

27 March 2025

Dear

## **ATISN 24564 – Regulation of Animal Sanctuaries**

### **Information requested**

Thank you for your request which I received on 20 March. You asked the following questions:

1. What is the proposed Legislation for the Regulation of Animal Rescues/Sanctuaries in Wales together with the relevant clauses and what date are the Regulations to commence.
2. Which Organisations proposed the earlier targeted call for evidence.
3. Which Welsh sanctuaries and rehoming centres were made aware of the consultation.
4. Which of the larger Organisations who responded actually have Rescues and or Sanctuaries in Wales.
5. What will be the qualifications of the Inspectors who carry out the inspections and who will oversee the actions of the Inspectors i.e. what is the process of appeal?
6. Are the Rescues expected to pay for these Inspections?
7. Are Vet Records required for every Animal in the Rescue/Sanctuary?
8. What agreements have been made to gain Vets cooperation in keeping medications and charges for procedures to a minimum cost for Rescues/Sanctuaries.
9. Is the importation of medications being prohibited for Rescues/Sanctuaries with the only access being through Vets?
10. Is the 'sharing' of medications being prohibited?
11. Is Metacam/ Rheumacam/ Loxicom being denied for use by Rescues/Sanctuaries i.e. any pain relief? For what reasons?
12. What contingency plans have been made for the future rescue of wildlife should Rescues and Sanctuaries be forced to close?
13. What safeguards will be placed on the larger Rescues and Organisations who do stay open to ensure they accept the 'lesser' species (in their opinion) and offer treatment / rehabilitation and not use Euthanasia as an expedient measure. How will this be monitored and by whom? Will this include the largest Organisations mentioned earlier eg RSPCA/RSPCA Cymru and Blue Cross?

14. What safeguards are in place so that proposed Legislation will not be used unfairly on the smaller Rescues and Sanctuaries who currently carry out the bulk of the work. How will this be monitored and by whom? What is the process of Appeal?
15. Will the RSPCA / RSPCA Cymru/ Blue Cross step in to plug the gaps in Wildlife Rescue/Rehabilitation when Rescues/ Sanctuaries close? What guarantees have been given in this regard by them?
16. In some European Countries wildlife rehabilitation is linked with Forestry Services and the system works to the benefit of Wildlife (which the Regulations are purportedly for). Has this been explored?
17. Where a smaller Rescue/Sanctuary would like to improve how they are running their premises will there be help in the way of grants or hands-on training?
18. What will happen to the animals/birds currently in Rescues who will be forced to close should unreasonable Regulations come into force. If 40 Rescues closed and these had 20 animals/birds each 800 animals/birds needing rehoming. What contingency plans have been made for this eventuality? Or is mass euthanasia the proposition?

## **Our response**

The information you requested is answered as follows:

1. There is currently no proposed legislation for the regulation of Animal Rescues/Sanctuaries. Our public consultation on [the Licensing of Animal Welfare Establishments, Activities and Exhibits](#) sought views on the development of a National Model for animal welfare in Wales. The [summary of responses](#) was published on 18 December with a statement on any next steps due in the Spring.
2. The earlier targeted call for evidence that informed the consultation was held with Local Authorities in Wales, Animal Licensing Wales, Animal Welfare Network Wales and Companion Animal Welfare Group.
3. Welsh Government consultations are published on the Welsh Government website and are available for any member of the public to respond to.
4. A list of Organisations who responded to the consultation are listed at annex 1 of the [summary of responses](#).
5. The Welsh Government funded Animal Licensing Wales project is strengthening the training for all Local Authority licensing enforcement officers with the aim to develop a unified approach in standards, enforcement practices and advice on the statutory guidance supporting existing legislation. Each Local Authority in Wales have their own complaints procedures and therefore we do not hold this information.
6. No changes to legislation have been proposed, therefore, we do not hold this information.
7. No changes to legislation have been proposed, therefore, we do not hold this information.
8. A veterinary surgeon is entitled to charge a fee for the provision of services. Neither Welsh Government nor the RCVS has any specific jurisdiction under the Veterinary

Surgeons Act 1966 over the level of fees charged by veterinary practices. There are no statutory charges and fees are essentially a matter for negotiation between veterinary surgeon and client.

9. We do not hold this information.

10. We do not hold this information.

11. We do not hold this information.

12. We do not hold this information.

13. We do not hold this information.

14. We do not hold this information. Any proposed changes to legislation would be subject to risk assessments and further consultation.

15. We do not hold this information.

16. We do not hold this information.

17. No changes to legislation have been proposed, therefore, we do not hold this information.

18. We do not hold this information. Any proposed changes to legislation would be subject to risk assessments and further consultation.

## **Next steps**

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely