

John Griffiths AC /AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd a Datblygu Cynaliadwy
Minister for Environment and Sustainable Development



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-374
Ein cyf/Our ref JG/05665/12

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William,

28 March 2012

Thank you for your letter of 12 March, following receipt of a petition submitted by Mr Wyndham Mark Jones, about keeping dogs on leads in public places.

There is currently a body of legislation to control dogs and I am unsure whether specific legislation to require all dogs to be kept on a leash at all times in a public place would be appropriate. The Dogs Act 1871 and Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 requires owners to have proper control of their dogs, with penalties for non-compliance ranging from fines to imprisonment and even compulsory destruction of an animal.

Further, under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Local Authorities have the power to introduce Dog Control Orders, which could specify that dogs must be kept on a lead or banned from designated areas.

The Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 and Animals Act 1971 also make it an offence for owners to allow their dogs to worry livestock.

Further information about the legislation described above, as well as advice on best practice for keeping dogs, is available in the Welsh Government's Code of Practice for the Welfare of Dogs. The document can be downloaded from www.wales.gov.uk/animalwelfare.

My officials are currently working on a proposal to introduce compulsory microchipping for all dogs in Wales. Whilst the primary aim of the legislation would be to promote welfare, it could benefit enforcement officers in trying to trace owners of straying dogs.

Best wishes,

John Griffiths AC / AM
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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