Proposal to permit tail docking of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

Consultation Document

Consultation open – 10 February 2016 – 3 May 2016
To Interested Parties
(List attached)

10 February 2016

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on “Proposal to permit tail docking of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers”.

You are invited to respond to the enclosed consultation document on a specific proposal to introduce legislation to permit the docking of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies which are intended to be used as working dogs.

Full details regarding the purpose and scope of the consultation, and how to respond to it are contained in pages 3 to 6 of the consultation paper. To improve ease of analysis of the consultation response we would be grateful if, where possible, you could respond by way of the online survey facility hosted by Citizenspace. A link to the consultation survey on Citizenspace can be found on the Scottish Government website at: https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/animal-welfare/proposal-to-permit-tail-docking

Other methods for responding are explained in the consultation paper.

Your consultation response is important to us so please note that the consultation will close on 3 May 2016. Any response received after this date is unlikely to be included in the consultation analysis.

As always with consultations, we need to know how you wish your response to be handled, and in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. The Respondent Information Form should be completed by everyone providing a response to the consultation document. Further information concerning the Respondent Information Form and how your response will be handled can be found on pages 5 and 6 of the consultation paper.

If you have any queries about this consultation please contact Phil Burns by email: TailDockingConsultation2016@gov.scot or by telephone: 0300 244 9240.
Enclosed with this letter are:

- The main Consultation Document
- The Respondent Information Form and consultation questionnaire (to be completed when sending a response)

Please feel free to forward copies of these consultation documents to anyone else that you think might have an interest in them.

We look forward to your response.

Yours faithfully

Animal Welfare Team
Scottish Government
List of interested parties

Animal Mutilation and Dog List of Consultees (Also includes private individuals, local authorities, and government departments.)

| 2 Sisters Food Group                      | Aquithie Boarding & Quarantine Kennels & Cattery |
| Abercorn Veterinary Clinics               | Argyll Adventure                                      |
| ABJ Consultancy Service                  | Argyll Animal Aid                                       |
| Academy Vet Centre                       |                                                         |
| Acoura Certification                     |                                                         |
| Action of Churches Together in Scotland  |                                                         |
| Air Cargo Advisory Services              |                                                         |
| Akita Club of Scotland                   |                                                         |
| Alan Brown & Associates Veterinary Surgeons |                                                     |
| Alaska Dog News                          |                                                         |
| Albavet                                  |                                                         |
| Albyn Veterinary Centre                  |                                                         |
| Allandale Animal Sanctuary               |                                                         |
| Allen & Matthews                         |                                                         |
| Allers Farm Kennels                      |                                                         |
| Alphavet                                 |                                                         |
| Angus College                            |                                                         |
| Angus Dog Rescue                         |                                                         |
| Animal & Plant Health Agency (Scotland)  |                                                         |
| Animal Aid                               |                                                         |
| Animal Behaviour and Training Council    |                                                         |
| Animal Concern Advice Line               |                                                         |
| Animal Defenders International           |                                                         |
| Animal Health and Veterinary Laboratories Agency (Worcester) |                             |
| Animal Health Trust                      |                                                         |
| Animaline                                |                                                         |
| Anti-Docking Alliance                    |                                                         |

