

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-05-743
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01005/17

Mike Hedges AM
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National Assembly for Wales
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Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 25 April regarding Petition P-05-743 – End the Exotic Pet Trade in Wales. You have written to seek my views on questions raised by the petitioner, David Sedley.

Officials regularly engage with their counterparts in the Scottish Government and Defra. In my letter to you in February this year, I said I was aware of the Scottish review and proposals to overhaul the licensing of animal establishments, including pet shops, in England. Defra published a 'Review of Animal Establishments Licensing in England – Next Steps' in February 2017 which considers pet sales and the care of exotic animals. I await the findings of the Scottish review and officials continue to engage with Defra colleagues as to their future intentions.

There are no plans, currently, to regulate the sale of exotic pets. No person may keep any dangerous wild animal (including many primates) without first obtaining a licence, under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976, from their Local Authority. Under this Act Local Authorities inspect premises, and as part of the inspection, consider welfare requirements. All zoos in Wales, and a number of smaller 'mobile animal exhibits', which display exotic animals, are licensed under the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. All licensed premises are inspected regularly and the welfare of the animals is at the forefront of these inspections.

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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 October 2016, RSPCA Cymru issued a briefing document calling for a ban on keeping primates as pets. Officials met with RSPCA Cymru representatives in February to discuss this matter and await information on the level of ownership of primates in Wales. Further meetings on this subject, and the keeping of other exotic species, will take place with RSPCA Cymru and others.

RSPCA Cymru recently launched its 'Delivering for a Decade: 10 years of the Animal Welfare Act in Wales: 2007–2017' and amongst its future priorities is a ban on keeping primates as pets or, if it is not achievable, for the Welsh Government to issue a code of practice on keeping primates as pets. The Welsh Government is committed to updating the existing animal welfare codes of practice and identifying new species-specific codes to introduce in Wales. The development of a code on primates will be considered in discussions with stakeholders.

Regards
Lesley

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