

P-05-856 Ban the sale of puppies by pet shops and all commercial 3rd party dealers in Wales -Lucy's Law, Correspondence – Petitioner to Committee, 09.09.19

Dear Petitions Committee,

C.A.R.I.A.D. is obviously delighted that the Cabinet Secretary, Lesley Griffiths has now announced confirmation that Lucy's Law – a ban on the selling of puppies by third parties including pet shops and puppy dealers - is to be introduced in Wales following England's decision to ban this trade.

We currently await her announcement for a date for a consultation for this to become law in Wales and urge the Cabinet Secretary to adopt the same date as England, 6th April 2020, if not beforehand, as this will ensure not only cross border co-operation but also the most effective enforcement of this new legislation. We are currently urging the Scottish government, who will also be introducing this ban, to align their implementation dates for the same reason and to ensure maximum protection for mainland UK against what would become the illegal importation of puppies from both Northern Ireland, Ireland and Europe as, at present the only legal route to sell these puppies on the mainland is via a pet shop licence.

Given that 20 of the 22 Unitary Authorities in Wales have passed motions of support for Lucy's Law, we are also heartened that some of these Councils have already chosen to implement the prevention of selling puppies via a pet shop licence, as is their gift. We also note that, as a result of one Council's support for Lucy's Law, they have been able to refuse planning permission for the selling of puppies at a separate location by a large dog breeder and pet shop licence holder, who has been reported on numerous occasions by ourselves and other organisations for low welfare dog breeding and selling.

C.A.R.I.A.D. is also happy that the Cabinet Secretary is scrutinising existing Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations which have proven to be ineffective in preventing welfare harm to breeding dogs and puppies to date. Of particular concern is the unenforceable 20:1 staff dog ratio which has been cited by some Councils in Wales as frustrating the process of enforcement action on establishments who have previously committed welfare harm to breeding dogs and puppies. It is, of course, only one instance where these regulations require improvement and we look forward, as a major stakeholder, to submitting our recommendations to the Welsh Government.

The Cabinet Secretary has stated publicly that Wales does not want puppy farming in our country. The introduction of Lucy's Law is an excellent start to this and is central to ensuring that any other improvements to legislation or regulation are effective.

We thank the Petitions Committee members for the ongoing support they have shown for this petition and look forward to confirmation of a date for the implementation of this new legislation. In the meantime, we would urge the Petitions Committee to leave the petition open until such a time as a firm date for the implementation of Lucy's Law has been confirmed by the Cabinet Secretary.

Thank you.

Kind regards,

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

Care And Respect Includes All Dogs