



DBRG Response to EFRA Animal Welfare Report

DBRG is very grateful to the EFRA Sub-Committee for its Report and believes there is a great deal to welcome.

In particular DBRG welcomes the recommendation for new statutory regulations to protect the genetic viability and welfare of offspring as well as adult dogs. Carol Fowler commented, *'Such issues can cause untold suffering to the dogs themselves and to their owners. For far too long such health and welfare problems have been overlooked or played down by those with the power enact effective regulations. I also hope that this is the beginning of the end to dogs being bred with body shapes that are unnatural and cause disability and discomfort. Dogs deserve protection from Government and enforcement agencies to prevent unethical breeding practices.'*

DBRG also welcomes the recommendation for a ban on third party sale of dogs; the requirement for the licensing of breeders who breed more than two litters a year; the recommendation for a timetable to be drawn up for the secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare Act; and that all internet advertisements should include the registration or licence number of the breeder. Making the dog breeding industry more transparent, including traceability back to the breeder is something DBRG regards as essential.

Unfortunately DBRG cannot support the Report's recommendation that the RSPCA should step back from its power to prosecute animal welfare cases. DBRG shares the concerns expressed by other dog welfare organisations and charities about this. No other body has the resources, expertise and experience to step into this role. No other prosecution authority has the same commitment to animal welfare. Sadly this recommendation detracts from an otherwise excellent and forward looking Report.

Note to editors

DBRG is an organisation dedicated to improving the health and welfare of dogs through responsible breeding. It was founded in 2013 and became a Charitable Trust in 2015. Members of the DBRG include veterinary specialists, dog welfare and law experts, breeders and dog owners.

For more information about the DBRG please visit www.dogbreedingreformgroup.uk or contact Carol Fowler carol@cavaliercampaign.com or call 01453 843944