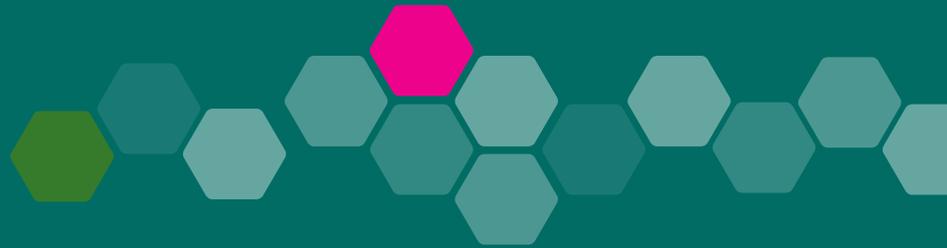




Analysis of Responses to the Consultation on the Proposal to Permit tail Docking of Working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers



AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE

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Executive Summary

Background

In February 2016, The Scottish Government launched a consultation document on the proposal to introduce legislation to permit the docking of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies which are intended to be used as working dogs.

The consultation did not cover other breeds or use of dogs, where the docking of tails would remain prohibited unless it is a medical necessity.

The consultation sought views on the proposed introduction of a tightly defined exemption, which would take the form of a limited exemption to the ban on tail docking of dogs currently in place under provisions contained within section 20 of the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006, to be achieved via an amendment to the Prohibited Procedures on Protected Animals (Exemption) (Scotland) Regulations 2010.

The key changes outlined in the consultation were:

- 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.
- To require tail docking to be carried out by veterinary surgeons, 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.

Overview of Responses

A total of 906 consultation responses were received; 873 from individuals and 33 from organisations.

The respondent group with the largest number of respondents (54%) was keepers of working dogs. Around one in ten respondents (11%) were recreational shooters or members of the general public, and one in twenty were game keepers or breeders of working dogs. Smaller proportions of respondents were involved in the veterinary sector, animal welfare, dog breeders (general), dog breed associations, pest controllers, local authorities, membership associations or other sectors associated with field sports.

The majority of respondents (77%) were based in Scotland, and 19% were based in England. All the local authorities and membership associations were based in Scotland.

Summary of Key Themes

Throughout this consultation the same themes arose across many of the questions. Those involved in field sports were generally supportive of introducing an exemption to the current total ban; those not involved in fieldsports – and particularly animal welfare organisations and members of the general public – tended to argue against a change in legislation.

Key arguments for the introduction of a tightly defined exemption were that the pain of tail docking for a puppy is much less than the pain caused by injury in later life, that docking is a less invasive and painful process than tail amputation(s) in later life or that there is a high risk of tail injuries for undocked dogs. Key arguments against the exemption were that tail docking causes distress and pain to a puppy, that the tail is an essential form of communication and expression for dogs, or that it cannot be assumed that a puppy will become a working dog.

Regardless of whether respondents were supportive or otherwise of a continued ban on tail docking, both sides used the need for animal welfare to back up their perspective.

Views on the research referred to in the consultation paper were also split, with those who were in favour of the exemption arguing that the research findings backed up their perspective. Conversely, those against the exemption noted that the research quoted in the consultation was not scientifically robust enough to back up the argument for the introduction of an exemption.

For some respondents, the suggested exemption does not go far enough, with some requesting this to be extended to all working dog breeds including terriers and Labradors. There were also some requests for a dock of longer than the end third of the tail.

While there were some spontaneous references to commercial issues in relation to the breeding of working dogs in Scotland in responses to the initial questions, respondents tended to focus more on the importance of animal welfare as a priority. That said, there were some references to the damage being done to Scottish breeding lines because of the current total ban on tail docking, and a small proportion of respondents also referred to the knock-on impact on the Scottish economy. In responses to the specific questions on this, significant numbers noted there has been an impact on a commercial basis, although this impact was much lower at a personal level.

There was majority support for all veterinary surgeons to be able to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future; and little support for only specially approved veterinary surgeons to dock puppy tails.

The Proposed Exemption

Whether Scottish Ministers should allow docking of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

A large majority (92%) of respondents agreed that vets in Scotland should be allowed to dock the tails of Spaniels 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 in later life.

Among organisations, all keepers or breeders of working dogs, dog breed associations and membership associations supported this change. Although a very small number of respondents (4), the views of those in the veterinary sector were equally split; one of these – a national UK organisation representing the views of veterinary surgeons – was opposed to tail docking.

Among individuals, there were higher levels of support across all sub-groups, although only 55% of veterinary surgeons / nurses / animal scientists agreed with the suggested exemption.

Of those who were supportive of the change, responses focused on the damage that can be done to an undocked tail, with 42% of respondents noting they have had first hand experience of this damage; and 25% also commenting that docking is less invasive or painful than amputations or multiple amputations later in life. Slightly fewer respondents (21%) also noted that amputation in an adult dog carries a greater risk of infection or causes more pain than that of docking. The same proportion also noted that the docking process causes little pain or distress to puppies or that docking causes no concern to puppies.

Of the smaller number who were not supportive of tail docking, the key reasons were the need for a dog to have a full tail so that it can fully express itself and communicate with people and other dogs (34%), or that tail docking is not in line with animal welfare requirements or simply that it is cruel to dock a puppy's tail (also 34%). Among other key reasons, there were concerns that it cannot be assumed that a puppy will go on to be a working dog and thus many more may be docked than would be necessary, or simply that docking causes pain to a puppy.

The Extent of Tail Docking

Respondents were asked whether tail docking should be limited to the end third of the tail. Views were more polarised, with 52% in support of this and 36% against. The key reason for their support and noted by a large proportion (65%) was that the last third of the tail is the most susceptible part of the tail and that docking this part is sufficient to prevent serious injury.

For those who did not agree with docking the end third of the tail, the key reason (35%) was that a longer dock should be allowed as dogs need a shorter tail to avoid injury. Some respondents provided more definitive information, with 16% noting that up to two-thirds of the tail should be docked and 10% that up to half the

tail should be docked. There were some qualifying comments; for example, that it should depend on the breed in question or the docking should be at the discretion of a vet.

Views on Approaches to Restrict the Exemption to Future Working Dogs

The consultation paper noted three possible approaches to help effectively restrict the exemption to future working dogs. Of these three, there was majority support (82%) for all veterinary surgeons to be permitted to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in the future. There were higher levels of support from individuals (83%) than organisations (52%).

The second possible approach was for only specially approved veterinary surgeons to be allowed to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in the future. Only 16% agreed with this and 55% disagreed. Some respondents noted that individuals will already have a relationship with a veterinary surgeon who they would rather use. There was also concern from some respondents of the long journeys this might entail for a young puppy, which was seen to go against the principles of animal welfare.

The third possible approach was for a requirement for a veterinary surgeon who has docked a dog likely to work in the future to also carry out the microchipping and registration of that dog. 58% of respondents supported this approach, compared to only 18% who did not. There were some comments though that microchipping cannot be carried out at the same time as the tail docking.

There were also some requests for proof to be provided that a puppy will become a working dog; for example, a firearm or shotgun certificate or letter from a head gamekeeper where the dog will work. There were also some comments that the system in England works well and that it would also work well if replicated in Scotland.

Business Impact - Commercial Interest

Only small proportions of respondents had a commercial interest in the breeding (14%) or sale (10%) of working dogs, although a larger proportion (40%) had a commercial interest in the use of working dogs.

The impact of the current total ban on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

A majority of respondents noted that the current total ban on tail docking has had a negative impact on the commercial breeding (62%), sale (66%) or use (64%) of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers.

A key reason for this impact was that respondents were, or knew of people who were, buying dogs with docked tails from outwith Scotland (cited by 62%). Other comments referred to the impact on Scottish breeders, with 25% claiming that some Scottish breeders have stopped breeding and / or that it is difficult to sell undocked dogs, 13% that long lines of Scottish bred working dogs are being lost;

and 11% referred to the financial impact on Scottish breeders and thereby the Scottish economy.

