



# Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill

Response to the Economy,  
Trade and Rural Affairs  
Committee (July 2025)

In July 2025 the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee agreed its report on the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill. The report includes two conclusions and one recommendation. This is the Welsh Government response to that report.

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## 1. Introduction

The Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill (“the Bill”) was introduced in the House of Commons on 16 October 2024. The Bill is a Private Members’ Bill, introduced by Dr Danny Chambers MP and is supported by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. The Bill makes provision to restrict the commercial importation and non-commercial movement of dogs, cats and ferrets into the United Kingdom from third countries on animal welfare grounds. The Bill completed its passage through the House of Commons on 4 July 2025 and received its First Reading in the House of Lords on 7 July.

Legislative consent is required as the Bill makes provision with regard to devolved matters in so far as it applies to Wales, notably, animal welfare. A Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) was laid before the Senedd on 21 May 2025. On 7 July 2025, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee (ETRA) agreed its report on the LCM. The Report contained two conclusions and one recommendation.

With thanks to the members of the ETRA for their report on the Bill, I have set out my response to the Report’s individual conclusions and recommendation below.

## 2. Response to the two conclusions

### Conclusion 1

The Committee concludes:

*“The Committee has found no reason to object to the Senedd agreeing the Legislative Consent Motion associated with the LCM.”*

**Response:** The Welsh Government notes this conclusion.

### Conclusion 2

The Committee concludes:

*“Any regulations made under this Bill, should it be passed, must be carefully scrutinised to avoid unintentionally preventing animals which have had legitimate surgery or been abused but rescued and rehomed from travelling.”*

**Response:** The Welsh Government notes this conclusion.

## 3. Response to the one recommendation

### **Recommendation 1**

The Committee recommends:

*“The Welsh Government should keep this Committee and its successor informed about any intention to use the regulation-making powers provided for in the Bill.”*

**Response:** Accept. The Welsh Government will ensure that the Committee, and its successor, are kept informed about developments relating to the Bill and its implementation, including any intention to use the regulation-making powers provided for within it. This will be done as part of our normal scrutiny and reporting arrangements with the Senedd.

**Financial Implications:** None.