



Deputy Hilary Jeune
States Assembly
Morier House
St Helier
Jersey
JE1 1DD

4th July 2025

Dear Deputy Jeune

Further to your letter delivered by email on 25th June.

Thank you for inviting the JSPCA Animal Shelter to comment on the proposed Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004 amendments.

Does the Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 2004 need amending, and are the amendments sufficient to improve animal welfare standards in Jersey?

Yes, it does need amending, and we believe the addition of 'orders' will allow changes to be made quickly in future eg: introducing compulsory microchipping.

What resourcing challenges or opportunities do you foresee for the JSPCA and other agencies?

The JSPCA is keen to seize opportunities to collaborate and educate the wider community about the responsibilities of pet ownership and their obligations. We are looking for ways to openly connect and collaborate with other agencies. An island wide Animal Alliance or something similar is something we would like to collaborate on. This will involve inviting and working with various other charities and organisations with animal welfare as part of their objectives.

How do you envisage the new powers (e.g. care-improvement notices, expanded seizure powers, ban on shock collars) being enforced in practice?



Via public reporting as welfare concerns are currently enforced. The JSPCA could act as a middle ground in this instance and do an initial investigation into welfare concerns as it does currently, then pass on anything to the environment department if there are concerns.

How would the amendments impact the work of the JSPCA both directly and indirectly?

These amendments may increase the workload on our welfare officer if she is needed to do more visits for reported concerns. We may also see an increase in animals being signed over to us or euthanized if people decide that it is too much for them or if their animal is seized

Do you believe that the enforcement powers within the current Animal Welfare (Jersey) Law 202- are sufficient? If not, how could they be improved?

The JSPCA is not an enforcement body so could only assist in collating information and assisting the States Vet Dpt. In the past seized animals have been left in limbo in kennels due to the length of time it takes to bring cases to trial, this is not great for any animals welfare.

Were the JSPCA satisfied with the consultation process and were you involved directly in developing the amendments?

The JSPCA has not been involved in the development of amendments but was given the opportunity to comment.

In your view, what information or campaigns will be necessary to ensure owners understand their new obligations?

How might the JSPCA contribute to, or be supported in, such outreach?

The publicity around the new law should or could be a joint response of the JSPCA and States Vet Dpt. There is already a good working relationship with the States Vets which could be strengthened with an increased collaborative approach.

How might the JSPCA contribute to, or be supported in, such outreach?

It would be beneficial for the legislation (or accompanying guidance) to include clear definitions for terms such as 'stray', 'feral' and 'wild'. These terms are often misunderstood by the public and can cause confusion or distress, particularly when animals are referred to as 'strays'. From an operational perspective, a domestic animal without an identifiable owner present is considered a



stray, but this can be at odds with public perception. Because the legal meaning of these terms varies across jurisdictions, including clear, Jersey-specific definitions would help support consistent messaging and improve public understanding around animal welfare responsibilities.

On behalf of the JSPCA I am happy for our responses to be shared with the Scrutiny Panel and published on behalf of the JSPCA.

Warmest Wishes

Pam Aubert
Chief Executive Officer