The personal impact of the current total ban on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

Smaller proportions of respondents claimed there has been a *personal* impact on them, with 28% claiming the ban has had a negative financial impact, 12% that this impact includes loss of dog sales, 33% that this impact includes loss of dog working days, and 19% claimed other unspecified impacts. Key reasons for their responses were that they have lost working dog days due to injuries (24%) or that there have been vets' bills to pay because of injuries or amputations (23%).

There were also comments that they or others have had to travel to England to obtain docked working dogs or that it is expensive to purchase working dogs outwith Scotland (both cited by 14% of respondents). There were also references to buyers being unwilling to take undocked dogs or that there has been a loss of Scottish breeding lines (both cited by 13%).

Impact of exemption to the current ban on business

Over a quarter of respondents (28%) claimed that overall financial benefits to them would increase if the exemption were introduced; 31% that working dog sales would increase for them; and 37% that loss of dog working days from injury would decrease.

Key reasons provided by respondents were that they would be able to source working dogs in Scotland or that there would be increased sales of Scottish working dogs (19%), that this would lead to improved animal welfare (17%), that there would be fewer lost working days (15%), that breeders would be able to start breeding again in Scotland (13%) or that this would protect Scottish breeding lines (10%).

About the Consultation

Views on the consultation process were very positive, with:

- A large majority (89%) being positive about the consultation in that it explained the key issues sufficiently to properly consider their responses.
- Almost all respondents (97%) felt they had enough time to respond to the consultation. When asked to provide any other comments on the way the consultation had been conducted, the key comment was that a decision on whether to introduce a tightly defined exemption needs to be made.
- A majority of respondents (55%) were satisfied with the consultation; only 8% were dissatisfied.
- A majority (63%) were satisfied with Citizen Space which was the response mechanism for this consultation; only 6% were dissatisfied in any way.

Introduction

Background

There are two types of tail docking. The first is prophylactic docking which is the removal of tails from litters of puppies of less than 5 days old. The other type of tail docking is therapeutic docking which is the removal of a diseased or damaged tail from a dog of any age for clinical reasons.

The tail docking of dogs in Scotland was banned in 2007, under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. The only exception to this is where tail docking is required for the purpose of medical treatment of an animal. Tail docking is also banned in the rest of the UK although there are exemptions for working dogs of certain breeds including Spaniels, Hunt Point Retrievers and Terriers. It is illegal to take a dog out of Scotland to have its tail docked.

When tail-docking was banned in 2007, the then Scottish Government stated that if in the future the ban compromised the overall welfare of working dogs, then it would review the position.

Since this time, a number of research projects have been conducted. In 2009 the Scottish Government and Defra co-funded research conducted by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College on tail injuries in working dogs but this did not provide enough information to justify a change in policy. In 2011 the Scottish Government commissioned further research by the University of Glasgow.

One part of this research¹ looked at records of working breed tail injuries from veterinary practices in Scotland, which showed that around 1% of dogs of all working breeds taken to a veterinary surgery were treated for a tail injury. The other² study was an internet survey of over 1,000 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 and that docking the tails of these two breeds by one third could significantly decrease the risk of tail injury. That said, there was no apparent protective effect in removing more than a third of the tail or in docking the tails of Terriers. They summarised that to prevent one tail injury in one shooting season, between 2 and 18 Spaniel or Hunt Point Retriever puppies would need to be docked (depending on the number of puppies from a litter that went on to be used as working dogs).

In February 2016, the Scottish Government launched a consultation document on the proposal to introduce legislation to permit the docking of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies intended to be used as working dogs. The consultation did not cover other breeds or uses of dogs, where the docking of tails will remain prohibited unless it is a medical necessity. The consultation sought views on the proposed

¹ <http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/early/2014/03/27/vr.102042>

² <http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/early/2014/03/27/vr.102041>

introduction of a tightly defined exemption, which 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.

The key changes outlined in the consultation were:

- 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.
- To require tail docking to be carried out by veterinary surgeons, 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 in later life.

A total of 906 consultation responses were received; 873 from individuals and 33 from organisations.

Overview of responses

The consultation respondent information form (RIF) included a list of sectors, and respondents were asked to tick the sector they most aligned with for themselves or for their organisation. These sub-groups were used to enable analysis as to whether differences, or commonalities, appeared across the various different types of organisations and/or individuals that responded. Some respondents indicated that they were unable to select only one sector and so the category 'various relevant roles' was added.

As can be seen in the following table, the group with the largest number of respondents (54%) was keeper of working dogs. Around one in ten respondents (11%) were recreational shooters or members of the general public and one in twenty were game keepers or breeders of working dogs.

Smaller proportions of respondents were involved in the veterinary sector, animal welfare, dog breeders (general), dog breed associations, pest controllers, local authorities, membership associations or other sectors associated with field sports.

Table 1: Profile of consultation responses (by sector)

	%
Keeper of working dogs (486)	54
Recreational shooter (104)	11
Member of the general public (101)	11
Game keeper (47)	5
Breeder of working dogs (46)	5
Veterinary surgeon / nurse / animal scientist (35)	4
Various relevant roles (25)	3
Animal welfare organisation (14)	2
Dog breeder (general) (6)	1
Dog breed association (5)	1
Shoot organiser (11)	1
Pest Controller (6)	1
Membership association (5)	1
Other dog-related role (9)	1
Local authority (3)	*
Other shoot-related (3)	*

* Denotes less than 1%

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

In terms of location, the majority of respondents (77%) were based in Scotland, although almost one in five (19%) was based in England. Only very small proportions of respondents came from elsewhere. All the local authorities and membership associations responding were based in Scotland.

Table 2: Profile of consultation responses (by location)

	%
Scotland	77
England	19
Wales	1
Northern Ireland	*
Republic of Ireland	*
Other	2

* Denotes less than 1%

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

Analysis and reporting

Comments provided in response to each question were examined and main themes, similar issues raised or comments made in a number of responses, were identified. In addition, we looked for sub-themes such as reasons for opinions, specific examples or explanations, alternative suggestions or other related comments. The consultation questions are included in Appendix 1.

Some questions contained a yes / no tick box option to allow respondents to indicate their response. Results from these questions are presented in table or chart format. Where respondents did not use the questionnaire format for their response but indicated within their text their answer to one of the tick box questions, these have been included in the relevant count.

The main themes were looked at in relation to all respondent groups to ascertain whether any particular theme was specific to one particular group, or whether it appeared in responses across groups. When looking at group differences however, it must be also borne in mind that where a specific opinion has been identified in relation to a particular group or groups, this does not indicate that other groups do not share this opinion, but rather that they have simply not commented on that particular point.

The following chapters document the substance of the analysis and present the main views expressed in responses. Appropriate verbatim comments, from those who gave permission for their responses to be made public, are used throughout the report to illustrate themes or to provide extra detail for some specific points.

While the consultation gave all those who wished to comment an opportunity to do so, given the self-selecting nature of this type of exercise, any figures quoted here cannot be extrapolated to the wider population.

The proposed exemption

Whether Scottish Ministers should allow docking of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

The first question in the consultation paper asked ‘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?’

Across the organisations responding to this question, all responses from keepers / breeders of working dogs (6 organisations), dog breed associations (3) and membership associations (5) were supportive. Lowest levels of support came from animal welfare organisations, where two out of 12 supported the docking of puppies. Views of the veterinary sector were split, with two out of four supportive and two non-supportive. Those who did not support docking included a national UK organisation representing the views of veterinary surgeons. There were higher levels of support from individuals, where many sectors showed 92% or more support for this change; lowest levels of support came from members of the general public (74%) and veterinary surgeons / nurses / animal scientist (55%).

Table 3: Whether Scottish Ministers should allow docking of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know (%)
Total (906)	92	7	1
Organisations (33)	58	36	6
Individuals (873)	93	6	*

* Denotes less than 1%

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

Having noted their support or otherwise for this change in law, respondents were then asked to provide reasons for their response. Table 4 provides the main responses to this question.

