

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-743
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/00218/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

6 February 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 25 January on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding petition P-05-743 on ending of the exotic pet trade in Wales.

The Scottish Government has advised they have completed their desk-top review on exotic pets and it is being considered alongside other matters relating to the breeding, sale and keeping of pets as part of their wider pet welfare review.

Defra is in the process of finalising draft animal welfare regulations, which cover the licensing of activities involving animals, including pet sales in England. The regulations will outline the updated animal welfare standards licence holders need to comply with and will also include a number of specific provisions aimed at improving the care of exotic pets.

We are developing a licensing scheme for mobile animal exhibits in Wales, many of which include exotic species. Officials are also updating a number of our animal welfare codes of practice and are working with RSPCA Cymru and Animal Welfare Network Wales to discuss priorities for revising or creating new species-specific welfare codes where the greatest need is identified.

There is a duty on all animal keepers to protect the welfare of animals in their care, whether on a permanent or temporary basis, in the Animal Welfare Act 2006. The codes explain what a person needs to do to meet the standards of care the law requires. Essentially, if you own or are responsible for an animal you have a legal duty to take reasonable steps to ensure its welfare needs are met. Better information sharing before point of sale is also essential to ensure responsible decisions are made when considering ownership of an animal.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

At this point in time there is nothing further to share on this particular issue. It may be of interest to note we have agreed to the UK Parliament legislating by Act for England and Wales to increase the maximum sentence for animal cruelty offences from six months to five years. This will apply to all kept animals including exotic pets. Maintaining a comparative sentencing regime across England and Wales is important to ensure clarity for enforcement agencies, the Courts and the public alike. This will bring maximum sentences for animal cruelty in England and Wales into line with Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. The Scottish Government has also committed to increase the maximum penalty.

Regards
Lesley Griffiths

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