

The Hon Clare Barber
Minister for Environment, Food and Agriculture
Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture

13 April 2022

Via e-mail: clare.barber@gov.im

Dear Ms Barber:

I'm writing on behalf of PETA – one of the largest animal protection organisations in the UK – and our more than 1.3 million members and supporters. We understand that the Department for Environment, Food and Agriculture (DEFA) is currently studying the population of wild wallabies on the Isle of Man, and we hope that the report will conclude that if a control policy is needed, humane, non-lethal approaches should be used for living alongside these animals.

It's worth remembering that wallabies are only on the island today because humans brought them here in the first place. We therefore owe it to these animals to find humane ways to manage the population – and that must not include culling them, which would not only condemn wallabies to agonising deaths but would end up *increasing* the population, as it would leave those who survive with more food sources, causing their breeding rate to spike. The ineffectiveness of lethal methods at controlling populations is why they must be repeated year after year, as seen with other species such as deer and rabbits. Culls are cruel and simply do not work for either native or non-native species.

Environmental modification such as food control – for example, reducing the availability of grasses in cleared areas by replanting with trees – is a simple, humane, and highly effective means of wallaby population management. Manipulating vegetation is a practical method suggested by the Australian Capital Territory's government to limit the population growth of kangaroos, a similar marsupial. Other successful, non-lethal schemes focus on contraception or sterilisation programmes, such as those used to control certain urban pigeon and deer populations in Vancouver, Canada. Contraceptives were introduced for female black-tailed deer after residents and animal rights groups raised concerns over a planned cull.

Wallabies are fascinating herbivores who pose no threat to other animals and who, having been brought here against their will, found a way to survive. We will never restore ecological harmony through the barrel of a gun, and we hope to hear from you that if you do intend to interfere with the wallaby population, only modern, non-lethal methods will be used.

Sincerely,

Kate Werner
Senior Campaigns Manager