Support for tail docking

Of the 720 who were supportive of the change in law and who provided additional commentary to this question, responses focused on the damage that can be done to an undocked tail. The key reason given by 42% of respondents was that they have had first hand experience of the damage that can be done to undocked dogs' tails. A quarter of respondents (25%) commented that docking is less invasive or painful than amputation or multiple amputations later in life.

Around a fifth of respondents (21%) commented that an amputation procedure in an adult dog has greater risk of infection or causes more pain to the dog; the same

proportion (21%) commented that the docking process causes little pain or distress to a young puppy or that puppies are unconcerned by the docking process.

Around one in six respondents commented that the pain of docking a puppy is much less than the pain caused by injury later in life (18%), that there is a high risk of tail injuries for undocked dogs (16%), or that it is against animal welfare and cruel not to dock a puppy (15%). One in ten respondents noted they had not experienced injuries with docked dogs.

Table 4: Reasons why Scottish Ministers should allow docking of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
First hand experience of damage to undocked dog tails	42	17	42
Docking less invasive / painful than tail amputation later in life	25	17	25
Greater risk to adult dog of procedure going wrong / risks infection	21	28	21
Docking causes little distress to puppy / puppy unconcerned with docking	21	17	21
Pain of docking puppy tail much less than injury later in life	18	22	17
High risk of tail injuries for undocked dogs	16	11	17
Cruel not to dock puppies / in dogs' best interests	15	22	15
Have not experienced injury(ies) to dogs with docked tails	10	6	10

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wished

A number of other reasons were provided, each by small proportions of respondents. Some of these referred to the impact of tail injuries; and included that undocked dogs are at risk of continuous tail injury(ies) (cited by 7%), that recovery from a full amputation takes longer in later life (5%) or that undocked dogs with tail injuries are prevented from working (4%).

There were also some references from small proportions of respondents to the financial impact that this legislation has on those working in the sector; for example that current legislation forces people to purchase docked dogs outwith Scotland or to whelp their bitches in England (6%), that undocked tail injuries lead to expensive vet bills (4%) or that the ban on tail docking is damaging breeders, their breeding lines and / or and their businesses in Scotland (2%).

For a very small proportion of respondents, the suggested exemptions do not go far enough, with 4% commenting that the exemption should be extended to other breeds such as Terriers or Labradors and the same proportion saying that tail docking should be legal for all working dogs.

Very small proportions of respondents also referred to unspecified evidence that notes docking is good for the welfare of working dogs (3%), or cited research conducted by Glasgow University and Bristol University and the Royal Veterinary College and commented that this was supportive of tail docking (2%).

Non-support for tail docking

Sixty-one respondents commented on their opposition to the docking of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retriever puppies. The key reasons given for this included the importance of a dog's tail to enable it to communicate with people and other dogs (cited by 34%) or that tail docking is not in line with animal welfare requirements or that it is cruel to dock a puppy's tail (34%).

Other reasons, cited by around a quarter of respondents, included that it cannot be assumed that a puppy will become a working dog or that only a minority of docked puppies will go on to be working dogs (26%) or that the process of docking causes pain to puppies (25%). Almost one in five respondents (18%) also commented that the majority of tail injuries are due to non-hunting or shooting activities, that it is rare to see tail injuries caused by shooting activities (16%), or that tail docking only complies with the wishes of dog breeders and those involved in field sports (15%).

Interestingly, 16% of these respondents also cited the same pieces of research as mentioned by those who were supportive of tail docking but commented that findings from these research studies do not justify tail docking. A further 8% also commented specifically on the findings from the Glasgow research and felt these were not scientifically robust.

Table 5: Reasons why Scottish Ministers should not allow docking of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers (Base: 61)

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
Tail is essential form of communication / docking impairs ability to communicate	34	58	29
Against animal welfare	34	67	27
Cannot assume puppy will become working dog	26	25	27
Puts too many puppies through pain of docking / docking causes pain	25	50	18
Majority of tail injuries due to non-hunting / shooting activities	18	25	16
Rarely / never see shooting tail injury	16	17	16
Research findings do not support tail docking	16	33	12
Tail docking only complies with wishes of breeders / desire for specific look to breed	15	8	16

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wished

Small proportions of these respondents made suggestions to help avoid tail injuries in the future. These included taking action to avoid tail injuries such as fitting a Kevlar tail glove or trimming / shaving tail hair (cited by 10%) or that dogs can be bred for strong tails (7%). A similar proportion commented that owners should be reducing the risk of tail injuries to their dogs (7%) or that they are neglecting their duty of care for the welfare of the animal if they allow tail docking (5%).

Some respondents simply noted their antipathy to tail docking, suggesting that tail docking should only be carried out because of medical necessity (10%), that the potential harm prevented by docking does not outweigh the pain of the docking process (8%), or that docking is morally and ethically wrong (7%).

There were also concerns from small proportions of respondents that tail docking can have long term consequences for a dog, for example, causing incontinence or behavioural changes (7%) or that the tail is needed for balance (5%). Two veterinary surgeons noted that they had not seen an increase in tail injuries since the ban on docking was introduced in Scotland in 2007.

Comments from organisations exemplifying the arguments for both pro and anti camps included an organisation from the shoot organiser group who said:

“We strongly believe that the evidence presented in a number of studies, in particular Lederer, Bennett and Parkin (2014), confirm that the pain of docking of the tails of HPR and spaniel puppies is outweighed by the avoidance of more serious tail injury later in life. In fact, the authors of the above paper state: “Docking the tails of HPRs and spaniels by one-third would significant decrease the risk of tail injury sustained while working in these breeds. This position is supported by a significant number of veterinary surgeons, in particular those working in rural locations, who are regularly exposed to serious/chronic tail injuries in undocked working dogs of these breeds. It is also supported by the many owners of working dogs who have experienced the repeated injury of undocked tails. It should be noted that the pain associated with the docking of puppies tails has been seen as comparable with that associated with microchipping a dog – now a legal requirement in Scotland.”

Conversely, an animal welfare organisation noted:

“No credible evidence has been presented to us that suggests that amputation of a puppy's tail without anaesthetic can ever be justified to avoid future injuries. The University of Glasgow document is a fairly feeble study that does not justify a relaxation of the ban on docking puppies' tails in Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers. In my experience injuries from bramble/hawthorn etc. are mostly to ears and muzzle and not to tails. The only tail injury I have ever seen in a Hunt Point Retriever was caused by a car door.”

The extent of tail docking

Having ascertained their support or otherwise for the docking of Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies, respondents were then asked ‘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?’

Table 6 demonstrates that views on whether docking should be limited to the end third of the tail were relatively polarised, with just over half (52%) agreeing with this and over a third (36%) disagreeing. There were some slight differences between organisations and individuals, with a higher proportion of individuals giving a ‘no’ response (36% of individuals compared to 27% of organisations).

Table 6: Whether tail docking should be limited to the end third of the tail

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know (%)
Total (906)	52	36	12
Organisations (33)	48	27	24
Individuals (873)	52	36	11

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

Support for docking the end third of the tail

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide commentary in support of their response to this question. As shown in table 7, a high proportion of those who were pro docking the end third of the tail (65%) noted that the last third of the tail is the most susceptible part of the tail and that docking this part is sufficient to prevent serious injury.

Small proportions of respondents felt that docking the end third of the tail is not enough, with 5% claiming that removal of the end third might not be enough to prevent injury, 3% who claimed that removing up to a half of the tail would be preferable, and 2% claiming a third is ‘better than nothing’.

Just under one in ten noted that removal of only the end third of the tail would still allow for communication, expression and socialisation for dogs; while 4% claimed this would still allow for balance and 3% that this would still allow them to protect sensitive parts of their body.

Table 7: Reasons why docking should be end third of tail only

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
Last 1/3 is most susceptible to injury / enough to prevent serious injury	65	40	66
Will still allow for communication / expression / socialisation	8	13	8
Removing 1/3 might not be enough to prevent injury	5	-	6
Should be at discretion of vet	4	13	4
Should not allow docking / anti- tail docking	4	13	4
Would still allow for balance	4	-	4
Depends on breed	4	20	3

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wished

Other comments made by respondents echoed their responses to the previous question and included:

- Anti-docking (4%).
- Pro-docking (3%).
- In favour of docking only for health reasons (2%).

Additionally, a small proportion (4%) felt tail docking should be at the discretion of a veterinary surgeon and 4% that it should depend on the dog breed.

Non-support for docking the end third of the tail

Of the 327 respondents who did not agree that tail docking should be limited to the end third of the tail, 284 provided further information; many of their responses echoed those given by respondents who were in favour of docking the end third of the tail. The length of the dock was raised again with over a third (35%) commenting that dogs need a shorter dock than this to avoid injury or that docking the end third of the tail is not enough to avoid future damage.

Some respondents provided more definitive information, with 16% noting that up to 2/3 of the tail should be docked, 10% that up to half the tail should be docked and 2% that the tail should be docked between 1/3 and 1/2 of the tail.

A number of respondents provided a qualified response to this question, and these comments included:

- Depends on the breed (16%).
- The length of the docking should be at the discretion of a vet (12%).
- The length of the docking should be the decision of the owner or breeder (4%).
- The tail should not extend beyond the width of the dog or that it should be based on the size of the dog (4%).

- The length of the dock should depend on the type of work and location of work being carried out (3%).

Table 8: Reasons why docking should not be end third of tail only

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
Dogs need shorter tail than 1/3 dock to avoid injury	35	13	36
Up to 2/3 of tail should be docked	16	-	17
Depends on breed / breed standard	16	13	16
Length of docking should be at vet's discretion	12	25	12
½ tail / up to ½ tail should be docked	10	-	10
Reiteration of opposition to tail docking	7	50	6
Length of dock should be decision of owner / breeder	5	13	5
Tail should not extend beyond width of dog / should be based on dog size	4	-	4

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wished

A typical comment from a keeper wanting to see more than the end third of a tail docked was “The ideal length for a GSP is to leave between 1/3 and ½ of the tail. Dock sensibly for the job in hand, not to attempt to appease those against docking”. Another individual noted “it depends on the Spaniels and Hunt Point Retriever breed as some require shorter lengths than others”. An organisation supportive of docking only the end third of a puppy’s tail commented “[We] do not consider tail docking by more than one third is necessary and are not aware of evidence to suggest any benefit or advantage by extending tail docking further than one third”.

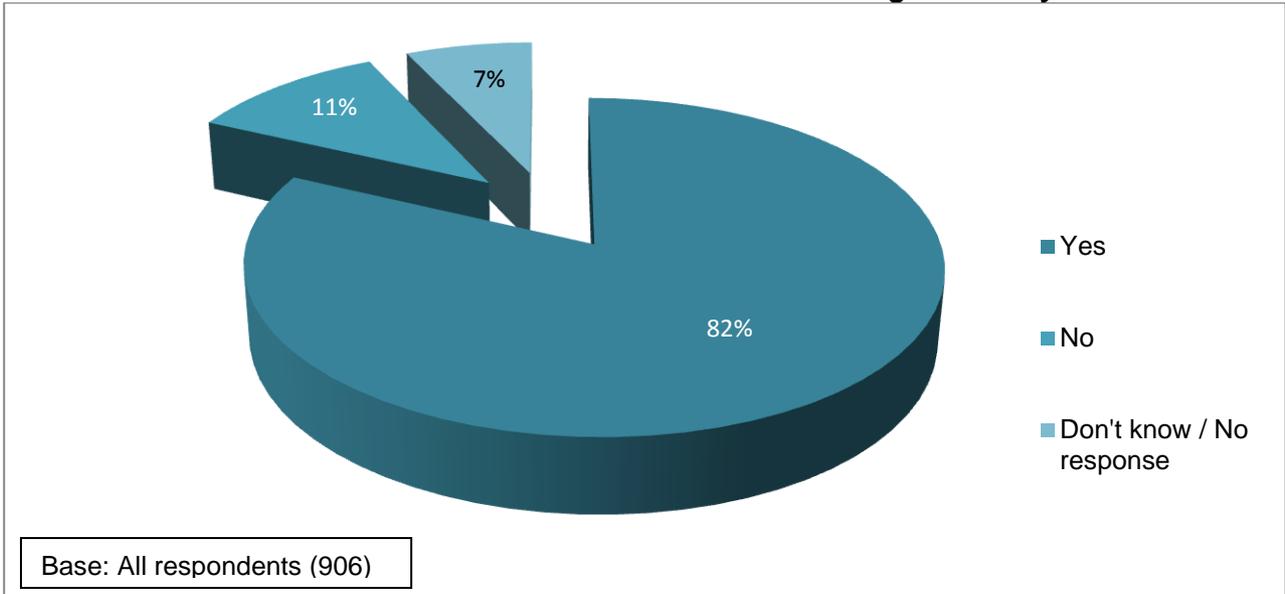
Views on approaches to restrict the exemption to future working dogs

Question 3 of the consultation paper asked about three factors that could be applied to help effectively restrict the exemption to future working dogs. These were:

- Permit all veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future.
- 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.

There was majority support (82%) for all veterinary surgeons to be permitted to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in the future. Only 11% of respondents disagreed with this option.

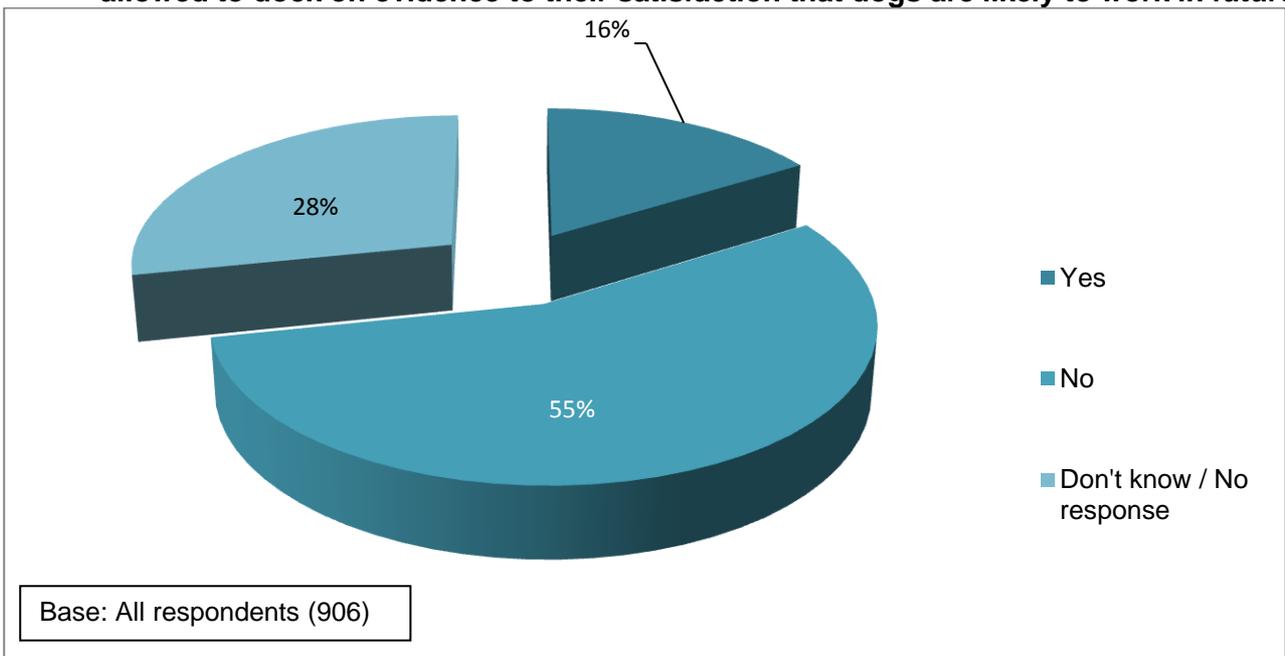
Chart 1: Agreement as to whether all veterinary surgeons should be allowed to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future



There were some statistically significant differences between organisations and individuals, with highest levels of support coming from individuals (83% compared to 52% of organisations). Agreement was lowest among animal welfare organisations (two out of 12 supported this proposal). Interestingly, while it is only a small base, the views of veterinary organisations were equally split.

