



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/10267/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

27 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 September, regarding tethered horses.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring a high standard of welfare for all animals kept in Wales is maintained at all stages of their life

Horses, like all domestic and captive animals, are afforded protection under the Animal Welfare Act 2006. Under this legislation, it is an offence to cause any unnecessary suffering to an animal or for an owner, or keeper, to fail to provide for its welfare needs.

The Welsh Government Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses (the Code) explains what needs to be done to meet the standard of care the law requires, which includes its environment, behavioural needs, health and welfare. An updated version of the Code was published in November 2018. I attach below a link to the updated document:

<https://beta.gov.wales/code-of-practice-for-the-welfare-of-horses>

In addition, the Welsh Government introduced the Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014 at the request of enforcement authorities, commoners and welfare charities. The Act provides further powers for Local Authorities to combat the abandonment of horses and ponies found grazing on land where the owner of the animals does not have the consent of the land owner.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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.

Although not illegal, tethering should never be used as a long-term measure to control horses as this can lead to a failure to meet a horse's basic welfare. Appendix 1 of the Code sets out the conditions which need be met when horses are tethered.

If anyone has any immediate concerns about the welfare of an animal, then they should report the matter to the Local Authority who have powers under the 2006 Act to investigate such matters.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd