

# Consultation Paper

Licensing of Tethering of Cattle, Goats and Horses

Date: 9 July 2013

## Purpose and type of consultation

The purpose of this document is to seek views on the proposal that, to assure that animal welfare is not compromised and animal management practices can be effectively regulated, a system for the licensing of tethering should be introduced in Guernsey in due course.

This paper puts forward proposals for a system for the licensing of the tethering of cattle, which could be extended to cover goats and horses

Regulation of tethering by licensing could be introduced under the new Animal Welfare Ordinance that the Department hopes will be enacted later this year when all preparatory work is complete.

Information received from the consultation will assist the Department in finalising arrangements for the introduction of new animal welfare legislation in the coming months.

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**Closing date : 9 August 2013**

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## SUMMARY

The Commerce and Employment Department would like views on the proposal for the introduction of measures under new animal welfare legislation that will require the owners and keepers of cattle, (and potentially goats and horses) to hold a licence if they tether these animals.

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## Contacts

Further information: <http://www.gov.gg/>

Please send your comments to:

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## Circulation

This consultation paper has been sent to the following individuals / organisations:

**Owners/keepers of cattle and goats**

**Welfare organisations**

**Farming Organisations**

**Riding Organisations**

**Riding and Livery Stables**

**Guernsey Smallholders Association**

### Supporting documents attached:

Draft conditions of a license to tether cattle

Draft guidance on the tethering of cattle.

### Introduction

You may be aware of recent and ongoing publicity championed by Promoting Animal Welfare amongst others, about the tethering of animals, primarily cattle. This issue received particular media attention during the two days of extreme cold weather earlier in the year. The Department has been asked to consider the introduction of suitable, proportionate, and effective measures to ensure the welfare of tethered animals and it has agreed, in principle, to bring in a system of licensing for this activity.

### Background

Cattle have been tethered as part of a traditional husbandry practiced within the Bailiwick of Guernsey since time immemorial. At the start of the 20th century there were approximately 400 small farms in the Bailiwick which used a combination of stalls and tethering to manage their cattle.

In the winter, cattle would be accommodated in a barn, tied in stalls. The farmers would feed the stalled cattle hay and root crops. In the summer, cattle would be tethered in fields or on common ground so that they could graze pasture. In the spring and autumn, when the weather was marginal, cattle may have been tethered outside during the day and brought back to their stalls in the evenings. This system allowed farmers to carefully manage pasture before electric fences and barbed wire were available, but also meant that cattle could be protected from the weather when necessary.

Today tethering can play a role in conservation grazing of coastland and cliff top pasture. A survey of agricultural practices in 1990 revealed that 16 of the 65 farmers were tethering their cattle, today there are less than 5 keepers who regularly tether their cattle.

The primary objective of the minimum standards for tethering cattle is to protect the welfare of cattle by recapturing what was good about traditional tethering, then reconditioning and modernising it. Young-stock (6months to 2years) and adult cattle (>2years) are robust and resilient, but stockmen must proactively adjust their management when extremes of weather are forecast.

### This Consultation

Attached is a draft of proposed licence conditions together with a set of guidelines to assist animal owners or keepers. Whilst these documents relate specifically to cattle, the Department would produce similar documents for goats and horses if needed.

The format and contents of these other documents would be the same, in that they will prescribe requirements on where animals may be tethered, the type of tethering equipment that can be used, feeding, watering and measure to be taken in extreme weather conditions. Specific details will vary according to the species to which a licence would relate.

The Department would welcome comments on –

- a) the principle of introducing measures to licence the tethering of:-
  1. cattle,
  2. goats, and
  3. horses,
- b) The draft licence conditions for tethering cattle,
- c) The draft guidance for the tethering of cattle,
- d) Any conditions that you consider relevant to the licensing of tethering of goats or horses,
- e) Any guidance that you consider relevant to the licensing of tethering of goats or horses, and
- f) Any other matter that you consider relevant to this consultation.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1

#### DRAFT CONDITIONS OF A LICENCE TO TETHER CATTLE

##### Calves

1. Calves under the age of 6 months or with a heart girth of less than 100 cm must not be tethered other than for activities such as -
  - a) feeding milk,
  - b) veterinary inspection, or
  - c) the administration of veterinary medicines,and they must only be tethered for as long as it is necessary to undertake such activities.

##### Location

2. Cattle **must** be tethered where -
  - a) they have natural or artificial protection from extremes of weather, and
  - b) they can lie down on ground that is not waterlogged.
3. Cattle **must not** be tethered -
  - a) close enough to anything with which a tether could become entangled,
  - b) where they can reach hazards such as ditches, edges or poisonous plants, and
  - c) where they can reach public roads or footpaths.
4. Heifers and cows that are in season must not be tethered in the same place as bullocks or bulls.

