



Ein cyf/Our ref LG/10311/21

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

13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 September regarding the petition P-05-895 Rosa's Legacy: Introduce a scheme to help people access veterinary care for their companion animals

Animal health and welfare, and the responsible ownership of animals, are priorities for the Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group, and we are committed to maintaining high standards of welfare for all animals kept in Wales at all stages of their lives. Our Programme for Government contains commitments to improve Animal Welfare in Wales, building on the positive work already being undertaken.

In addition, we will shortly publish our Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26 which builds on the progress made in Wales on animal welfare over the last 16 years. During this Government's term of office, we will introduce a broad range of policies to maintain the momentum of reform in animal welfare established since devolution of the relevant powers.

We acknowledge the complex issues raised in the Rosa's Legacy petition relating to the affordability of veterinary care. We also acknowledge the outstanding work of veterinary professionals in Wales in maintaining and enhancing the health and well-being of our animals. Working in partnership is key to the success of our Animal Welfare Plan and we are grateful for our strong and long-standing relationships with third sector organisations, many of which continue to offer schemes in support of those struggling to balance the requirements of responsible ownership with the expense of veterinary care.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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CF99 1SN

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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.

In order to ensure maximum visibility and impact of available schemes, I will instruct officials again to raise this issue with key third-sector organisations to assess whether more can be done to support owners of companion animals in Wales affected by these issues.

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**