Scoping Research on Illegal Puppy Trade and Puppy Farms

Page 1: Important Information

We would like to invite you to participate in a research project funded by the Scottish Government on the sourcing of pet dogs from illegal importation and puppy farms. As you possibly know, each year there are potentially over 400,000 puppies smuggled into the UK. By analysing online market and trade data, interviewing experts and conducting focus groups with dog owners, our project aims to make policy recommendations to address such illegal activity, which endangers animal welfare and public health.

The research is being conducted by Dr Tanya Wyatt and Mr Paul Biddle of Northumbria University and Dr Jenny Maher of the University of South Wales until the end of March. Our field research aims to identify the nature, extent and value of legal and illegal puppy sales in the UK, what improvements can be made to both the implementation and enforcement of current legislation and further understanding of what drives demand and impacts consumers’ behaviour. This survey aims to further understanding of the nature of the illegal trade and consumer behaviour.

All survey data will be collected anonymously; we only ask for your profession and location to gauge the representativeness of the responses. All information will be stored securely to ensure anonymity and confidentiality. Specifically, we are asking professionals who have contact with puppies for their views and experiences of puppy farming and importation, the sense of scale and prevalence of this market and perceptions about consumer demand.

Further information on the project is available from the project manager (tanya.wyatt@northumbria.ac.uk or 0191-227-4015). If you would like to engage with the project, please complete the survey below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

1. I have read and understood the information presented above ✶ Required

☐ Yes
2. Please select, from the list below, the local area/s in which you are based:

- Aberdeen/Aberdeenshire
- Angus
- Dumfries & Galloway
- Dundee
- East Ayrshire
- Edinburgh
- Fife
- Glasgow
- National (all Scotland)
- North Lanarkshire
- Perth & Kinross
- South Lanarkshire
- West Lothian
3. Are you primarily in contact with dogs and puppies because you are a:

- Dog walker and/or carer
- Dog trainer
- Dog groomer
- Vet
- Other

3.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

[Blank space for answer]
4. How well informed do you think you are about the illegal puppy trade (illegal puppy breeding and trading)?

- Very well informed
- Well informed
- Reasonably well informed
- Not very informed
- Not at all informed

5. Where is the knowledge you have about the illegal puppy trade from? (Please select ALL relevant answers)

- Owners of illegally farmed or traded puppies
- Information via your membership of professional bodies/networks
- The media
- From government publications
- From research you have read
- Formal information you receive related to your job
- Informal communication with colleagues

6. The illegal puppy trade (i.e. illegal imports, illegal exports and/or puppy farming) is a problem in my locality:

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree/Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Don't Know

7. In the LAST YEAR illegal imports of puppies have:

- Significantly Decreased
- Decreased
- Not Changed
- Increased
- Significantly Increased
- Don't Know
8. In the LAST YEAR puppy farming has...

- [ ] Significantly Decreased
- [ ] Decreased
- [ ] Not Changed
- [ ] Increased
- [ ] Significantly Increased
- [ ] Don't Know

9. In the last FIVE YEARS the illegal import of puppies has:

- [ ] Significantly Decreased
- [ ] Decreased
- [ ] Not Changed
- [ ] Increased
- [ ] Significantly Increased
- [ ] Don't Know

10. In the last FIVE YEARS puppy farming has:

- [ ] Significantly Decreased
- [ ] Decreased
- [ ] Not Changed
- [ ] Increased
- [ ] Significantly Increased
- [ ] Don't Know

11. Each year, I believe that the following number of puppies are smuggled into my local area:

- [ ] 0-49
- [ ] 50-99
- [ ] 100-149
- [ ] 150-199
- [ ] 200-249
- [ ] 250+
- [ ] Don't Know

12. What percentage of illegally imported puppies do you think goes undetected?

- [ ] None - all illegally imported puppies are identified
- [ ] 1-25%
- [ ] 26-50%
- [ ] 51-74%
- [ ] 75+
- [ ] Don't Know
13. How often are you concerned that the puppies you come into contact with might have been smuggled?

- Daily
- At Least Quarterly
- At Least Weekly
- At Least Once a Year
- At Least Monthly
- Less Than Once a Year

14. How often are you concerned that the puppies you come into contact with might have been farmed?

- Daily
- At Least Quarterly
- At Least Weekly
- At Least Once a Year
- At Least Monthly
- Less Than Once a Year
15. ‘Typical’ illegal puppy traders are based in (please select ALL options you feel are relevant):

- Scotland
- England
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Republic of Ireland
- Hungary
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Romania
- Other Eastern Europe
- Other Western Europe
- Other areas of Europe
- Other

15.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

[Blank space]

16. ‘Typical’ illegal puppy farmers are based in (please select ALL options you feel are relevant):

- Scotland
- England
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- Republic of Ireland
- Hungary
- Lithuania
- Poland
- Romania
16. If you selected Other, please specify:

17. 'Typical' illegal puppy traders are engaged with the illegal puppy trade (please select ALL answers you feel relevant):

17.a. If you selected Other, please specify:
Page 7: Puppy Smuggling Routes & Techniques

18. What routes are used to smuggle puppies? (please select ALL answers you believe relevant)

- Channel Tunnel
- Ferry from continent to England
- Ferry from the Republic of Ireland to Scotland
- Ferry from Northern Ireland to Scotland
- Ferry from continent to Scotland
- Other

18.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

19. How are puppies smuggled? (please select ALL answers you believe relevant)

- Via PETS using fake passport
- Laundered with legal trade
- Hidden in business cargo (e.g. lorries, vans)
- Hidden in domestic vehicles
- Other

