



**COMPANION  
ANIMAL WELFARE  
GROUP WALES**

## **CAWGW Policy Position: Third Party Sales of Puppies and Kittens**

The Companion Animal Welfare Group for Wales is made up of organisations that provide services for thousands of companion animals and have tens of thousands of supporters in Wales. We are responsible for veterinary hospitals, pet care clinics, rehoming centres, microchipping services, information centres, community pet care schemes and a range of other services. Given our collective level of expertise and experience we wish to take an active part in policy development with the Welsh Government to address the issues surrounding the breeding and sale of puppies and kittens.

The Companion Animal Welfare Group Wales wants to see improvements to the way puppies and kittens are bred and sold in Wales. A key step towards doing this is to end third party sales and so we welcome the Welsh Government's announcement of a consultation on ending third party sales of puppies and kittens in Wales. Whilst we support ending third party sales, in order to achieve this a ban would need to be part of a comprehensive package of measures to ensure there are no unintended consequences that might occur as part of a quick fix.

We want to see a robust and comprehensive licencing and registration system in place for people who breed and sell puppies and kittens. Licencing and registration accompanied by a central database will ensure transparency and traceability across the system. Licenced premises should be inspected by trained inspectors against a statutory licencing framework in order to ensure that the licencing and registration system is implemented and adhered to in all local authorities across Wales.

We also want to see regulation of rehoming centres and sanctuaries, as they are currently unregulated and could be used as a loophole by puppy traders to circumvent the ban. We reiterate that any licencing and registration system should be in place for those who breed and sell cats as well as dogs.

Any change in legislation to introduce a licencing and registration system should be accompanied by a behaviour change campaign to ensure that the public, breeders, sellers, and prospective owners are aware of the changes and the importance of compliance.

It is also worth noting that we still have concerns around the licensed breeding of puppies in Wales and believe changes can be made to the breeding regulations to ensure the welfare of all puppies bought and sold in Wales is of a high standard. Additionally, cat breeding remains unregulated in Wales and occurs without licence. As things stand a purchaser seeking kittens does not have the option of choosing to go to a licensed cat breeder. We would urge the Welsh Government to review the case for regulation of cat breeding.