

CASC Health and Welfare Strategy: Summary of recommendations

What do we want to achieve?	How could we achieve this?	
<p>1. Animal welfare legislation should be fit for purpose so that it is effective, proportionate and deliverable. Current legislation should be optimised before introducing new legislation.</p>	<p>Ensure that issues with LAIA are addressed</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review PIR and agree work streams in conjunction with DEFRA and ministerial teams - Review issues with the delivery of the LAIA regulations with a view to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review LAIA guidance to deliver a more common-sense approach, simplify the requirements, improve clarity and remove aspects that hinder business without delivering welfare improvements. Amendments should be based on scientific opinion and expert input from private animal keepers and animal related businesses which represents the largest repository of specialist husbandry knowledge. Where scientific data is incomplete, safeguarding animal welfare should be carefully considered alongside other factors. • Set a defined syllabus for inspector training and ensure that some practical training is included • Review fee levels and fee structures • Review enforcement activity and ensure it is adequately resourced and reactive to evidence. • Review enforcement and inspection delivery and assess the effectiveness of introducing a central inspectorate for welfare related regulations. - Review scope definitions for LAIA and identify areas where scope is ambiguous or missing. Address identified weaknesses and identify other areas that could be brought into scope, such as breeders meetings, temporary sales/exhibit/show events or rescue and rehoming centres. Draft and adopt guidelines for new area brought into scope prior to introduction to consider both general and species specific considerations and maintain proportionality. - <u>Assess the use of a registration system in situations where a licensing regime may be too onerous</u>
	<p>Issue guidance for LA's in relation to the Dangerous Wild Animals Act</p>	<p>There has never been any guidance issued for LA's since the regulations were introduced in 1975. CASC has previously prepared draft guidance, this should be reviewed, agreed and issued to LA's.</p>
	<p>Update the Zoo Licensing Act</p>	<p>Complete the ongoing review of updated guidance and issue.</p>
	<p>Update the Invasive Non-Native species Regulations for the post-Brexit landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review the UK INNS regulations with the aim to allow rehoming of rescued freshwater turtles. - Complete the revision of the list of INNS inherited from the EU to remove those species not deemed to be invasive in the context of the UK (species previously identified by the review recommendations from the Non-Native Species Secretariat).
	<p>Complete the introduction of the Licensing of Private Primate Keepers</p>	<p>Review current draft guidance to ensure that published guidance is appropriate and proportionate and delivers the intended outcomes (allow private primate keeping to zoo standards). Issue in a timely manner to allow licencing to occur prior to the introduction of the regulations.</p>
	<p>Ensure that post Brexit border controls are suitable to address health assessment requirements, but no not negatively affect welfare of animals in transit</p>	<p>Review the new TOM border requirements to make sure they are suitable for all taxa and are appropriately resourced to prevent delays that can negatively impact welfare.</p>
	<p>Review regulations surrounding the import of pet birds to enable breeding stock to enter the UK whilst protecting biosecurity</p>	<p>The current regulations for importation of pet birds by private owners contain health certification and quarantine requirements that cannot be easily met. This is encouraging smuggling. The requirements should be reviewed and adapted to enable the process whilst preserving biosecurity.</p>

<p>2. Improve companion animal welfare by increasing owner education</p>	<p>Review opportunities that could deliver better owner education so that new and current owners are more knowledgeable about care requirements and make better, more informed decisions</p>	<p>Identify education initiatives that could deliver welfare improvements for pet species, with priority given to areas of highest impact. Initiatives could be agreed between Government and sectors to enable sector led or co-developed initiatives with Government support and endorsement. This approach places less burden on Government and encourages a self-regulatory approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop code of practice for a range of common pet species or taxa • Encourage the use of voluntary pre-purchase training, such as The Pet Charity “Pet Know How” project (www.petportal.org) to assist with good buying decisions, and with pet sellers to confirm the suitability of the new owner • Develop a curated online information resource to deliver trusted information to keepers • Encourage Owners and vets to neuter rabbits • Adopt published codes of practice, such as the rabbit code of practice and encourage adoption across devolved administrations to ensure alignment across GB Governments • Publish recommendations for indoor bird cage sizes • Publish nutritional recommendations for psittacines
<p>3. Reduce the prevalence of animals kept which have characteristics that negatively impact welfare whether these are a result of selective breeding or surgical alteration.</p>	<p>Review the prevalence of genetic or “designer” issues and introduce legislation to control their import and sale, where evidence can substantiate a welfare issue. This could be linked to legislation to control similar activities in other taxa (such as dogs with cropped ears) or via LAIA.</p>	<p>Develop a list of strains/types of animals that would be considered to have an inherited or applied characteristic that demonstrably and negatively impacts health or welfare, examples include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selectively bred animals which inherit a genetic traits which demonstrably and negatively impacts health or welfare, e.g. brachycephalism, chondrodysplasia, "Spider Morph" Royal Pythons, absence of fur or scales • Animals that are dyed, tattooed or have unnecessary surgical modification which demonstrably and negatively impacts health or welfare <p>Look at ways to reduce the prevalence of such animals. Measures could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • restricting the import and/or sale of listed animals • publicity and educational campaigns to reduce demand • restrict breeding of identified animals
<p>4. Improve welfare of animals currently traded or exchanged in an unregulated environment</p>	<p>Unregulated pet sales, including online, private, and breeder events, can present significant welfare risks. Internet sales are especially concerning due to frequent, impersonal transport, often via inappropriate methods such as Royal Mail. Furthermore, animals given as prizes often end up neglected or abandoned due to unprepared owners. Methods should be assessed to tackle these issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduce the regulation of sales of animals via the internet, which would also include transport requirements. - Introduce a registration scheme for anyone selling an animal who is not licensed under LAIA, with displaying the registration number at the point of sale being a requirement. This would aid traceability and help the identification of unlicensed commercial sellers. - Ban the giving of animals as prizes (this is already illegal in Scotland) - Consider requirements that could apply to all pet sellers. e.g. the need to provide care instructions.