

Union Street | St Helier
Jersey | JE2 3DN

Deputy Hilary Jeune
Chair, Environment, Housing and Infrastructure Panel

BY EMAIL

26 September 2025

Dear Chair,

RE: Draft Dogs Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 202- (P.63/2025) and Amendments to the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004

Thank for your letter, dated 22nd September 2024, requesting further clarification on items relating to Draft Dogs Law (Jersey) Amendment Regulations 202- (P.63/2025) and Amendments to the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004.

Please find the answers to the Panel's questions below:

- 1) Is the Department aware of issues relating to the enforcement of livestock worrying offences, and if so, is it under consideration that these should be addressed through either of the propositions referred to above?**

The department is aware of issues relating to the enforcement of livestock worrying offences mainly referring to the interpretation of agricultural land (as in the current Dog (Jersey) Law 1961) and the definitive owner's responsibility for acts done by their dog. These issues have been brought to the attention of the department by a farmer whose flock has suffered several dog attacks. According to the farmer, these attacks have been reported to the police for investigation but have not progressed due to interpretation of the current dog's law. The department has not investigated these cases, as they are being investigated by the police.

2) The Panel seeks your comments on the impact that both Laws, as amended, will have on the resources of your Department, particularly in light of the increased responsibilities the States Veterinary Officers would be granted under the new registration scheme for dangerous dog

The department does not anticipate an un-reasonable impact after the implementation of these 2 pieces of legislation. The Animal Welfare Law will increase the number of businesses that require a licence, but that should be in relatively small numbers and so manageable within current resources.

Regarding the Dogs' Law, it is anticipated that there will be a high number of registrations at the start of the process, however this should be manageable with current resources. There may be issues that result from non-compliance with the new conditions and if we are presented with many non-compliances with registration, and/ or registration conditions, then that will likely increase the impact on staff time and resources.

3) The Panel would be grateful if you could advise whether your Department has identified any gaps or overlaps between the two propositions.

The department does not believe there are any overlaps between the 2 pieces of legislation.

We can identify situations where the revised Dogs' Law could potentially close existing gaps: for example, with the strengthening of the definition of agricultural land leaving no room for misinterpretation.

Another example would be the opportunity to include controls of non-dangerous dogs, such as to implement conditions where dogs must be on a lead when in areas where livestock is grazing or present.

Below we have some examples where proposed orders under the new Animal Welfare Law that will strengthen existing gaps:

1. Licensing of professional dog walkers
2. Microchipping of cats, dogs and ferrets.
3. Implement certain obligations of dog owners and persons responsible detailing specific welfare conditions for dogs to be kept
4. Banning the import of dogs with certain mutilations (we anticipate this will impact on the import of certain breeds/types usually associated with mutilations

Should you require any further information on the above, or any other matters relating to the draft law, please do not hesitate to contact the Minister's office.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jackson", written in a cursive style.

Connétable Mike Jackson
Assistant Minister for the Environment