regarding a petition from Jeannii Colbourne about the rearing of animals in unnatural conditions.

The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework published at Royal Welsh Agricultural Show in July 2014 sets out our vision for continuing and lasting improvements in standards of animal health and welfare for kept animals. The overarching objectives of the Framework are to build on the progress made in Wales to raise standards of animal health and welfare by:

- using an approach focussed on delivery to achieve shared outcomes
- working in partnership to develop a robust monitoring and evaluation framework, underpinned by a strong evidence base.

To help do that, there are two main delivery authorities responsible for conducting animal health and welfare inspections on farms. Local Authorities are responsible for enforcing animal welfare provisions in Wales and the Animal and Plant Health Agency is responsible for providing professional veterinary advice on the health and welfare of animals.

The Welsh Government's Rural Inspectorate also carries out on farm inspections to monitor compliance with the Welsh Government Rural Development Programme under the single farm payment scheme.

The Welsh Government has been at the forefront of implementing higher animal welfare standards domestically, and has also been active on a European and International level in trying to improve standards.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

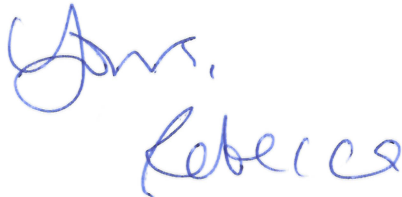
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In response to increasing demands for farm animal products, traditional methods of livestock production have changed to increase productivity. However, in doing so farmers are required to provide for the 5 needs of animals included in the Welfare of Farmed Animals (Wales) Regulations 2007. These are:

- Need for a suitable environment
- Need for a suitable diet
- Need to be able to exhibit normal behaviour patterns
- Any need it has to be housed with, or apart from, other animals, and
- Need to be protected from pain suffering, injury and disease.

These needs apply equally to sheep farmed on extensive open grassland and to cattle or poultry in all year round housing.

The Welsh Government continues to invest in research and development programmes that review farming methods and husbandry systems.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rebecca Evans', with the name 'Rebecca' written below it.

**Rebecca Evans AC / AM**  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Ffermio a Bwyd  
Deputy Minister for Farming and Food