

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P -05-743
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05492/19

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.

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Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 4 March regarding exotic pets.

The Welsh Government has made a number of changes and commitments to licensing of activities involving animals in Wales.

We have introduced the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 which has strict criteria for the licensing of dog breeders in Wales. This has been followed by our recent consultation on third party sales of puppies and kittens which launched on 19 February.

I announced my intention to introduce a licensing scheme for Mobile Animal Exhibits (MAE's) in December 2017; the scheme will provide for checks to be made to ensure high welfare standards are maintained, and animals exhibited in a way that encourages respectful and responsible attitudes towards all species. Given the transient nature of MAEs, to avoid creating cross-border difficulties, the Welsh Government's preferred approach is to align this licensing scheme with the requirements of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018. A full public consultation on the proposed scheme will be carried out later this year.

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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.

Animals kept in captivity are subject to the requirements of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and the duty of care set out in section 9 of the Act. It is the owner's responsibility to exercise this duty of care and penalties can be imposed by the Courts for not fulfilling their obligations. In order to keep the majority of primates, a licence, issued by Local Authorities, is required under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976.

As previously mentioned I have committed to updating the existing animal welfare codes of practice and identifying new species-specific codes to introduce in Wales including primates as pets. Officials are working with the Animal Welfare Network Wales to discuss priorities for revising or creating new animal welfare codes, such as exotic pets .

Regards
Lesley

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