

PE1842/B

Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment submission of 26 January 2021

Thank you for your letter of 15 January 2021, following the Committee's consideration of the above petition on 13 January 2021, requesting information on the extension of licensing legislation we are currently taking forward to include other areas of animal-related activity including animal boarding, dog walking and training.

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 were laid in draft under affirmative procedure on 23 December 2020; and are intended to replace outdated legislation on dog breeding and pet sales, and introduce a new licensing requirement for cat and rabbit breeding as well as for animal rescue centres and rehoming activities. It is hoped that the Scottish Parliament will approve these Regulations in February 2021.

The intention is that these Regulations will then provide the framework for a modern risk-based licensing system which can be extended to other activities involving animals such as dog walking in future. At present there is no detailed timetable within which additional licensing provisions will be presented for Parliamentary approval.

Yours sincerely

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Minister for Rural Affairs and the Natural Environment