

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Amgylchedd a
Materion Gwledig
Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Rural Affairs




Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-743
Ein cyf/Our ref JH/00014/17

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 15 March regarding 'End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales' petition.

The welfare of any animal, including exotic pets, is of concern for the Welsh Government.

There are a number of strands of work which could be addressed and we are monitoring the work which the Scottish Government has been undertaking and the work of the Federation of British Herpetologists on ensuring compliance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

The Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales has historically added this topic to the agenda of a UK CVO meeting to commence a UK-wide discussion.

The way we treat animals is an important reflection of the values of our society. Since the implementation of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, we have been developing policies to promote animal welfare and responsible ownership. The Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework (AHWF) sets out our plan for continuing and lasting improvements in standards of animal health and welfare for kept animals. The Framework Group's Implementation Plan for 2016-17 includes responsible ownership as Welsh Government priority. Both the Framework and Implementation Plan are available on our website here:

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/wales-animal-health-welfare-framework/?lang=en>

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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.

A short discussion paper on the trade in exotic pets was been presented to the Framework Group and they have now requested a presentation from experts working in this specialist field.

Officials met with representatives from RSPCA Cymru to discuss their briefing document calling for a ban on exotic pets, specifically primates and further meetings on this subject are expected to take place.

Regards
Lesley

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