

Lesley Griffiths AC/AM
Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-856
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/07014/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

15 October 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 30 September, regarding the Petition P-05-856 to ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial 3rd party dealers in Wales.

Animal welfare and the responsible ownership of animals are priorities for the Welsh Government and the Wales Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group (WAHWFG). We are committed to maintaining high standards of welfare for all animals kept in Wales at all stages of their lives.

I have already committed to reviewing the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014 and also made my intentions clear on the value I see in banning third party sales of puppies and kittens. However, I appreciate urgent action is needed in this area. With this in mind:

- I have written to the Animal Health and Welfare Framework Group to accept their offer of help and request an urgent and immediate review of the dog breeding regulations.
- I have written to all Local Authority CEOs to raise concerns and invite relevant representatives to a meeting with the Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales to discuss the enforcement of regulations.
- The Chief Veterinary Officer immediately referred the BBC programme to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons.

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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.

- Officials are developing a campaign aimed at prospective puppy purchasers highlighting the importance of sourcing responsibly.

The Welsh Government will continue to work with key stakeholders, including Local Authorities and the other Administrations to ensure we introduce changes which will have a lasting impact on the welfare standards of dogs and cats bred in Wales.

Regards
Lesley

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