

Animal Exhibits

A Consultation for Children and Young People



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government



What are Animal Exhibits?

There are many Animal Exhibits in Wales and they come in all different shapes and sizes.

It could be an exotic animal display travelling to your school, animals at a petting zoo, or a falconry display at your local fete.

We think these can be really fun and a great way to learn about a range of animals that you would not get to see on a daily basis.

The way that people look after animals in Wales is really important and the Welsh Government wants to make sure their animal health and welfare is the best it can be.

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The Five Welfare Needs

The Animal Welfare Act 2006 says an animal must have:

- A suitable place to live;
- The correct food;
- Enough exercise and activity;
- Appropriate contact with people and other animals; and
- Proper health and grooming.

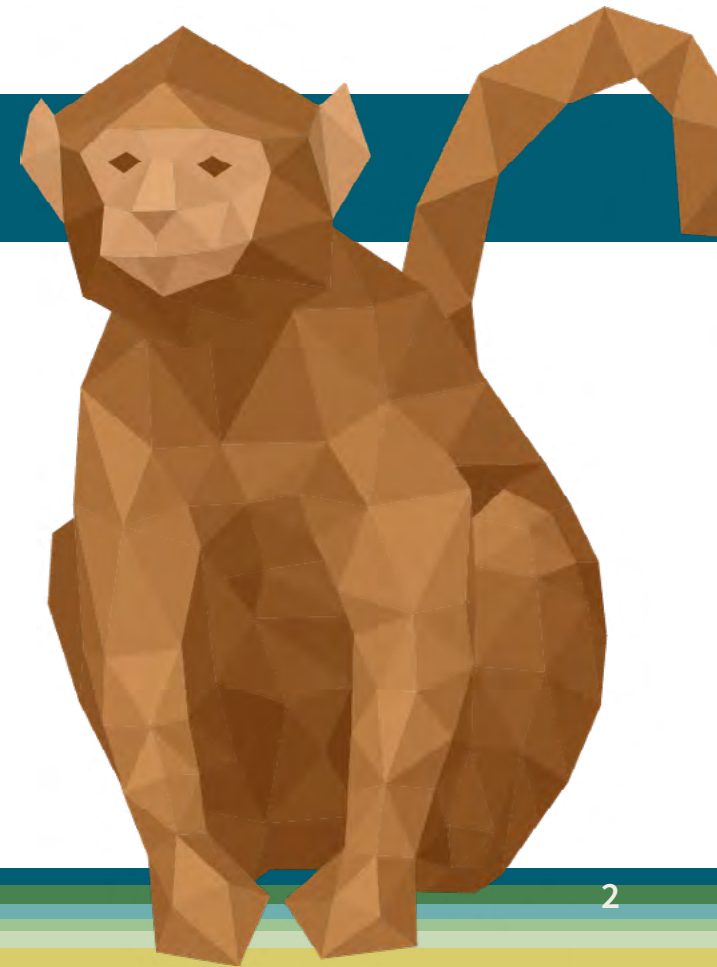
What is the current situation for Animal Exhibits?

At the moment Animal Exhibits are not subject to routine checks. Some Animal Exhibits may be registered under the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925, but that does not always mean they will be checked.