##### Tethering Equipment

5. Tethers must -
  - a) be strong enough to restrain an adult animal and must be replaced if they are damaged or worn,
  - b) be at minimum of 3 metres in length or three times the length of the animal (as measured from tip of its nose to the base of its tail) that is tethered, whichever is the greatest,
  - c) have at least one free running swivel, and
  - d) be made of non-abrasive material and if chains are used they must be sheathed.
6. Pegs or anchors must have a rotating collar to which a tether must be attached.

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7. Halters, collars or head chains must -
    - a) fit an animal comfortably and must not cause damage to the skin. They must be checked regularly and adjusted if necessary to prevent injury or discomfort and to take account of growth in young animals,
    - b) be made of non-abrasive materials, and
    - c) be replaced if they are worn or damaged.
  8. Head ropes must not be made of a material that shrinks when wet.

#### Feeding

9. Tethered cattle must be provided with enough food to maintain them in good health and vigour. If grazing alone does not achieve this, supplementary feed must be provided.
10. Supplementary feed must be provided in a manner that prevents it from being blown away in windy conditions.
11. Animals must be moved to a new pitch when they have grazed out the area that they can reach.

#### Water

12. Tethered cattle must be provided with enough fresh, potable water for them to remain hydrated in the prevailing environmental conditions. Moisture from grazing alone is insufficient to achieve this.
13. Tethered cattle must not be able to drink from streams and ponds.

#### Cold Weather

14. If the environmental temperature falls below 0°C, tethered cattle must be -
  - a) protected by either -
    - i) providing them with coats or rugs,
    - ii) moving them inside a building, or
    - iii) providing them with natural or artificial shelter, and
  - b) provided with supplementary feed.
15. Water supplies must be freed from ice at least twice a day.

#### Hot Weather

16. If the environmental temperature is greater than 20°C, tethered cattle must be -
  - a) protected by either -
    - i) providing them with natural or artificial shade, if possible in a location where there is also a breeze,
    - ii) moving them into a building, provided that it also has good ventilation,
    - iii) wetting or misting them with water, and
  - b) provided with fresh drinking water at all times.

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Sick and Injured Cattle

17. On the advice of a veterinary surgeon, sick or injured cattle must be isolated and accommodated in a building.

Pregnant Cows and Calving

18. A pregnant cow must not be tethered after the 40<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy or if it shows signs of calving before this period.
19. A cow must have free access to its calf for a minimum of 3 days after giving birth.
20. Cows that are kept with their calves must not be tethered.

APPENDIX 2

DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR THE WELFARE OF TETHERED CATTLE

TO BE MADE UNDER SECTION 13(6) OF THE ANIMAL WELFARE (GUERNSEY) ORDINANCE, 2012

Licence

If cattle are tethered, the owner or keeper must obtain a licence to tether cattle from the Commerce and Employment Department.

Calves

Calves that are less than six months of age or with a heart girth of less than 100 cm must not be tethered.

Site

Tethered cattle must be able to shelter from adverse weather and they should therefore have access to either natural or artificial wind breaks and shade and they must also have a place that is well drained for them to lie down on.

Cattle should not be tethered -

- close to a fixed or mobile object on which their tether could become entangled,
- close enough to reach other tethered animals,
- where they can reach poisonous plants, hazardous objects or substances and other hazards such as roads, streams, ditches or where there is an edge where the land drops away,
- on water-logged ground,

A heifer or cow which is 'in-season' should not be tethered near bullocks or bulls.

Ideally, cattle should not be tethered in areas that are used by the public as this may increase the risk of feeding (titbits), tampering with tethers and worrying by dogs.

Where tethered cattle are on sites where there is public access, signs should be erected in a clearly visible position indicating that the activity is licensed and warning the public to keep away and not interfere with the animal, for example 'BEWARE TETHERED CATTLE'



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Tethering equipment

Halters, collars or head ropes and chains must fit and be comfortable and strong enough to restrain an animal. Animals may suffer distress or injury from halters, collars or head ropes or chains -

- from trying to reach beyond the end of their tether,
- as the result of growth, and
- if they are not accustomed to tethering, from testing their restraints.

Halters, collars or head ropes and chains must therefore be checked regularly (at least every fortnight is a guide) particularly if cattle are unaccustomed to tethering and in the case of young-stock which are still growing.

A halter should be constructed from wide straps, bands or strips of material which lay flat against the skin and join together, possibly utilising buckles. It should also be adjustable to enable a comfortable fit and to accommodate growth in an animal. The width/web of straps should be at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch (19mm) for young-stock and at least 1 inch (25mm) for adult cattle.

A collar should be constructed from a wide strap, band or strip of material which lays flat against the skin and is joined together, possibly utilising a buckle. It should also be adjustable to enable a comfortable fit and to accommodate growth in an animal. The width/web of the straps should be at least 1 inch (25mm) for young-stock and at least 1 and  $\frac{3}{5}$  of an inch (40mm) for adult cattle.

A head rope which passes beneath and around both of an animal's horns must not be made from a material that will shrink/contract when wet and it should be at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch (13mm) in diameter. In the case of growing animals it should be checked at least once a fortnight and, if necessary, adjusted to ensure that the rope can move freely under the base of each horn.

