

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

Ein cyf/Our ref LG/02407/18

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

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

11
December 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 29 November, regarding petition P-05-743, End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales.

Since I wrote to you on this subject in February, the Welsh Government has continued to develop policies to promote animal welfare and responsible ownership. You will be aware Defra have recently introduced the Animal Welfare (Activities Involving Animals)(England) Regulations 2018. Whilst the Regulations in England introduce new requirements relating to the selling of exotic pets, they have not imposed a ban. There are no specific developments to update you on relating to the work of the Scottish Government. In Wales, there are no immediate plans to consider a ban on the trade of exotic pets, however there have been a number of developments in animal welfare policy on which I can update you.

In my Oral Statement in June I committed to exploring options relating to the banning of third party sales of puppies and kittens in Wales. A consultation to gather evidence on the impact of such a ban and to inform next steps will be launched early in the New Year. Whilst this specifically relates to puppies and kittens, we are keen to look holistically at the impacts any changes in policy could have on other species.

In July the First Minister announced his intention to ban the use of wild animals in circuses and a consultation was completed in November, a summary of the responses will be published early next year. As I stated when the consultation was launched, a ban will send a clear message that the people of Wales believe this practice to be an outdated notion and ethically unacceptable.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Lesley.Griffiths@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Lesley.Griffiths@gov.wales

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.

In addition to these projects, another major work stream actioned this year was the revision of the Codes of Practice for several companion and farmed animal species. The Codes for dogs and horses came in to force on 12th November and the consultation for the cat Code will be launched on 14th December. Officials are working with the Animal Welfare Network Wales in prioritising the next Codes to be updated, or created if it is felt necessary, such as primates or other exotic animals.

With regards to your question around a list of potentially restricted pets, the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 makes it an offence to keep specific animals including certain breeds of primates and reptiles.

Regards
Lesley

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ynni, Cynllunio a Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs