

PE1396/B

**PUBLIC PETITIONS COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF PE1396  
QUESTIONS ARISING FROM COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

**RESPONSE FROM GLASGOW CITY COUNCIL**

- What are your views on the issues raised in the petition?

Glasgow City Council agrees with many of the issues raised in this petition relating to the over breeding and resulting issues with abandoned SBTs. We feel that this matter does need to be addressed, however, the use of breed specific legislation often results in only short term benefits as breeders try and get round legislation by cross breeding, using different dogs etc. This replaces one problem with another.

SBTs are generally good family pets. It is the cultural and owners' behaviour aspects of this problem which needs addressed first and foremost. Existing legislation can deal with some of these issues through DCNs, however, local authorities are under resourced to deal with the increasing demands under the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. We would suggest that for any future scheme to be successful adequate resources should be provided to local authorities and other organisations affected by these changes.

- Can you provide the Committee with details of your own experience of the situation with reference to Staffordshire bull terriers?

Within Glasgow we have also witnessed some of the issues raised in this petition. It should be noted, however, that the majority of SBT strays picked up by the dog wardens over the last year have been generally good natured dogs. Many local authorities have seen a significant increase in complaints which require investigation under the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act 2010. In Glasgow, to date, this has been fairly minimal. We would, however, highlight that any new scheme relating to SBTs will raise the profile of this issue to the public. Unless adequate resources are put in place, statutory frontline services provided by Councils will be affected.

- Are you able to provide us with information on the numbers of dogs that are euthanased in your area, and of those dogs how many are Staffordshire Bull Terriers ***(question directed to the local authorities but if any others have any relevant information please include in your response)***

In the last financial year (2010/2011) the number of stray dogs picked up by Glasgow City Council was 107; 16 of these were SBTs and 4 cross SBTs. We do not hold information on number of dogs that were euthanised, however, these figures will be available from the SSPCA at Cardonald, who

house dogs not claimed by owners on behalf of Glasgow City Council and other local authorities.