



Cayman Islands Humane Society  
153 North Sound Road  
George Town  
PO Box 1167  
Grand Cayman KY1-1102  
Registered NPO Number: 270  
[www.caymanhumane.org](http://www.caymanhumane.org)

6 February 2023

**FAO: The Honourable Premier, Wayne Panton, Cayman Islands Government**

**RE: NATIONAL CONSERVATION (ALIEN SPECIES) REGULATIONS 2022**

Dear Mr Panton,

We write this open letter in respect of the National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations 2022 ("the Regulations"). We maintain that these regulations are unnecessary, disproportionate and represent a drastic regression for animal welfare law and policy in these Islands. In this regard, the Government will have noted the overwhelming negative public reaction to the Regulations.

It is extremely disappointing that neither we, nor any of our fellow animal charities, were consulted by the Government in relation to the Regulations. We were not afforded the opportunity to share our expertise into the issues at hand, nor to provide constructive feedback as to the practical implications of the Regulations. It is clear that, in failing to engage in a dialogue with us and other key stakeholders, important issues have not been considered. This has resulted in irrational regulations and a confused, inconsistent and misleading narrative being propagated by the Government in relation to these important animal welfare issues.

Furthermore, the Regulations represent a grossly disproportionate response to the perceived issues and provide for an equally disproportionate enforcement regime. The fact that the Government has not only seen fit to criminalise the feeding of cats and chickens, but has deemed this to be an imprisonable offence, is something of which this Government should be deeply ashamed. The FAQs published by the National Conservation Council are an embarrassment and demonstrate that these Regulations were ill-considered and rushed, with little thought to how they would play out in practice or be enforced.

The Cayman Islands Humane Society implores the Government to rethink its position in relation to key issues such as Trap Neuter Release and the criminalisation of the feeding of cats and chickens. By mandating its citizens, residents and visitors to engage in wilful neglect, thereby causing cruel and unnecessary suffering, the Government has relegated Cayman's animal welfare regime far behind those of other developed countries.

The current state of affairs is plainly untenable. Failure to remedy the defects in the Regulations will likely result in far greater suffering for the animals of these islands, including those the Government purportedly seeks to protect. In the circumstances, we invite the Government to repeal the Regulations forthwith and proceed to carry out a proper consultation process with all relevant stakeholders including the public it serves.

We look forward to your prompt response and proposals for commencing a constructive dialogue in relation to the concerns raised, so that collectively we may work towards identifying a way forward which properly and proportionately serves the welfare needs of the animals of these Islands.

Yours faithfully,

*Cayman Islands Humane Society*

**The Cayman Islands Humane Society**