



Save Our Welsh Cats & Dogs From Death on the Roads

1st October 2014

1. I am pleased to be able to respond to the letter from Deputy Agricultural Minister, Rebecca Evans dated 12th September. I only wish it weren't so vague about the review taking place; "if resources permit" and "if time allows".

2. As everyone, including the RPSCA is now aware, this invisible fencing system unequivocally prevents domestic pets from getting killed on roads. Is there a better inducement for Animal Welfare to keep pets healthy and alive? The Review of this legislation "Animal Welfare (Electronic Collars) 2010 should be an absolute priority – as it will also create homes for healthy rescue pets that might otherwise be slaughtered by the RSPCA through the lack of available suitable homes as the Society will not re-home rescue pets in a property near a main road.

3. It is actually almost a year to the day when I contacted Mrs Evans as she is one of my Regional Assembly Members. I had been informed by some AMs that as a Labour AM, Rebecca was well known amongst her peers for having an open mind. So I emailed her with a request to discuss my campaign and she replied that "if it was to do with electronic collars, she was unable to help me". I persisted by sending the campaign video and she actually rang me personally within the week or so and we had a very encouraging discussion and she completely understood the distinction between the two types of collar. As with many AMs, she had initially believed that it was about the training collars for dogs (which should be outlawed) as the fencing collars had never been debated in the Assembly. Mrs Evans said that as she knew how to train her dogs to stay within the home confines, she would not be "supporting" my campaign but would be happy to "represent" me to then Minister, Alun Davies.

4. Earlier this year in March, a public consultation was launched "Achieving High Standards Together – A New Framework for Animal Health & Welfare in Wales" which I completed online and added that I would offer to bring a fully qualified professional trainer to the Minister and The Animal Welfare team to demonstrate the invisible fencing system at a date and time of their choosing, at no cost to the Government. Alas I heard nothing back.

5. So I reiterate here my offer to bring a professional to demonstrate the system to the Ministers and the Team at a day, time and location of its choice.

6. It is worth highlighting that there was a discussion between the then Minister Alun Davies, and Simon Thomas (AM) Plaid Cymru in July and here is the transcript:

Simon Thomas:AM "specifically, we know that plans in terms of dog breeding regulations are to come before the Assembly soon. One area that you have discussed with me in the past is electronic collars. Although it is positive legislation, there is an impact in certain circumstances when invisible fences are used to keep tame animals from going onto roads and getting killed and so on. Is this something you should consider during the next stage as an area for amending the law?"

Alun Davies AM Minister "I am very happy to consider that. I have already agreed with DEFRA that there will be a review of the research and data available in that field and I will be making a decision as to whether the current policy needs to be changed or revisited before the end of the year.

6. I met with my MP Mark Williams and his associate Cllr Elizabeth Evans earlier in the year to discuss progress made as it was Mark's suggestion almost 3 years ago to start a petition and get in touch with William Powell AM.

To my great surprise (and delight), Cllr Elizabeth Evans said that she knew the invisible fencing system and wanted one herself!

William Powell AM