

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Agriculture and Environment Committee](#)
Subject: [SPAM ?] Submission on Puppy Protection Bill
Date: Monday, 7 March 2016 8:02:10 PM
Importance: Low

To Whom it may Concern,

I am glad to see that measures are being taken to improve the welfare of puppies (and adult dogs too), but I am afraid these may not be enough to stop unscrupulous breeders who run “puppy factories”. Some of the problems associated with these are: dogs kept in sub-standard conditions without being able to express natural behaviours or have companionship and kindness; bitches forced to have litter after litter without any regard to their physical or mental health; over-supply of puppies generally, with who knows what dreadful end for some of the poor babies; too many dogs crammed into small spaces, with individual owners having far too many dogs in their “care”; supply of puppies to pet shops, where they are worthless unless sold fairly quickly; and plain unadulterated cruelty.

Could these problems not be addressed as well? It is plain that there is a difference between a responsible dog-lover who may have the time and space to keep a larger number of dogs than the average one-per-family, and who has all his/her dogs desexed, and the irresponsible puppy factory manager. Could I suggest that there be definite limits placed on how many litters a bitch should have to cope with (I feel this should also apply to more upmarket dog breeders – there are already too many dogs who don’t get that loving home), and at what age she should first be allowed to breed; that there should be an upper limit on how many dogs should be kept by the one owner (I believe ten would be ample); that all breedings and births should be recorded; that animal welfare associations should be given more powers to remove dogs from situations that are clearly harmful to them; that pet shops should only be allowed to sell rescue dogs (and should guarantee to return them to the rescue organization if they fail to find a home); and that anyone convicted of cruelty or gross neglect should be banned from keeping animals again.

Could I respectfully ask you to take all these points (and you may think of more) into consideration when framing legislation that should give the very best protection to dogs, all of whom deserve our care and love.

Yours sincerely,
Cynthia Harris

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