A tether must be strong enough to restrain an animal and it should be inspected at least once a fortnight to ensure that it is not worn or damaged. A tether should be made of a non-abrasive where it comes into contact with an animal and in the case of a chain it should be sheathed in flexible plastic or silicon pipe to avoid injury to an animal, particularly its back legs.

Pegs should have a rotating collar at ground level from which a tether can be attached. Care should be taken to ensure that the ground conditions are such that the peg cannot be pulled out of the ground by a tethered animal.

A tether must be long enough to allow an animal to stand up, lie down, rest, groom, and walk three steps unhindered. This should be achieved with a tether that is at least 3 metres long or 3 times the length of the animal as measured from the tip of its nose to the base of its tail, whichever length is the greatest.

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### Feeding

Tethered cattle must be provided with enough food to maintain them in good health and vigour. If grazing alone does not achieve this, supplementary feed must be provided.

The type and amount of supplementary feed that is provided and the frequency at which it is provided should take account of the age, production status or physiological requirements of an animal.

Supplementary feed must be provided when animals cannot graze, such as when the ground is covered with snow.

In windy conditions, supplementary fodder (hay, straw, silage, haylage) should be provided in such a way that it will not be blown out of reach of an animal.

### Drinking Water

Tethered cattle must be provided with enough fresh, potable water for them to remain hydrated in the prevailing environmental conditions. Moisture from grazing alone is insufficient to achieve this.

Generally, this can be achieved by providing fresh drinking water at least twice daily and allowing animals the opportunity to drink until they are satisfied (adult cattle can drink up to 25 litres of water at one time). However the amount of water an animal needs will vary according to the time of year, prevailing weather conditions, the age of an animal, its state of health and whether or not it is producing milk.

As a general guide -

- growing cattle (between 180kg and 360kg in weight) require between 23 and 36 litres of water per day during the winter.
- an average adult cow needs 50 litres of water per day, but in hot weather this can increase to 250 litres.
- a lactating cow needs to drink a volume of water that is 4 or 5 times the amount of milk that it produces each day.

Water must be provided in containers that are –

- large enough to provide sufficient water for a particular animal in the prevailing circumstances,
- continuously accessible to a tethered animal,
- do not present a risk of entangling a tether, and
- tip resistant (for example buckets can be placed inside tyres).

Streams, ponds and other natural sources are not suitable for tethered cattle because of the risk of an animal slipping or falling.

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Action in Cold Weather

Action must be taken to protect the health and welfare of tethered cattle if the environmental temperature falls below 0°C.

Such action includes -

- providing them with coats or rugs,
- creating temporary wind breaks or shelters (such as to the Corey Cross) and providing bedding,
- moving them inside a building,
- ensuring that any ice in water containers is removed at least twice a day, and
- providing additional food (especially if animals cannot graze because the ground is covered by snow).

Action in Hot Weather

Action must be taken to protect the health and welfare of tethered cattle if the environmental temperature rises above 20°C.

Such action includes -

- providing fresh drinking water at all times,
- moving animals to a shaded location or providing artificial shade, if possible also in a place where there is a breeze, and
- moving animals into a building to provide shade, provided that it also has good ventilation, and
- wetting the body of the animals with water from a watering can or mist spray every few hours to encourage heat loss through evaporation.

Number of Tethered Cattle

If more than one animal is kept, tethered cattle should be placed where it can see at least one other cow.

Outdoor tethering requires a high degree of supervision of the tethered animals. As a general guide, the maximum number of cattle that a person can manage is 40.

Accommodation of sick or injured cattle

On the advice of a veterinary surgeon, sick or injured cattle must be isolated and accommodated in a building.

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Temporary Housing

If used during extreme weather or to isolate ill or injured cattle, temporary housing should -

- be of sound construction and not contain materials, fixtures, fittings or equipment that represents a hazard to cattle,
- be capable of being thoroughly cleansed and disinfected,
- provide ventilation that prevents the build up of humidity, high temperatures, dust or gas, and
- provide light (either by natural or artificial means) equivalent to daylight during normal daylight hours.

Pregnant Cows and Calving

A pregnant cow must not be tethered after the 40<sup>th</sup> week of pregnancy or if it shows signs of calving before this period.

A cow must have free access to its calf for a minimum of 3 days after giving birth.

Cows that are kept with their calves must not be tethered.

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## How to respond:

### PLEASE SEND COMMENTS TO

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## Disclaimer

*\*Please note that consultation responses may be made public.*

*(sent to other interested parties on request, quoted in a published report, reported in the media, published on [www.gov.gg](http://www.gov.gg), listed on a consultation summary etc.)*

*\*Please indicate in your response how the Department should treat your response, the options available include:*

*I agree that my comments may be made public and attributed to me*

*I agree that my comments may be made public but not attributed (i.e. anonymous)*

*I don't want my comments made public*

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Name:	<hr/> <hr/>
Address:	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>