

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: PUPPY FARMING
Date: Monday, 7 March 2016 8:34:21 PM

Dear Government

I am most anxious to request that animal welfare laws should be extended. It is a great disappointment that when a law is made to protect animals, it never seems to go quite far enough to cover all eventualities. In this case, the word "farm" says everything about the unscrupulous behaviour of many operators.

Time and again these puppy "farms" get away with treating dogs as commodities and their welfare standards fall well short of what is basic animal care. I would like to suggest that regular health "without notice" checks - by the RSPCA perhaps - should be carried out several times during the year.

I would also suggest that there should be a limit on how many litters a female dog should be forced to have per year. This is normal animal husbandry practice and should be mandatory in any farming project.

One problem with puppy farming is that dogs are kept confined, frequently in hot sheds and in the dark, with lack of exercise being a major health problem. That there are far too many dogs on a farm for the proprietors to give each dog proper care and attention is a common problem and to this end, I would suggest that there only be ten breeding dogs allowed per "farm." Vet care should be automatically given.

I would also suggest that the regulations cover *every* breed of dog, and *no exemptions* be allowed for - example - working dogs - and that resources should be made in the regulations for regular access by the RSPCA inspectors.

Police should have the power to order seizure of the dogs when animal welfare regulations have been abused and the proprietors charged with animal cruelty.

Lastly but very importantly, I truly believe that the acquisition of puppy farm dogs and the sale of these in pet shops should be banned. There are literally thousands of dogs in shelters, placed there by mostly irresponsible *taxpayer owners*, who need homes and having outlets in pet shops would facilitate the re-homing process for these animals. Many pet shops already do this on a voluntary basis and they are to be commended.

Euthanasia of thousands of perfectly healthy animals is an appalling by-product of human cruelty and carelessness.

Lastly, penalties for animal abuse have been put in place by caring people - the late MP, the Honourable Tom Burns for example - and these are *not* being enacted by magistrates and judges. A slap on the wrist in the shape of a fine is

no deterrent to an animal abuser. Time and again the media captures these appalling people leaving court, laughing because they "got away with it." I realise that the separation of powers makes it impossible for the government to intervene in matters of the court, but I would point out that courts are *servants of the people* who pay their wages. There is an expectation that penalties in place should be enacted, otherwise what are we paying for?

I hope these letter will actually be read by someone in authority and not passed over and ignored. I too am a taxpayer and consider that my views are valid.

Yours sincerely

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