There was far less agreement that only specially approved veterinary surgeons should be allowed to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future, with only 16% agreeing to this, compared to 55% disagreeing. Over a quarter (28%) did not provide a 'yes' or 'no' response to this question.

Chart 2: Agreement as to whether only specially approved veterinary surgeons should be allowed to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future

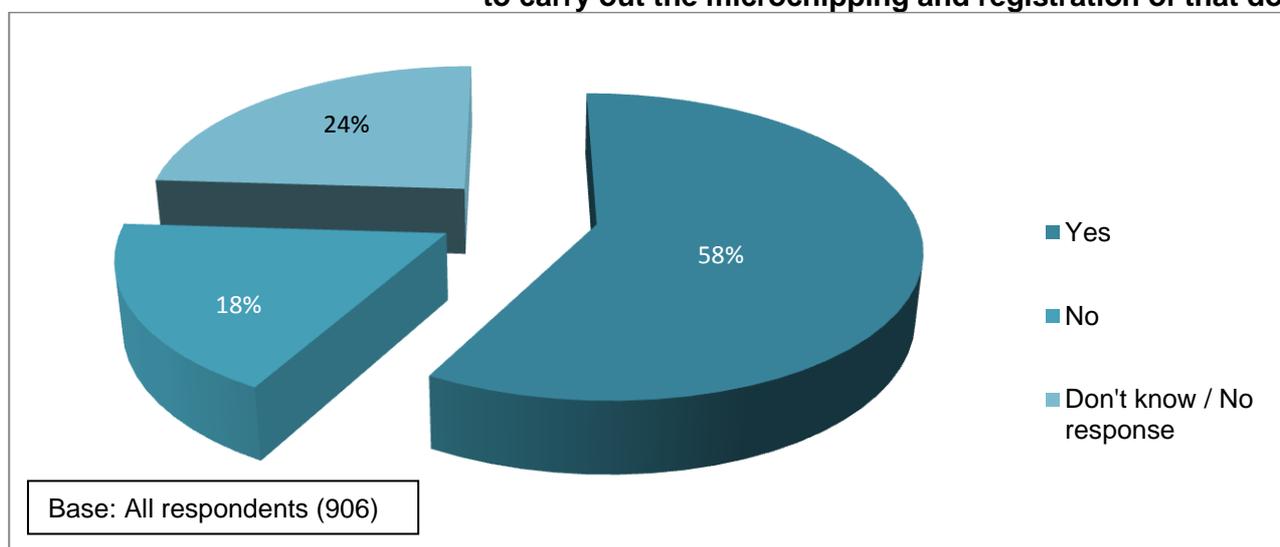


There were few differences between organisations and individuals, or between sectors; highest proportions of individuals agreeing were from the general public or those working in the veterinary sector (cited by 28% and 29% respectively).

In terms of the third possible approach to restrict the exemption to future working dogs, there was majority support (58%) for a requirement that a veterinary surgeon who has docked a dog likely to work in the future should also carry out the microchipping and registration of that dog. This compared to only 18% who disagreed with this approach; although just under a quarter (24%) did not provide a 'yes' or 'no' response to this.

There were few differences across sub-groups, although least support for this approach came from animal welfare organisations and keepers / breeders of working dogs.

Chart 3: Agreement that veterinary surgeons that have docked dogs likely to work in future to carry out the microchipping and registration of that dog



Having noted whether they agreed or disagreed with each of these possible approaches, respondents were then invited to provide reasons for their response.

A wide range of reasons were given, although many by 4% or less of respondents. The key reason given by 44% of respondents was that all vets should be able to carry out the docking procedure, with 12% also noting that restricting docking to a small number of specialist vets would mean having to travel long distances for docking and that this is against the wellbeing of the puppy being docked. The same proportion also noted that they would want to use their own vet or that individuals will have an existing relationship with a vet who will know if a puppy is destined to become a working dog.

Table 9: Reasons for respondents' views on possible approaches to effectively restricting the exemption to future working dogs

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
All vets should be able to carry out procedure	44	32	45
Would want to use own vet / would have relationship with existing vet	12	16	12
Docking by specialist vets would mean long journeys for docking / against wellbeing of puppy	12	24	11

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wished

Other issues raised by respondents included:

- Microchipping & registration for all dogs will be requirement by April 2016 (8%).
- Vets should be able to apply their own discretion as to whether a puppy will become a working dog (7%).
- The same vet should be used for docking as for microchipping and registration (7%).
- The system works well in UK / England (7%).
- This would allow for a sensible audit trail or would be easier to police (7%).
- Dogs should be docked shortly after birth (6%).
- Microchipping and docking cannot be done at same time (6%).
- Need evidence that a puppy will become working dog (6%).

An Animal Welfare Organisation highlighted a number of issues in their response to this specific question.

“The tail docking legislation in England and Wales permits vets to perform tail docking where they can certify that they have seen evidence that a dog is likely to be used for a specified type of work, and that it is a dog of a specified type. [We] have serious concerns about permitting tail docking under such conditions, as the legislation requires that puppies are no more than 5 days old when docked. It is extremely difficult to guarantee that puppies of this age will be suitable for working. This is likely to result in full litters being docked, rather than only certain puppies within a litter which will definitely go on to work.”

An organisation supportive of tail docking commented:

“While [we] are supportive of allowing all vets to dock we recognise that many may chose not to do so, as is the case in England, Wales and N. Ireland. We respect the fact that some vets already choose not to undertake certain procedures. We would oppose the restriction of this simple practice to “specially approved” vets to avoid what we would regard as an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy and also to avoid what could become unnecessarily long trips for both owner and puppies, in rural areas, to reach a “specially approved” vet. This step has not proven

necessary in other parts of the UK. We are generally supportive of requiring vets who have docked dogs to carry out both microchipping (at an appropriate age) and registration of these dogs. However, there may be situations that arise (for a variety of reasons) when one vet carries out the tail docking and another would then be expected to carry out microchipping and registration. It may be sensible to ensure that this is not too prescriptive.”

Any further suggestions

Finally, in this section of the consultation paper, respondents were asked if they had any additional suggestions that they thought might help to effectively restrict tail docking to future working dogs, and 320 provided commentary.

Many respondents took this opportunity to reiterate points that had already been made at earlier questions. Key points from those in favour of tail docking were that:

- Tail docking saves pain and injuries (15%).
- Tail docking should be extended to other working dog breeds / other breeds / non-working dogs can also receive tail injuries (12%).

Among those supportive of tail docking, there were a number of comments about evidence or proof that could be provided to show that a puppy will become a working dog. These included:

- A firearm or shotgun certificate (14%).
- A letter from a head gamekeeper of shoots where the dog will work (10%).
- Written evidence (unspecified) or proof that the dog will be worked (7%).
- Proof that the puppy comes from working dog stock / proof of working pedigree (6%).
- Certification from veterinary surgeon / vet to sign off on supporting evidence (6%).
- Proof (unspecified) that the puppy will be used for working (4%).
- Proof of working gundog club membership (3%).

Just over one in ten (12%) respondents also felt that the system being proposed by the Scottish Government works well in the rest of the UK and they would like to see it replicated in Scotland.

Of those against tail docking, a small proportion (6%) felt that it could be difficult to tell if a puppy will be used as a working dog; and the same proportion simply noted they were anti-tail docking.

Again, there were some references at this question to the fact that breeders or owners will have an existing relationship with a veterinary surgeon and that a vet will know whether a puppy is going to be a working dog and / or that it comes from a breeding line (5%). The same proportion of respondents also noted that each working puppy should be registered and licensed as a working dog.

