

Government of Jersey  
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Deputy Hilary Jeune  
Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

**BY EMAIL**

12 January 2026

**Animal Welfare & Control (including Draft Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 202-)  
Review – Principle of the Draft Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 202- P.97.2025)**

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your letter dated the 29<sup>th</sup> December 2025 regarding the Draft Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 202-.

**The Core Principle that the Draft Law is intended to establish:**

The proposed Draft Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 202- (*P.97/2025*) intends to replace the current animal welfare (Jersey) Law 2004

The Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004 is over 20 years old and considered no longer fit for purpose, it is limited regarding powers of entry and taking possession powers and on occasions does not allow for preventive enforcement actions.

Animal welfare science is changing very quickly, so is the way animals are kept and public perception.

The Draft Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law is a - A law to consolidate and revise the laws promoting the welfare of animals and the prevention of suffering by animals, to regulate the keeping and use of animals, and for connected purposes.

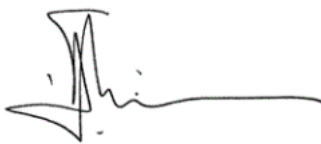
It intends to:

1. update existing legislation, some of which is no longer fit for purpose and to further improve and promote international standards of animal welfare.

- a. by aligning with current UK welfare legislation and by allowing implementation of orders when urgent and quick changes are required (following international standards and scientific knowledge)
  - b. it also includes a number of legislative updates done in the UK after the implementation of the 2006 act , for example, it includes a provisions that refers to Finn's law – for the protection of the welfare of police dogs
  - c. the intention is to(by order) include issues highlighted by the recent Animal welfare strategy for England - [Animal welfare strategy for England - GOV.UK](#) including – controls on breeding of pets, prohibitions of mutilations including importing mutilated animals, enhancement of welfare conditions for sanctuaries and rehoming organisations, among others
2. be proactive and act as a prevention for animal welfare issues instead of purely act after a negative outcome has taken place.
- a. The current animal welfare law is largely reactive and action could only be taken once an animal had suffered unnecessarily.
  - b. The Draft Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 202-) allows for action to be taken for example under seizure of animals- Taking possession of animals in distress - This is a new power and enable an inspector to take an animal to prevent suffering. It is one part of the preventative measures the new law brings. In the old law this provision is not available.
  - c. The offences regarding unnecessary suffering and cruelty are clearer and we believe much easier to effectively proof an offence has been committed. For example the current law mentions sufficient quantities and sufficient regularity which are sometimes difficult to proof and to an extent subject to interpretation, the draft law refers to person who is responsible for an animal commits an offence if they fail to take reasonable steps in the circumstances to ensure that the needs of the animal are met to the extent required by good practice.
  - d. The draft law refers to - It is an offence for a person to act, or fail to act (except, in the case of failing to act, in relation to an animal living wild in Jersey), in a way that causes an animal to suffer unnecessarily if the person knew, or reasonably should have known, that the act or failure to act would cause the animal to suffer unnecessarily or be likely to do so. Therefor the animal does not have to effectively suffer for an offence to take place and for measures to be taken to protect the animal.

- e. Part 4 Straying of livestock Article 14 provides definitions. Article 15 makes it an offence to fail to secure livestock and to co-operate with inspectors if livestock stray into a public place. Article 16 gives powers to police and inspectors in relation to straying livestock. Article 17 makes provision for improvement notices to be issued in relation to straying livestock. This is new and again is a preventative measure to stop animals getting on the road before an accident occurs that engages animals and people.
- f. Enforcement powers  
The new law provides the states vet and inspectors great powers to act and to prevent harm to animals. Inspectors have powers of entry, ability to seize animals ( a dog left alone in a car on a hot summers day) without the need to get a warrant. This is as long as the inspector believes the animal is suffering or likely to suffer.
- g. Article 6 “Offence of carrying out prohibited procedure” – introduces an offence if a person takes an animal out of Jersey to have a prohibited procedure (mutilation) carried out this will avoid people taking dogs abroad to subjected them to unnecessary mutilations.
- h. Issuing of improvement notices which will allow inspectors to issue an improvement notice to a person not complying with the legislation and requiring compliance within a defined deadline. The non compliance with an improvement notice itself it is an offence even if the animal is not actually suffering as a result. This is in line with current UK provisions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve Luce', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Deputy Steve Luce  
**Minister for the Environment**