



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/LG/2024/23

Chief Executive Officer
Welsh Local Authorities

September 2023

In light of recent renewed public interest, I wish to raise with you the issue of the giving of animals as prizes, particularly goldfish.

You will recall I previously wrote in December 2019, seeking feedback on this matter. I am pleased to note the positive progress in this area since and understand 12 of our 22 Local Authorities, included as an annex overleaf, have implemented bans on the giving of animals as prizes on Council owned land.

I have, however, recently been made aware of renewed concerns amongst the general public and third sector organisations about this practice, concerns I share.

Under the Animal Welfare Act 2006, owners and keepers of animals have a responsibility to ensure the welfare needs of their animals are met. It is an offence to cause unnecessary suffering, and this applies to both the prize givers and receivers.

I am writing to you as one of the 10 remaining Local Authorities not to implement a ban, asking if you would consider the banning of this outdated practice on your land.

I appreciate your continued efforts in promoting responsible pet ownership and discouraging this practice, which I feel no longer has a place in our society or reflects our animal welfare values. Responses can be sent to animalwelfarewales@gov.wales.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'L'.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Materion Gwledig a Gogledd Cymru, a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd

Annex 1: Local Authorities which have implemented a ban on the giving of pets as prizes

Bridgend
Caerphilly
Cardiff
Conwy
Flintshire
Neath Port Talbot
Newport
Pembrokeshire
Rhondda Cynon Taf
Torfaen County Borough
Vale of Glamorgan
Wrexham