Saughton House, Broomhouse Drive, Edinburgh  EH11 3XD  
www.gov.scot
Dog World Publications Ltd
Dogs
Dogs Trust (Glasgow)
Dogs Trust (Leicester)
Dogs Trust (London)
Donald S. McGregor and Partners Ltd
Donview Veterinary Centre
Dryburgh Abbey Training Group
Dryfe Veterinary Group (The)
Dukes Veterinary Practice Ltd
Dumfries and Galloway Canine Rescue Centre
Dumyat Kennels
Dunarg School for Dogs
Dundas Veterinary Group
Dunedin Veterinary Surgeons
E & L Insurance Services
East Lothian Dog Training Club
Easter Ross Vets
Easterhill Farm
Edinburgh & District Riding Club
Edinburgh Dog & Cat Home (The)
Electronic Collar Manufacturers Association
Elmwood College
English Setter Society of Scotland
English Springer Spaniel Club of Scotland
Equine Grass Sickness Fund
Eriskay Pony Mother Stud Book Society - Comann Each nan Eilean Ltd
Ethical Voice for Animals
European Studbook Foundation
Exmoor Pony Society
Family Farmers Association
Farm Animal Welfare Committee
Federation of Companion Animal Societies
Fergusson, Alex, MSP
Ferniehirst Mill Riding Centre
Field Spaniel Society
Finnie, John MSP
Firth Veterinary Centre
Flanders Veterinary Services
Flett & Carmichael Veterinary Surgeons
Food Standards Scotland
Foreside Farms
Fox Terrier Club of Scotland
Galashiels & Border District Canine Society
Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust (Scottish HQ)
German Shepherd Dog Club of Scotland (The)
Gibson, Kenneth MSP
Give A Greyhound A Home
Glenrath Farms Ltd
Glennythan Vet Group
Golden Retriever Club (The)
Golden Retriever Club of Scotland
Grahame, Christine MSP
Grampian Country Chicken (Rearing) Ltd - Vion UK
Grampian German Shepherd Dog Association
Greenhead Farm
Greyhound Awareness League
Greyhound Board of Great Britain
Griffon Bruxellois Breeders Association
Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (Edinburgh)
Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (Reading)
Haflinger Trekking Centre
Halal Monitoring Committee
Hanoverian Society in the UK
HBS Ring Ltd
Heads of Ayr Farm Park
Health & Safety Executive
Help Fife Animals
Help for Abandoned Animals Sanctuary
Help or Rehabilitate Scottish Equines
Highland Canine Association
Highland Pony Society
Highland Trekking & Trail Riding
Highland Wildlife Park
Hound Association of Scotland
Hudghton, Ian MEP
Humanist Society Scotland
Hungarian Vizsla Club
Hungarian Wirehaired Vizsla Club of Great Britain
Hy-Line UK Ltd
Inner Wolf Ltd - British Dog
Inshes Veterinary Centre
Institute of Biodiversity, Animal Health and Comparative Medicine
International Fund for Animal Welfare
International Otter Survival Fund
International Sheepdog Society
Inverclyde Dog Training Club
Ivybank Veterinary Clinic
Johnston & Farrell
K R & P A Playle
Keele University
Kennel Club (The)
Kirk Dog Training Club
Labrador Rehoming Co-ordination Service
Ladies Kennel Association of Scotland
Laminitis Clinic (The)
Lamond Veterinary Clinic
League Against Cruel Sports
Library of Trinity College, Dublin (The)
Links Veterinary Group
Mancunian Boxer Club
Marine Conservation International
McKenzie & Co MsRCVS
McTaggart Veterinary Group
Meadows Veterinary Centre
Merlin Veterinary Group
MKM Sportshorse Stud
Moray Firth Ringcraft Club
Moredun Research Institute
Morven Veterinary Practice Ltd
Mossburn Community Farm
Mountains Animal Sanctuary
Mrs Murray's Home for Stray Dogs and Cats
Muslim Council of Scotland
Nardini Rudder Veterinary Centre
National Animal Welfare Trust
National Dog Warden Association (Scotland)
National Farmers Union of Scotland
National Gamekeepers' Organisation
National Library of Scotland (The)
National Library of Wales (The)
National Secular Society
National Sheep Association
Neapolitan Mastiff Club (The)
Noble Foods Ltd
Norfolk Terrier Club of Great Britain (The)
North Highland College (The)
North of Scotland British Veterinary Association Welfare Representative
Northern Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Society
Northern Newfoundland Dog Club (The)
Oban Veterinary Surgeons
O’Connor-Pierce Veterinary Surgeons
Old Mill Veterinary Practice
OneKind
Orkney Carriage Driving Group
Orkney Seal Rescue
Ornamental Aquatic Trade Association Ltd
Palacerigg Country Park
Parkside Veterinary Group
Parson Russell Terrier Club
Parti-Coloured Cocker Spaniel Club (The)
Pentland Hills Icelandic
People And Dogs Society
People4ponies Organisation (The)
People’s Dispensary for Sick Animals
Perthshire Abandoned Dogs Society
Pet Health Council
Pets As Therapy
Pictland Boxers
Pig Veterinary Society
Police Scotland
Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club (The)
Polmont Veterinary Clinic
Puddledub Stud
Reed, Brown & Cameron MSRCVS