19.a. If you selected Other, please specify:


Page 8: Identifying Traded & Smuggled Puppies

**20.** What are the signs a puppy has been FARMED? (please select ALL options you believe relevant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Never a sign</th>
<th>Rarely a sign</th>
<th>Sometimes a sign</th>
<th>Frequently a sign</th>
<th>Always a sign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Viruses (parvovirus, canine brucellosis, canine distemper)</td>
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<td>Respiratory illnesses (Bordetella bronchiseptica (i.e., kennel cough), pneumonia and other respiratory infections)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parasites (Giardia canis, coccidiosis, intestinal parasites (e.g., roundworms, whipworms, hookworms, tapeworms)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin conditions (rashes, fleas, ticks, mange)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common illnesses (eye problems)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Weight (under)</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Inherited disorders</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**21.** What are the signs a puppy has been SMUGGLED? (please select ALL options you believe relevant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Never a sign</th>
<th>Rarely a sign</th>
<th>Sometimes a sign</th>
<th>Frequently a sign</th>
<th>Always a sign</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presence of foreign microchip</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncommon vaccination record</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presence of diseases/illnesses (e.g. parvovirus), suggesting poor welfare conditions</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presence of uncommon diseases or parasites to the UK</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Owners description of purchase</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
22. How do buyers locate their puppy (please select ALL answers you believe relevant).

- Website
- Social media
- Small ads
- Personal contacts
- Word of mouth
- Other

22.a. If you selected Other, please specify:

23. What portion of consumers have asked for your advice prior to purchasing their puppy?

- 0-25%
- 26-50%
- 51-74%
- 75%+

24. Do people who buy illegally bred/trafficked puppies live in certain areas or locations? (please select ALL answers you believe relevant)

- Urban
- Suburbs
- Rural
- Farming
- Other

24.a. If you selected Other, please specify:


## 25. How important are the reasons listed below in explaining why people buy illegally bred/traded puppies? (please select ALL answers you believe relevant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reason</th>
<th>Very Important</th>
<th>Important</th>
<th>Neither Important/Unimportant</th>
<th>Not Very Important</th>
<th>Not At All Important</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First time buyers</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Households with less disposable incomes</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buyers are looking for cheaper/affordable status breeds or cross-breeds</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prospective buyers are not checked/vetted by the sellers</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impulsive purchase, rather than a considered decision</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Purchase of puppy for an occasion (e.g. Christmas or birthday present)</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buyers do not realise they are purchasing an illegally bred or trafficked puppy</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buyers feel they are rescuing the puppy</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ease of purchase compared to buying from a legal breeder</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
<td>☒</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
26. Do you think that any of the following make illegal puppy trading easier or more difficult?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Much easier</th>
<th>Easier</th>
<th>No more or less easy</th>
<th>Difficult</th>
<th>Much more difficult</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The current Pet Travel Scheme</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regulations for commercial movement</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The way border checks are currently implemented</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 27. What is the identifiable impact of the illegal puppy trade on the consumer? (please select ALL answers you believe relevant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Very significant</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Neither significant/insignificant</th>
<th>Insignificant</th>
<th>Very insignificant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of income/excessive costs</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional distress</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relinquishment of the puppy</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 28. What is the identifiable impact of the illegal puppy trade on the puppies? (please select ALL answers you believe relevant)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Very significant</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Neither significant/insignificant</th>
<th>Insignificant</th>
<th>Very insignificant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long term health problems</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short term health problems</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long term behavioural problems</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Premature death/destruction</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 29. What is the identifiable impact of the illegal puppy trade on professionals and organisations caring for dogs? (e.g. vets, rescue centres, dog walkers) (please select all answers you believe apply)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Impact</th>
<th>Very significant</th>
<th>Significant</th>
<th>Neither significant/insignificant</th>
<th>Insignificant</th>
<th>Very insignificant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Loss of income/business</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional costs to professionals/organisations</td>
<td>☐</td>
<td>☐</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
30. How significant are the implications of the puppy trade for public health?

- [ ] Very significant
- [ ] Significant
- [ ] Neither significant/insignificant
- [ ] Insignificant
- [ ] Very insignificant

31. If you think that the illegal puppy trade has implications not covered in the previous questions, please provide brief details in the box below.

[Blank Box]
32. How, if at all, would any of the changes, listed below, reduce puppy buyers purchase of illegally bred and traded puppies?:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Change</th>
<th>Would reduce a lot</th>
<th>Would reduce</th>
<th>No impact</th>
<th>Would reduce a little</th>
<th>Would not reduce at all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More information (better consumer advice)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal sanctions/prosecution</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wider legal changes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop third party sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stop online sales</td>
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<td>Pop-ups with information attached to online sales</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory cooling-off period after purchase of puppy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet advertisement guidelines (PAAG) made mandatory</td>
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<td>Education in schools</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prohibit sales from abroad</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandatory registration for all breeders and traders</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better traceability of animal from birth to sale (e.g. as per animals for consumption)</td>
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<tr>
<td>More effective enforcement of existing legislation and protocols</td>
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<tr>
<td>National register of pets and their owners on entry to the UK which could be used to identify repeated entry with different pets (a sign of commercial activity)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
33. Please you the box below to make any additional comments about illegal puppy farming and trading.
34. Would you be interested in promoting the focus groups we plan to undertake with prospective buyers and recent buyers of illegally bred/traded puppies? If so, please provide your contact details below so we can provide you posters/leaflets.