Business Impact

The Scottish Government is keen to understand the likely commercial impact if they were to introduce legislation to allow the tail docking of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers. All respondents were asked to say whether they had a commercial interest in the breeding, sale or use of working dogs.

Commercial interest

As shown in table 10, only small proportions of respondents had a commercial interest in the breeding or sale of working dogs, although a larger proportion (40%) had a commercial interest in the use of working dogs.

Table 10: Whether respondents have a commercial interest in the breeding, sale or use of working dogs

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
Commercial interest – breeding	14	79	7
Commercial interest – sale	10	80	10
Commercial interest – Use	40	57	3

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

The impact of the current total ban on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

As table 11 demonstrates, regardless of their involvement in commercial interests in the breeding, sale or use of working dogs, higher proportions of respondents claimed 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. Around two in three respondents claimed there was a negative financial impact, compared to only around one in six or less saying this had not had a negative financial impact.

Table 11: Whether the current total ban has had a negative financial impact on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers in Scotland

	Yes (%)	No (%)	No response (%)
Breeding	62	15	23
Sale	66	12	22
Use	64	14	23

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

Among individuals, lower proportions of members of the general public and veterinary surgeons / nurses / animal scientists claimed there has been a negative

impact across these areas of commercial interest than individuals such as keepers or breeders of working dogs in other sectors.

Reasons for the negative financial impact on breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

Respondents were invited to provide an explanation for their response to these questions and 548 did so. The key reason given by 62% of respondents was that they were personally buying or knew that others were buying docked dogs outwith Scotland. A number of comments referred to Scottish breeders in some way or other, with 25% claiming that some Scottish breeders were no longer breeding their dogs and / or that it is difficult to sell undocked dogs; 13% noted that long lines of Scottish bred dogs are being lost as there is no longer a market for working dogs in Scotland, and 11% referred to a financial impact on Scottish breeders and thereby the Scottish economy.

Under one in five (17%) also noted that they or others would not buy or work undocked dogs. Once again, there was reference to tail injuries in undocked dogs, which was cited by 12% of respondents.

Table 12: Reasons for a negative financial impact on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
I / others buying docked dogs outwith Scotland that are legally docked	62	50	62
Some Scottish breeders no longer breeding their dogs / difficult to sell undocked dogs	25	50	25
I / others will not purchase / work undocked dogs	17	14	17
Loss of long lines of Scottish bred dogs / no longer market in Scotland for working dogs bred in Scotland	13	14	13
Have seen tail injuries to undocked dogs / likely to suffer injury	12	21	11
Financial impact on breeders / Scottish economy	11	43	10

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wished

A number of other comments were also made by 6% or less of respondents and these included:

- The issue of expensive / costly vets bills for undocked dogs (6%).
- That Scottish breeders are sending their bitches to England for whelping (6%).
- References to being pro-tail docking (6%).
- That some people are using or purchasing other breeds of dog or that there has been a decline in the number of working Spaniels (5%).
- There should be less focus on commercialism and more on animal welfare (3%).

A typical comment covering a number of the issues raised by respondents was “Many working dog owners have either had to travel outwith Scotland to purchase a working breed as they refuse to work an undocked dog. Many working dog owners have refused to breed their dogs due to not being able to dock the puppies as people simply will not buy them. Some very good dog lines have been lost due to this. Many people will not work an undocked dog and will not travel hundreds of miles to purchase one.” (Keeper)

The personal impact of the current total ban on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

Having ascertained views on the current total ban on tail docking and whether this has had a negative financial impact on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers, the next question in the consultation paper asked respondents whether the current ban has had a negative impact on them personally, and whether this was linked to the sale of working dogs, working days lost through injury or other reasons.

As shown in table 13, just over a quarter (28%) of respondents claimed the current total ban on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels or Hunt Point Retrievers had a negative financial impact for them personally; among individuals, this figure was highest among breeders of working dogs (38%) and game keepers (43%).

A smaller proportion of respondents (12%) claimed the total ban has resulted in a loss of dog sales; not surprisingly this was highest among breeders of working dogs.

Around a third (33%) claimed that the impact on them personally had led to a loss of dog working days. Not surprisingly, this was highest among gamekeepers (55%) and keepers of working dogs (40%).

Just under one in five respondents (19%) noted there had been other impacts on them as a result of the total current ban.

Table 13: Reasons for a negative financial impact personally

	Yes (%)	No (%)	Don't know / No response (%)
Ban has had a negative financial impact on me	28	63	9
Impact includes loss of dog sales	12	75	13
Impact includes loss of dog working days	33	57	10
Other impacts	19	46	35

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

Respondents were also given the opportunity to provide an explanation for their response to this question. Around a quarter noted that working dogs cannot work with damaged tails or that work days are lost due to injury (24%), or that they have had vets' bills to pay because of injuries or amputations (23%).

The issue of purchasing docked dogs was raised by around one in seven respondents who commented that they or others have travelled to England to obtain docked working dogs (14%) or that it is more expensive to purchase working dogs outwith Scotland (14%). What is England's gain is Scotland's loss, and similar proportions also commented that they or other breeders have lost revenue from the sale of undocked dogs because buyers are unwilling to take undocked dogs (13%) or that there has been a loss of Scottish breeding lines (13%).

Once again, there was some reiteration of points already raised such as the pain or stress caused to dogs by tail injuries (8%), that there is an increased risk of injury to undocked dog tails (6%), or that there should be less focus on commercial aspects and more on the welfare of dogs (3%).

Impact of exemption to the current ban on business

The next question in the consultation paper asked '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?'.

As demonstrated in table 14, over a quarter (28%) claimed that overall financial benefits to them would increase and almost a third (31%) that working dog sales would increase for them. Almost two in five (37%) claimed that the loss of dog working days from injury would decrease. Similar proportions of respondents noted that the cost of tail docking would increase for them (11%) as would decrease (12%). Across individual sub-groups, higher proportions of breeders and game keepers noted benefits to themselves.

Table 14: Impact of an exemption to the current ban for working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers

	Increase (%)	Decrease (%)	Not change (%)	N/A (%)
Overall financial benefits would	28	1	18	53
Working dog sales would	31	1	15	53
Loss of dog working days from injury would	8	37	9	45
Cost of tail docking would	11	12	26	51
Other impacts would	3	6	15	76

** Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding

Of the 227 respondents who provided commentary on their response to this question, the highest single response of 27% was that there would be no financial impact on them because they were not a business or not resident in Scotland.

Around one in five respondents (19%) noted they would be able to source working dogs in Scotland or that there would be increased sales of Scottish working dog puppies. Similar proportions commented that this would lead to improved animal welfare and decreased discomfort, pain or stress to dogs (17%) or that there would be fewer lost working days (15%).

There was some specific reference to the breeding of dogs in Scotland, with just over one in ten (13%) noting they or others could start breeding in Scotland again, and 10% that this would protect Scottish breeding lines. A further 7% noted they would be able to sell their working dog litters in Scotland.

Other advantages included fewer vets' bills (11%), they would no longer spend time and cost to travel outwith Scotland to purchase docked puppies (8%), that there would be fewer tail injuries or less likelihood of receiving tail injuries (6%) or that this would be of benefit to the Scottish economy or businesses in the sector (4%).

As one breeder noted, "Breeders in Scotland would have an increase in demand for their puppies, buyers would not have to travel as far. Beaters and pickers up would have the dogs so would be more in demand so thus resulting in financial gains and although there would be an initial cost of docking and micro chipping the puppies it is nothing compared to the cost of correcting a damaged tail on an older dog what with medication, operation and anaesthetic."

Any further comments

The final question about the possible exemption to tail docking of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers asked '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 made by 10% or more of the 389 who commented are shown in table 15. To a large degree, comments made in response to this question echoed comments seen at earlier questions, with calls from 27% to introduce the exemption for the welfare of working dogs; 15% also noted that tail docking reduces suffering or stops unnecessary pain. There were also some comments that there should not be a tightly defined exemption but that tail docking should be introduced for all working dogs (11%) or that tail docking should be introduced for extended breeds (10%). Around one in ten respondents (11%) asked for the same system to be introduced as exists in the rest of the UK. A similar proportion was anti-tail docking (10%).