Rewarding Dogs
Ringlink Scotland Ltd
Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons
Royal Environmental Health Institute of Scotland
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (The)
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds Scotland
Royal Veterinary College (The)
Ryan & Calder
S B & Co
Safe Paws
Scientialis Ltd
Scotland for Animals
Scotland’s Rural College (Research & Development)
Scotland’s Rural College (Veterinary Services)
Scottish Association for Country Sports
Scottish Beagle Club (The)
Scottish Beef Association
Scottish Beef Cattle Association
Scottish Border Terrier Club
Scottish Boxer Club
Scottish Canine Consultative Council
Scottish Centre For Animal Welfare Sciences
Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office
Scottish Conservatives & Unionist Party
Scottish Council of Jewish Communities
Scottish Countryside Alliance
Scottish Egg Producer Retailers Association
Scottish Enterprise
Scottish Equestrian Association
Scottish Equine Breeders Association (Dingwall)
Scottish Federation of Meat Traders
Scottish Field Trials Association
Scottish Gamekeepers Association
Scottish Great Dane Club
Scottish Green Party
Scottish Hawk Board
Scottish Islamic Foundation
Scottish Kennel Club (Helensburgh)
Scottish Kennel Club (Musselburgh)
Scottish Labour Party
Scottish Land and Estates
Scottish Liberal Democrats
Scottish National Party
Scottish Parliament European & External Relations Committee
Scottish Parliament Information Centre
Scottish Parliament Rural Affairs, Climate Change Environment Committee
Scottish Pig Keepers Association
Scottish Pig Producers Ltd
Scottish Police Federation
Scottish Progressive German Shepherd Dog Group (The)
Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
Scottish SPCA Edinburgh & Lothian Animal Rescue & Rehoming Centre
Scottish Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rescue
Scottish Voice for Animals
Scottish Youth Parliament
Selkirk & District Canine Society
Shetland Abattoir (The)
Shetland Dog Club
Shetland Pony Stud Book Society
Shetland Sheep Society
Shetland Vets
Shieldbank Riding & Vaulting Club
Shore Veterinary Centre Ltd
Smooth Fox Terrier Association
Society for Abandoned Animals (The)
Society of Chief Officers of Trading Standards in Scotland
Soft-Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of Great Britain
St Clair Veterinary Group
Stables Equine Practice (The)
Stewartry Veterinary Centre (The)
Stihler, Catherine MEP
Strathbogie Veterinary Centre
Strathclyde Emergencies Co-ordination Group
Strathspey Veterinary Centre
Struthers & Scott Veterinary Surgeons
Swedish Vallhund Society
Tay Valley Gundog Association
Taylor Veterinary Practice Ltd
Tayside, Lochee & District Canine Club
Tombreck Farm
Top Dog Training Devon
Town & Country Veterinary Group
United Kingdom Association of Pet Dog Trainers
United Kingdom Horse Shoers Association
United Kingdom Toydog Society
Universities Federation for Animal Welfare
University of Aberdeen (School of Law)
University of Bristol (Animal Welfare)
University of Bristol (Farm Animal Science)  Weimaraner Club of Great Britain
University of Bristol (Farm Animal Welfare)  Weimaraner Club of Scotland
University of Cambridge (Department of Veterinary Medicine)  Wellsfield Farm / Livery / Riding Establishment
University of Stirling (Department of Psychology)  Welsh Corgi League (Scottish Secretary)
Urquhart, Jean MSP  West Port Veterinary Clinic Ltd
Valley Veterinary Group  Westwards Veterinary Practice
Veterinary Centre (Portree)  Wigtownshire Animal Welfare Association
Veterinary Centre (The), Glasgow  Wild Futures
Veterinary Centre (The), Uddingston  Windygates Stables
Veterinary Deer Society  Wood Green Animal Shelters
Vetwork UK  Woodside Veterinary Group
Vion UK Food Group  World Horse Welfare
Viva!  World Poultry Science Association United Kingdom Branch
Wallets Marts Castle Douglas Limited  World Society for the Protection of Animals
PART 1 – ABOUT THIS CONSULTATION

Topic of this consultation

This consultation is seeking views on a specific proposal to introduce legislation to permit the docking of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies which are intended to be used as working dogs.

Scope of this consultation

This consultation concerns the case that has been made to us for the introduction of a tightly defined exemption regime to allow vets in Scotland to exercise their professional judgement and dock Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies only, if they believe on the evidence presented to them that they are likely to be used for working in future and that the pain of docking is outweighed by the possible avoidance of more serious injuries later in life.

