



29 January 2026

Dear [redacted],

ATISN 26619 – Animal Rescue Centres

Information requested

Thank you for your request which we received on 28 January. You asked for information about licensing and regulation of animal rescue centres in Wales.

You asked:

1. When regulations are expected to be introduced, as well as details of their current proposed content. Your specific interest concerns any provisions relating to the regulation of wild bird rescues and sanctuaries.
2. If we are aware of the topic being on the agenda following the forthcoming Senedd election.
3. If no information is currently available, when it would be appropriate for you to make a further enquiry.

Our response

We have consulted on [proposals to licence animal welfare establishments, activities and exhibits](#).

We published our [response to the consultation and next steps](#) in June 2025.

Any future licensing proposals will be subject to further public consultation, and stakeholders—including those involved in wild bird rescue—will have the opportunity to comment on the content of any proposed legislation at that stage.

We are mindful that we are now approaching the end of the current Senedd term. As a result, we cannot pre-empt or confirm the priorities, agenda, or legislative programme of a

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynir 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 responding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

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Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre: 0300 0604400

future Welsh Government following the election. Decisions on future work will rest with the incoming administration.

You may wish to consider writing to us again after the election, once the new Government has set out its legislative priorities and programme. This will allow us to provide a clearer picture of the intended timetable for progressing future phases of the national model for regulating animal welfare establishments.

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

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

**Animal Welfare Branch
Office of the Chief Veterinary Officer
Welsh Government**