There were also references from smaller proportions of respondents for the provision of proof that a dog will be a working dog, that the consultation focuses too heavily on commercialism rather than the welfare of working dogs and that research does or does not back up the issue of docking dogs tails.

Table 15: Any other comments on whether Scottish Ministers should introduce a tightly defined exemption

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
Introduce tail docking / for animal welfare, wellbeing of dog	27	8	28
Tail docking reduces suffering / stops unnecessary injury	15	4	16
Listen to the views of those who work with dogs	13	13	13
Introduce same system as England / bring in line with rest of UK	11	13	11
Should not have tight exemption / introduce tail docking for all working dogs	11	4	11
Introduce docking for extended breeds eg domestic pets / gundogs recognised by Kennel club	10	8	10
Do not allow tail docking / against animal welfare	10	46	7

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wish

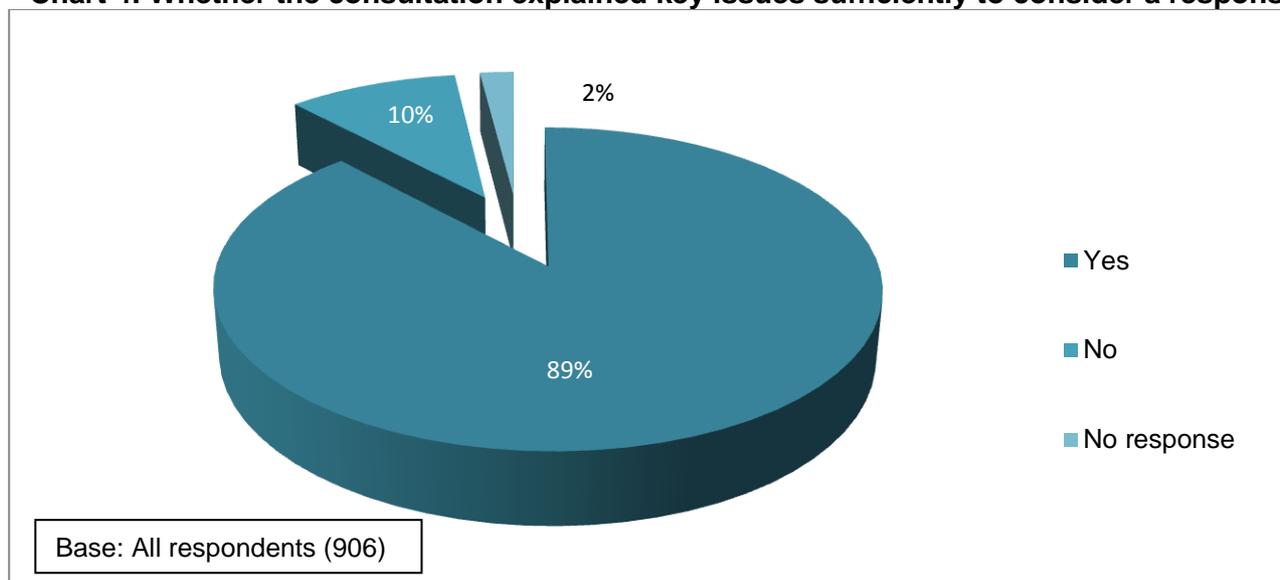
About the consultation

The final section of the consultation paper asked respondents a series of questions about the consultation.

Whether the consultation explained key issues sufficiently

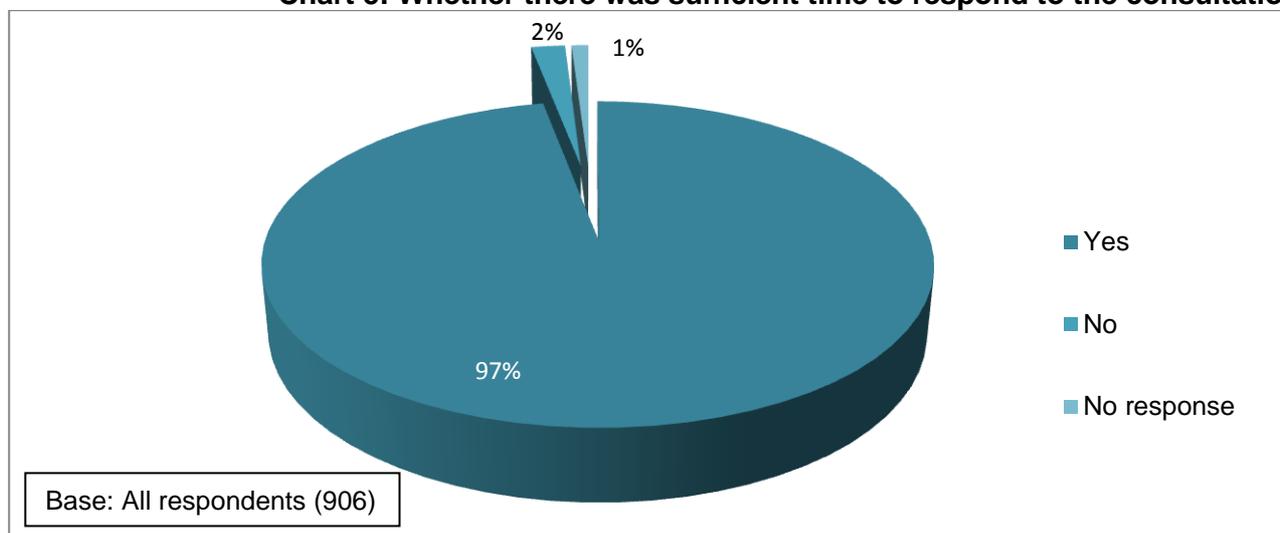
Respondents were asked 'Do you consider that the consultation explained the key issues sufficiently to properly consider your responses?' As chart 4 demonstrates, views were very positive, with a large majority of respondents (89%) saying that the consultation explained the key issues sufficiently to properly consider their response. Only 10% of respondents felt this was not the case.

Chart 4: Whether the consultation explained key issues sufficiently to consider a response



Respondents were then asked 'Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?'. Views on the timescale were very positive with almost all respondents (97%) agreeing the timescale was sufficient.

Chart 5: Whether there was sufficient time to respond to the consultation



The next question in the consultation paper asked respondents to provide any other comments on the way the consultation had been conducted; 190 respondents opted to provide commentary. The key comment emerging was that a decision on whether to introduce a tightly defined exemption needs to be taken (31%). Some other comments made by respondents reiterated those raised in earlier questions; such as the main issue is the welfare of working dogs (cited by 16%), or that the ban should be relaxed (12%).

Specific comments on the consultation process referred to concerns over the distribution of the consultation paper (14%), there being too great a focus on financial issues (14%) or that the focus should be on the opinions of those who work with dogs (10%). While 5% noted that some of the questions were poorly worded, ambiguous or misleading, the same proportion also noted the consultation paper was user-friendly and fair.

A small number of respondents commented that the consultation was biased, with 3% noting this was biased towards exemptions being approved (3%) or that the consultation was aimed at the field sports fraternity (1%)

The table below shows the comments made by 5% or more of respondents.