This consultation does not cover the docking of the tails of dogs other than working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers. The docking of the tails of all other dogs will remain prohibited unless for the purpose of medical treatment.

Geographical extent

Animal welfare is a devolved matter and this consultation applies to the potential introduction of limited tail docking of certain working dogs in Scotland only. This matter is legislated upon separately in other parts of the UK and the appropriate administration should be approached for further information on the docking of dogs in that country.

Business and regulatory impact assessment

If legislation is introduced to permit the docking of the tails of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers there may be business implications for those involved in the commercial breeding of dogs. This consultation asks questions in relation to this to help prepare the necessary regulatory impact assessment if any change to the legislation is to be made.

Audience

Anyone may reply to this consultation. The Scottish Government would particularly like to hear from: breeders of working dogs; keepers of working dogs; veterinary surgeons; animal welfare organisations; and members of the general public.

Body responsible for this consultation

The Scottish Government’s Animal Welfare Team is responsible for this consultation.
Duration

This consultation starts on 10 February 2016 and closes on 3 May 2016. This constitutes a full consultation period of 12 weeks.

How to make an enquiry

If you have any queries about this consultation please contact the Scottish Government Animal Welfare Team (0300-244-9240).

The Scottish Government Consultation Process

Consultation is an essential and important aspect of Scottish Government working methods. Given the wide-ranging areas of work of the Scottish Government, there are many varied types of consultation. However, in general, Scottish Government consultation exercises aim to provide opportunities for all those who wish to express their opinions on a proposed area of work to do so in ways which will inform and enhance that work.

The Scottish Government encourages consultation that is thorough, effective and appropriate to the issue under consideration and the nature of the target audience. Consultation exercises take account of a wide range of factors, and no two exercises are likely to be the same.

Typically Scottish Government consultations involve a written paper inviting answers to specific questions or more general views about the material presented. Written papers are distributed to organisations and individuals with an interest in the issue, and they are also placed on the Scottish Government web site enabling a wider audience to access the paper and submit their responses. Consultation exercises may also involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as through public meetings, focus groups or questionnaire exercises.

All Scottish Government consultation papers and related publications (e.g. analysis of response reports) can be accessed at: Scottish Government consultations (https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/)

The views and suggestions detailed in consultation responses are analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. Depending on the nature of the consultation exercise the responses received may:

- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

Final decisions on the issues under consideration will also take account of a range of other factors, including other available information and research evidence.

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation
exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/.

The Scottish Government has an email alert system for consultations, http://register.scotland.gov.uk. This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive a weekly email containing details of all new consultations (including web links). It complements, but in no way replaces SG distribution lists, and is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all SG consultation activity, and therefore be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

Responding to this consultation paper

We are inviting responses to this consultation paper by 3rd May 2016.

To improve ease of analysis of the consultation responses we would be grateful if, where possible, you could use the online survey facility hosted by Citizenspace, which can be accessed via https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/animal-welfare/proposal-to-permit-tail-docking. We recommend that you fully consider this Consultation Document and all the questions before sitting down to complete the online survey.

Alternatively, you may use the Consultation Questionnaire Word document supplied to provide your response electronically by sending it, along with your completed Respondent Information Form (see "Handling your Response" below) to: TailDockingConsultation2016@gov.scot

Handwritten responses will be accepted, although the previous methods are preferable. Again, you should use the Consultation Questionnaire provided as this will aid our analysis of the responses received. Please send your response, along with your completed Respondent Information Form, to:

Tail Docking of Working Dogs Consultation
Scottish Government Animal Welfare Team
P Spur
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
EH11 3XD

Please note that responses not using either the online Citizenspace survey or the Consultation Questionnaire Word document provided might not be considered in the analysis of this consultation.

Handling your response

We need to know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public. If using the Consultation Questionnaire Word document rather than the online facility, please
complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** enclosed with this consultation paper as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. Similar questions will be asked by the online facility. If you ask for your response not to be published we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government are subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise. If appropriate, please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under Freedom of Information legislation. However, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.

**Next steps in the process**

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public (see the attached Respondent Information Form). We will make these available to the public on the Scottish Government consultation web pages as soon as possible.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us reach a decision on whether to permit the docking of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies which are intended to be used as working dogs. We aim to issue a report on this consultation process and, if appropriate, to lay legislation before the Scottish Parliament during 2017.

