



Dear David,

Today, 2nd July 2013, should have been the day that you voted on the draft breeding of dogs (Wales) regulations. As you know, these regulations have been delayed time and time again, despite the Welsh Government's public commitment to improved companion animal welfare.

Instead, today you will be debating the issue of agricultural workers' pay, despite the fact that they will still be entitled to the minimum wage – something that a great many workers in the United Kingdom must survive on right now. As a result, this farming 'emergency' has seen the already delayed vote on the welfare of breeding dogs delayed yet again.

Although we have great sympathy with the ethical members of the farming community, it is equally important to remember that dogs and puppies are dying right now. There is a certain irony in all this when you consider that some of the workers affected by the abolition of the AWB will be the same people who are contributing to the welfare abuses that the dogs in battery breeding establishments are enduring every day. And still it seems that we are no closer to the Welsh Government making a commitment to ease their suffering because there "may not be time" before the summer recess.

I'm sure that many of you will be as frustrated by this as we are and I hope you will ensure that the Minister is aware of this. The public has lost faith in whether this Government is willing and able to do the right thing for companion animals.

We respectfully request that you urge the Minister to set a new date for the vote before summer recess. These dogs cannot wait for help any longer, nor should they have to.

If there is any doubt about the urgency of this situation we would be pleased to come to the Senedd and personally show Assembly Members more pictures and evidence like the one below—there is sadly no shortage of examples. This one is in Ceredigion, licensed for 78 dogs and has no one in attendance as the owner lives 5 miles away. Clearly this has to stop.



Yours truly,

Linda Goodman

Linda Goodman
Founder - C.A.R.I.A.D.

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