

PE1396/C

## Scottish Parliament Public Petition PE1396

### Response on behalf of the Trustees of Canine Concern Scotland Trust

Canine Concern Scotland Trust was established as a Scottish Charitable Trust in 1988 for educational and general welfare purposes and in particular for the following specific purposes:-

- (i) To provide an educational service to promote responsible dog ownership in Scotland.
- (ii) To further the role and the care of dogs in Scotland either directly or in co-operation with Government, Local Authorities and other organisations, whether charitable or not, in Scotland.
- (iii) The establishment and management of a service to be known as the Therapet Service Scotland. To accept and organise volunteers and suitable dogs to visit hospitals, hospices, homes for the elderly, infirm, mentally or physically disabled and any other appropriate institution or place in Scotland and to provide therapeutic help to patients and residents in such places.
- (iv) To promote or fund research into the therapeutic value of dogs to patients and residents in such places aforementioned.

#### RESPONSE

"The Trustees of Canine Concern Scotland Trust are disturbed by the tone of the Petition PE1396 in which it states that there is "over breeding .... of Staffordshire Bull Terriers" We feel that this petition, in many ways, contradicts the aims of the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act which stated that the main principle in the control of dogs should be "deed not breed"

We accept that there is an increased number of St.B.T.s and their crosses turning up in re-homing centres but we do not believe the solution should involve any form of increased restrictions being placed on responsible St.B.T. breeders.

It is our opinion that the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 and the Animal Health and Welfare Act (Scotland) 2006 give sufficient powers to the Scottish Government to control irresponsible breeding and sale of puppies. The latter of the two Acts also gives the Scottish Government enabling powers to produce regulations to further control the irresponsible marketing of puppies although if such regulations are deemed necessary they must not place any unnecessary restrictions on responsible St.B.T. breeders who are producing excellent puppies which are family friendly..

With the prohibition placed on Pit Bull Terriers under the Dangerous Dogs Act, it seems that there is an increasing demand for Staffordshires and their crosses.

However before we rush to place controls on St.B.T. breeding we should consider that the market will no doubt find some other "tough" breed or cross-breed of dog and the first duty of Government should be to penalise those dog owners whose dogs are out of control (as we are able to do under the Control of Dogs (Scotland) Act), or who are abandoning their dogs in increasing numbers."