# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE**  | **Animal Welfare Licensing Review Consultation 2023** |
| **DATE**  | **08 December 2023** |
| **BY** | **Lesley Griffiths MS, Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd** |

Today I have launched a twelve-week public consultation on the first phase of the development of a [National Model for the regulation of animal welfare](https://eur01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.wales%2Flicensing-animal-welfare-establishments-activities-and-exhibits&data=05%7C01%7CJames.Oxenham%40gov.wales%7C1f3a6a008dbb4800d9b808dbf7ccee3a%7Ca2cc36c592804ae78887d06dab89216b%7C0%7C0%7C638376231755124054%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fj04ymm3oi%2BCkxS9ZQa5f4fM0BVnjBE6ZS2vReJBZrA%3D&reserved=0). It is envisioned the National Model will extend licensing to currently unlicensed animal-related activities and update the licensing framework for other licensable animal-related activities.

A targeted call for evidence was completed earlier this year to identify perceived gaps in existing legislation. The purpose of this consultation is to seek public opinion on those areas identified and welcome any further submissions of evidence to support greater regulation. Once concluded, all public responses received will be considered, in combination with those from the first targeted call for evidence, to determine licensing priorities moving forwards.

The consultation also asks consideration to be given to the possibility of licensing owners and/or keepers or trainers of racing dogs (including greyhounds) with a view to improving their lifelong welfare (from birth to retirement) when bred or raised specifically for sport.

Further to a question on the licensing of owners, keepers or trainers of racing dogs, the consultation also includes a request for evidence to justify or negate consideration of a phased ban in future.

The Welsh Government’s long-term ambition is for all animals in Wales to have a good life. I am hopeful the development of a National Model for the regulation of animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits will affect positive progress in pursuit of this goal.

Updating or creating new legislation is resource intensive. Whilst appreciating all activities included in this consultation are important, updating legislation may take considerable time.

The consultation will conclude on 01 March.