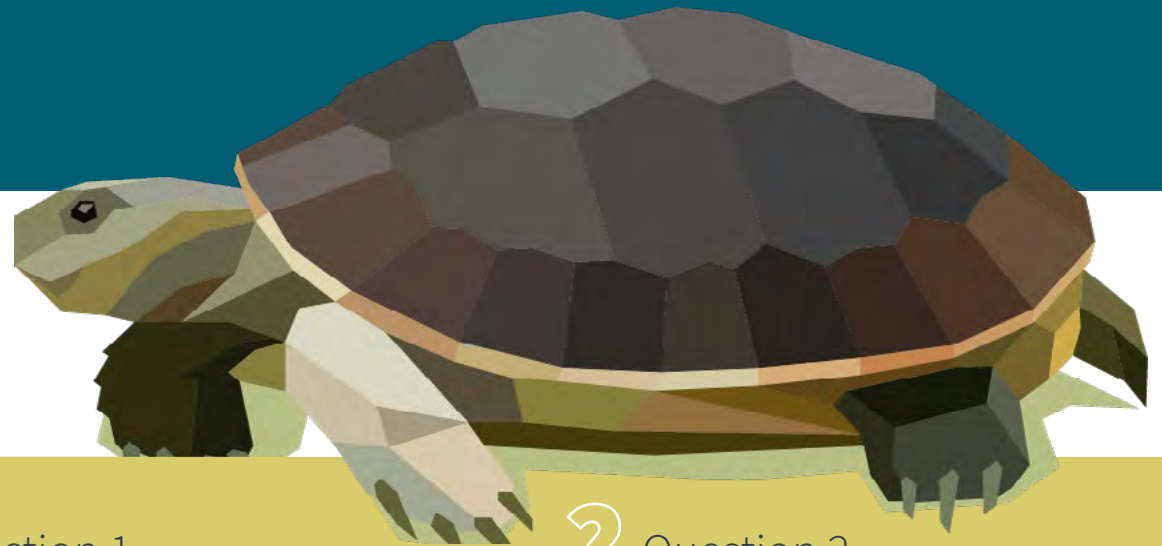
Because of this, the welfare standards of many of Wales' exhibited animals may not be looked at regularly.

Although we believe it is the animal owner's responsibility to look after their animals, sometimes this needs checking up on, to make sure it's being done properly and to a high standard.

We think change is needed to make sure animals in exhibits are being checked regularly. That way, we know for sure that they are healthy, well cared for and having their welfare needs met.



What we are planning to change



To make sure animal welfare needs are being met we want to make some changes and bring in a new law in Wales:

The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Animal Exhibits) (Wales) Regulations 2020

Having this new law in Wales will require exhibitors to:

- Have a licence from their Local Authority (you may know the Local Authority as the Local Council). This essentially means exhibitors will need special permission to run their exhibit;
- Be able to meet a new set of rules to get their licence from the Local Authority.

Local Authorities will be in charge of checking whether exhibitors will be able to meet the set of conditions that the licence will be subject to. If they do, they get a licence!

We think this will help improve the way animals in exhibits are taken care of. We believe this because owners will have specific welfare standards that they need to meet to carry on exhibiting their animals.

? Question 1

Do you think that change is needed?

Yes No Don't know

Comment

? Question 2

Do you agree that these changes will improve the welfare of animals kept in exhibits?

Yes No Don't know

Comment

How long will the licence last?

Licences are often issued for set periods.

This means their licence will run out after a certain amount of time.

Once the licence has run out, the exhibitors will have to apply again. The Local Authority (Council) will then carry out their checks again.

If the animals are being properly looked after and meet the set of rules, the exhibitors will get a new licence and can keep exhibiting their animals! We are proposing a three year licensing period.

We think this will be a good amount of time as we will be able to regularly check on the animals' welfare, whilst not interrupting the lives of the owners too much!



? Question 3

Do you agree that three years is a good amount of time for a licensing period?

Yes No Don't know

Comment

What about education?

We think education is really important in making sure that the next generation of animal owners (that's you!) have positive and respectful attitudes towards them.

The new law will mean that as well as meeting the new set of rules, people running Animal Exhibits will have a responsibility to give information to their audience about the types of animals they keep.

We think this will help improve animal welfare, as the people keeping them and introducing them to the public will be leading by example and showing them the best possible ways to look after and interact with many different animals!



Question 4

Do you think that teaching people about the animals they are seeing in Animal Exhibits is a good idea?

Yes No Don't know

Comment



Who will be affected?

We want this new law to apply to anyone who keeps or trains an animal, with the aim of showing them to the public. They might be doing this to teach people about animals or as a form of entertainment.

We want this to apply to them whether they are doing it to earn a living for themselves, to raise money for a charity or if they are doing it for no money at all.

We think it's important it applies to all exhibits that are not already checked, as animal welfare issues can exist in any of these settings.



? Question 5

Do you agree that the new law should apply to all animal exhibits?

Yes No Don't know

Comment

? Question 6

Is there anything else we need to think about before we make these changes?

Yes No Don't know


Comment

Thank you for reading this!



You can send your answers to:

 WAHFG@gov.wales

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