

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-04-445
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05440/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
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11 July 2016

Dear Mike

I would like to congratulate you on your appointment as the Chair of the Petitions Committee and provide an update on a letter of 13 November to the former Deputy Minister for Farming and Food, regarding Petition P-04-445 'Save our Welsh Cats and Dogs from Death on the Roads'.

The Welsh Government commissioned Dr Ruth Lysons, MA MSc VetMB MRCVS, with carrying out a review entitled 'A Review of Recent Evidence in Relation to the Welfare Implications for Cats and Dogs Arising from the Use of Electronic Collars'. The purpose of the review was to consider whether the policy intent behind the existing legislation was still being met. The review was quality assured by Dr Nick Coulson, MA MBA PhD VetMB MRCVS and also scrutinised by the members of the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group who accepted its findings.

<http://gov.wales/topics/environmentcountryside/ahw/animalwelfare/pets/dogs/electronic-shock-collar/?lang=en>

In her review Dr. Lysons concluded the animal welfare cost is likely to exceed the benefits from the use of electronic collars as training devices, since they may cause pain, effective alternatives exist and the scope for misuse or abuse is too great. Also on electronic anti-bark collars, given the limited efficacy and the fact alternative approaches are readily available, the welfare cost exceeds the benefits for such collars.

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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.

The review also considered electronic fence systems found the animal welfare cost is likely to exceed the benefits from use of electronic fencing systems for both cats and dogs. Whilst there have been requests to be able to use electronic fencing systems for cats due to concerns surrounding the potential threat of road accidents, there are clear welfare concerns and very little published evidence from which to assess their use and relative benefits.

A Written Statement issued on 11 March confirming the Welsh Government was content to retain the existing policy in Wales and advised the Welsh Government would not be considering amending the existing legislation at that time.

Regards
Lesley

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