



Pets change lives
We change theirs

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Tuesday 30th November 2021

Dear Jack,

Petition P-06-1200 Make horse tethering, with or without shelter, illegal and an act of cruelty in Wales

Blue Cross has concerns over the suitability of tethering being used as a long-term management strategy for horses. We welcome the Welsh Government's [Horse Welfare Code of Practice](#) which provides guidance to horse owners and enforcers on what unsafe and poor tethering looks like and the impact it can have on a horse's health and welfare.

The Welsh Government [Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses](#) defines tethering and notes that it is "not a suitable method of management of an animal, as it restricts that animal's freedom to exercise itself, to find food and water, or to escape from attacks by dogs or the extremes of hot and cold weather. It also risks an animal becoming entangled, or injuring itself, on tethering equipment." The Code notes that tethering may be useful for short-term animal management but only in certain circumstances. Appendix 1 of the Code provides more information on tethering for horse owners to follow.

Blue Cross would welcome proactive measures educating owners who are likely to tether their horses alongside better enforcement. If there are concerns for the welfare of a tethered horse Section 9 of the Animal Welfare Act 2006 can be used to intervene. Section 9 stipulates the five welfare needs any owner must provide for animals in their care and long-term tethering conflicts with the welfare needs of a horse.

As with many animal welfare issues, Blue Cross is concerned about the enforcement of the existing laws in place to protect the welfare of horses. Blue Cross would argue that increasing local authority resources and knowledge to apply the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and Control of Horses (Wales) Act 2014 would have positive impact on the welfare of horses along with other animal welfare matters. Too often we see that local authorities do not have the knowledge or resources to identify issues and take action on animal welfare

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concerns, horse tethering is one of these. This matter needs to be resolved in order for existing regulations to be effective.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely,

Becky Thwaites
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About

- Blue Cross is a charity that has been helping sick, injured, abandoned and homeless pets since 1897. We help thousands of pets in need every month, providing veterinary care, expert behaviour help, and find them loving homes, as well as advice on education for current or future owners and pet bereavement support. Pets change lives. We change theirs.