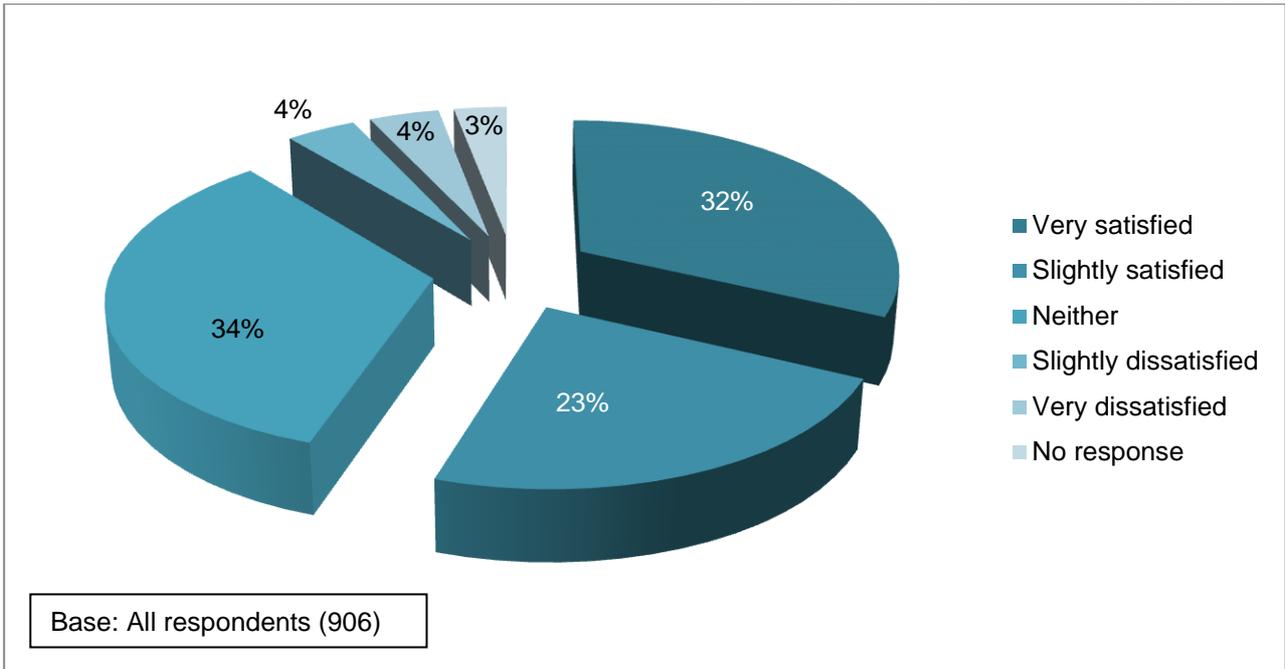
Table 16: Any other comments on whether Scottish Ministers should introduce a tightly defined exemption

	Total (%)	Organisations (%)	Individuals (%)
Decision needs to be made	31	18	31
Main issue is welfare of dogs	16	9	17
Concerns over distribution of consultation paper	14	-	15
Too much focus on financial issues	14	9	14
Ban should be relaxed	12	18	11
Focus should be on views of those who work with dogs	10	-	11
Some of consultation poorly worded / ambiguous / misleading	5	-	6
Positive comment on consultation eg user-friendly / fair	5	9	5

** Figures do not add to 100% because respondents could give as many answers as they wished

Respondents were then asked to indicate how satisfied they were with the consultation. As shown in chart 6, the majority of respondents (55%) were satisfied with the consultation and a further 34% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Only 8% were dissatisfied to any extent.

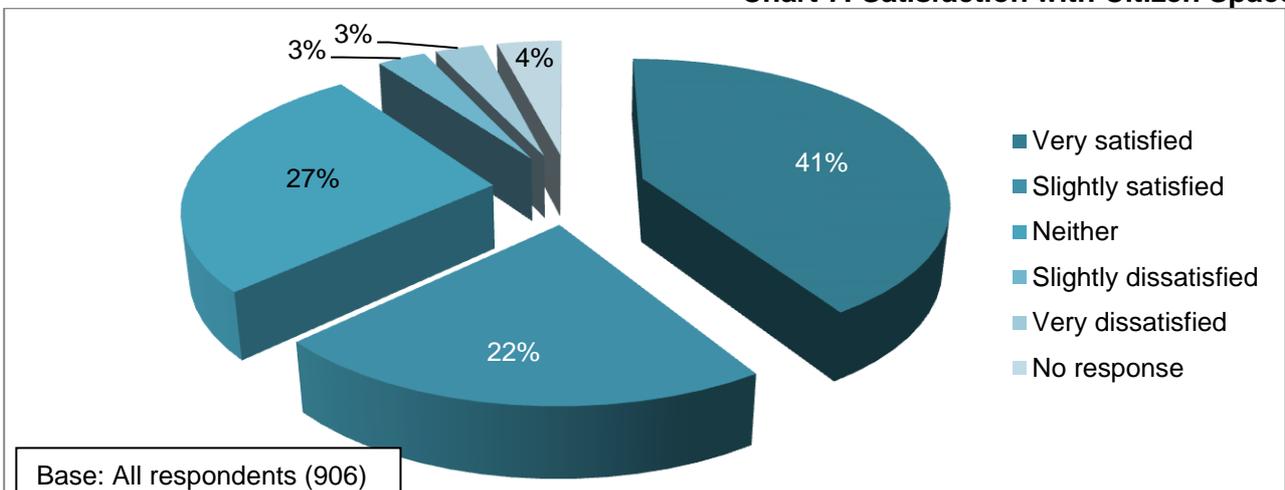
Chart 6: Satisfaction with the consultation



Respondents were then offered the opportunity to provide an explanation for their response to this question, and 153 did so. One in five (20%) noted that this consultation should have been carried out at an earlier point in time or that it has taken to long for this consultation to be conducted. Views were mixed on the questions posed, with 10% commenting that the questions were okay or that they addressed key issues, while 9% felt the questions were poorly worded or biased. Just under one in ten (8%) felt that there should have been a greater focus on animal welfare and less on commercial aspects related to tail docking and 6% felt there should have been greater or wider publicity for this consultation.

Finally, respondents were asked how they would rate their satisfaction with using Citizen Space to respond to this consultation. As shown in chart 7, a majority of respondents (63%) were satisfied to some extent with Citizen Space and a further 27% were neither satisfied nor dissatisfied. Only 6% were unsatisfied with the use of Citizen Space.

Chart 7: Satisfaction with Citizen Space



Again, respondents were offered an opportunity to provide comments on the use of Citizen Space and 70 did so. Almost one in three (30%) noted that Citizen Space is simple, clear or easy to use and a further 11% commented that it was fine or okay.

A small proportion of respondents (6%) noted they had a technical problem with some aspects of the submission and 4% commented that it was difficult to include attachments or references. A small proportion (3%) did not like the name Citizen Space and the same proportion made negative comments about the process being online rather than paper-based.

Appendix 1 – Consultation questions

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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Breeder of Working Dogs | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog Breeder (General) | <input type="checkbox"/> | Animal Welfare Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dog Breed Association | <input type="checkbox"/> | Veterinary Surgeon | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recreational Shooter | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shoot Organiser | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Game Keeper | <input type="checkbox"/> | Pest Controller | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Member of the General Public | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Other (please specify)

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

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Scotland | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| England | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Wales | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Northern Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Republic of Ireland | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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?

	Yes	No	Don't Know
Permit all veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permit only specially approved veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Require veterinary surgeons that have docked dogs likely to work in future to carry out the microchipping and registration of that dog	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

	Yes	No
Breeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Breeding	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Ban has had a negative financial impact on me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact includes loss of dog sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impact includes loss of dog working days	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other impacts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?

If an exemption was made:	Increase	Decrease	Not change	N/A
Overall financial benefits would	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Working dog sales would	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Loss of dog working days from injury would	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost of tail docking would	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other impacts would	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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:



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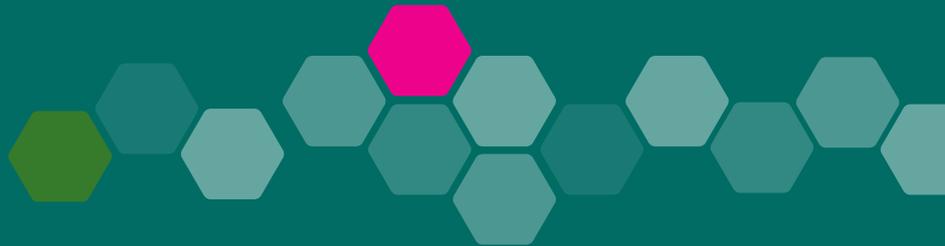
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