**Comments and complaints**

An opportunity to provide comments on your experience of the consultation is provided as part of the consultation questions. Alternatively you may also send any comments that you may have about how this consultation exercise has been conducted to the contact details in the ‘Responding to this consultation’ section.
PART 2 - BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Introduction

The process of tail docking involves the removal of part of a puppy’s tail, generally without anaesthetic.

After much public debate, tail docking of all dogs was banned in Scotland in 2007 under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. At the time, the Scottish Government stated that if in the future the ban compromised the overall welfare of working dogs then it would review the position.

Since then, field sports interests in Scotland have continued to campaign for exemptions from the ban for dogs used for shooting or pest control - they argue that the process of tail docking is less traumatic than having the tail injured and potentially amputated in later life.

Tail docking elsewhere in the United Kingdom

Tail docking is also banned elsewhere in the United Kingdom although, unlike in Scotland, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland there are exemptions for working dogs of certain breeds including Spaniels, Hunt Point Retrievers and terriers. Only veterinary surgeons are permitted to undertake this procedure, and carry it out when the puppy is between two and five days old. Many thousands of dogs have been legally docked since the exemptions were introduced and there appears to be a general acceptance of the position across a range of stakeholders.

To reduce the potential risk of dogs being docked for cosmetic reasons, the other UK administrations prohibit the showing of docked dogs (including any dogs docked for medical purposes) at dog shows where the public pay an admission fee.

The other administrations also considered it to be an important safeguard that vets be shown evidence that a puppy is intended for working purposes and to sign a certificate to that effect.

Research on Tail Injuries

The Scottish Government and Defra co-funded research by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College in 2009 on tail injuries in working dogs, but this did not provide sufficient information on the impact on un-docked working dogs to justify a change in policy.

In 2011, the Scottish Government commissioned further research by the University of Glasgow into the incidence of tail injuries in Scottish working dogs, specifically Spaniels, Hunt Point Retrievers and terriers, and the papers were published in the Veterinary Record on 23 April 2014. The research studies “Survey of tail injuries sustained by working gundogs and terriers in Scotland” and “The prevalence of tail injuries in working and non-working breed dogs visiting veterinary practices in Scotland” can be found at
One study looked at records of working breed tail injuries from veterinary practices in Scotland and showed that around 1% of dogs of all working breeds (including terriers and not necessarily actual working dogs) taken to a veterinary surgery were treated for a tail injury.

To prevent one tail injury that resulted in veterinary treatment to any pointer/setter, Spaniel or Hunt Point Retriever, between 81 and 135 puppies would hypothetically need to be docked. To prevent one such injury to any working dog of any breed (including terriers), 230 puppies would hypothetically need to be docked.

The other study was an internet survey of over 1000 owners of working dogs and found that:

- In one shooting season 57% of undocked Spaniels and 39% of Hunt Point Retrievers experienced a tail injury of some sort.
- Docking the tails of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies by one third could significantly decrease the risk of injury for working dogs of these breeds.
- There was no apparent protective effect in removing more than one third of the tail or in docking the tails of terriers.
- In order to prevent one tail injury of any sort to a working dog of these breeds between 2 and 18 puppies need to be docked (depending on the numbers of puppies from a litter that went on to be used as working dogs).
PART 3 - PROPOSALS FOR CONSULTATION

The Scottish Ministers have powers under section 20(5)(b) of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 to vary the current ban on the tail docking of dogs, having first consulted such persons they consider to represent relevant interests and any other persons they consider appropriate. This consultation document forms part of that consultation process.

The Scottish Government is seeking views on the proposed introduction of a tightly defined exemption to allow vets to dock Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies only, if they believe on the evidence presented to them that they are likely to be used for working in future and that the pain of docking is outweighed by the possible avoidance of more serious injuries later in life. This would take the form of a limited exemption to the ban on tail docking of dogs currently in place under provisions contained in section 20 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 via an amendment to The Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemption) (Scotland) Regulations 2010.

Any such amendment would be subject to the scrutiny and approval of the Scottish Parliament before it could take effect.

