

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

Page 2: Your Location

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

Page 3: Your Contact with Puppies and Dogs

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:

Page 4: Your Views of the Scale of Illegal Puppy Farming/Trade

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

Page 5: Your Contact With Illegally Farmed & Imported Puppies

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

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

Page 6: Origins of Illegally Farmed & Traded Puppies

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:

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

- Other Eastern Europe
- Other Western Europe
- Other areas of Europe
- Other

16.a. 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):

- As part of an organised network
- As a side or part of their legitimate business
- As a hobby
- Opportunistically
- Other

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)

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

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

	Never a sign	Rarely a sign	Sometimes a sign	Frequently a sign	Always a sign
Presence of foreign microchip	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Uncommon vaccination record	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presence of diseases/illnesses (e.g. parvovirus), suggesting poor welfare conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Presence of uncommon diseases or parasites to the UK	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Owners description of purchase	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 9: Buyers of Illegally Farmed /Traded Puppies

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)

	Very Important	Important	Neither Important/Unimportant	Not Very Important	Not At All Important
First time buyers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Households with less disposable incomes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buyers are looking for cheaper/affordable status breeds or cross-breeds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prospective buyers are not checked/vetted by the sellers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Impulsive purchase, rather than a considered decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Purchase of puppy for an occasion (e.g. Christmas or birthday present)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buyers do not realise they are purchasing an illegally bred or trafficked puppy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Buyers feel they are rescuing the puppy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ease of purchase compared to buying from a legal breeder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 10: Policies & Procedures

26. Do you think that any of the following make illegal puppy trading easier or more difficult?

	Much easier	Easier	No more or less easy	Diffcult	Much more difficult
The current Pet Travel Scheme	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Regulations for commerical movement	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The way border checks are currently implemented	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Page 11: Outcomes of Illegal Puppy Breeding & Trading

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

	Very significant	Significant	Neither significant/insignificant	Insignificant	Very insignificant
Loss of income/excessive costs	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Emotional distress	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Relinquishment of the puppy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

	Very significant	Significant	Neither significant/insignificant	Insignificant	Very insignificant
Long term health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short term health problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Long term behavioural problems	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Premature death/destruction	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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)

	Very significant	Significant	Neither significant/insignificant	Insignificant	Very insignificant
Loss of income/business	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Additional costs to professionals/organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Emotional distress

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.

Page 12: Changing the Behaviour of Puppy Buyers

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

	Would reduce a lot	Would reduce	No impact	Would reduce a little	Would not reduce at all
More information (better consumer advice)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal sanctions/prosecution	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Wider legal changes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop third party sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Stop online sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pop-ups with information attached to online sales	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory cooling-off period after purchase of puppy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet advertisement guidelines (PAAG) made mandatory	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education in schools	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prohibit sales from abroad	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mandatory registration for all breeders and traders	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Better traceability of animal from birth to sale (e.g. as per animals for consumption)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
More effective enforcement of existing legislation and protocols	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Page 13: Any Other Comments

33. Please use the box below to make any additional comments about illegal puppy farming and trading.

Page 14: Promoting the Research

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.