The Scottish Ministers would encourage views to be expressed on the following proposed changes:

- to permit the docking, by up to a maximum of one third in length, of the tails of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers before they are not more than five days old; and
- to require such tail docking to be carried out by veterinary surgeons and only where:
  - they have been provided with sufficient evidence that the dogs will be used for working purposes in the future; and
  - in their professional judgement the pain of docking is outweighed by the possible avoidance of more serious injuries later in life.
PART 4 - CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Respondents should take into consideration the information provided in this document alongside any other knowledge or personal experiences that could be relevant. All opinions are welcome.

We ask that you try to answer all the questions in the “General Questions” section of the questionnaire. However, if you are unable to answer any question then please feel free to move on to the next.

We also ask that those involved in the breeding, sale and working use of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers answer the questions in the “Business Impact” section to inform the completion of any necessary business regulatory impact assessment.

In order for us to deal with your response appropriately please ensure you complete a Respondent Information Form. This will ensure that if you ask for your response not to be published that we regard it as confidential and will treat it accordingly.

Sector and Origin

It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with for the purpose of this consultation (please tick ONE which is MOST APPLICABLE to you):

- Keeper of Working Dogs
- Breeder of Working Dogs
- Dog Breeder (General)
- Animal Welfare Organisation
- Dog Breed Association
- Veterinary Surgeon
- Recreational Shooter
- Shoot Organiser
- Game Keeper
- Pest Controller
- Member of the General Public
- Other (please specify)

To allow us to monitor the geographical area of responses, using the list below, please advise where you currently reside.

- Scotland
- England
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Republic of Ireland
- Other

The proposed exemption

Question 1: Should the Scottish Ministers allow vets in Scotland to dock Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies if they believe on the evidence presented to them that they are likely to be used for working in future and that
the pain of docking is outweighed by the possible avoidance of more serious injuries later in life?

Yes □ No □ Don’t Know □

Please explain why

Question 2: If the Scottish Ministers decide, after consultation, to permit limited tail docking for Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers, do you agree that such tail docking should be limited to the end third of the tail?

Yes □ No □ Don’t Know □

Please explain why

Question 3: If the Scottish Ministers decide, after consultation, to permit limited tail docking for Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers, do you think the following would help effectively restrict the exemption to future working dogs?

| Permit all veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future | Yes □ No □ Don’t Know □ |
| Permit only specially approved veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future | □ □ □ |
| Require veterinary surgeons that have docked dogs likely to work in future to carry out the microchipping and registration of that dog | □ □ □ |

Please explain why
Question 4: Do you have any additional suggestions that you think might help to effectively restrict tail docking to future working dogs?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please explain

Business Impact

Question 5: Do you have a commercial interest in the breeding, sale or use of working dogs?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Breeding</td>
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<td>Sale</td>
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<td>Use</td>
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Question 6: Do you consider that the current total ban on tail docking has had a negative financial impact on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers in Scotland?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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<td>Breeding</td>
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Please explain
Question 7: Has the current ban had a negative financial impact on you personally, and was this linked to the sale of working dogs, working days lost through injury, or other reasons?

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
<th>Don’t know</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ban has had a negative financial impact on me</td>
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<td>Impact includes loss of dog sales</td>
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<td>Impact includes loss of dog working days</td>
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<td>Other impacts</td>
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Please explain


Question 8: What effect do you think that an exemption to the current ban for working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers is likely to bring to your business, particularly on the expected sale of working dogs, working days lost through injury, the costs of tail docking or other reasons?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If an exemption was made:</th>
<th>Increase</th>
<th>Decrease</th>
<th>Not change</th>
<th>N/A</th>
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<td>Overall financial benefits would</td>
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<td>Working dog sales would</td>
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<td>Loss of dog working days from injury would</td>
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<td>Cost of tail docking would</td>
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<td>Other impacts would</td>
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Please explain


Question 9: Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you for further clarification of the financial effects that you have estimated?

Yes  □  No  □
About the consultation

While we have done our best to explain the issues facing us clearly, there may be aspects that you feel we have not explained well or have not covered at all. The following questions in this consultation paper are to provide you with the opportunity to raise such points, and to provide us with feedback on the consultation itself.

Question 10 – Do you have any other comments on whether Scottish Ministers should introduce a tightly defined exemption to the ban on tail docking for working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers?

Comments:

Question 11 – Do you consider that that consultation explained the key issues sufficiently to properly consider your responses?

Yes  No

Question 12 – Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?

Yes  No

Question 13 – Do you have any other comments on the way this consultation has been conducted?

Comments: