

PUPPY FARMS

Proposer: Cllr Paul Gray

Seconder: Cllr Grainne Rason

Council believes Puppy Farms – in which dogs are bred purely for profit with little concern for their welfare – are cruel and inhumane. They are often run illegally without the correct licensing and monitoring from the local council.

Dogs on puppy farms are more likely to be overbred, kept in poor conditions and not receive adequate food or vet care. Research from the Naturewatch Foundation estimates that 400,000 farmed puppies are brought every year in the UK.

Council fully supports efforts to crack down on illegal puppy farms, such as the introduction of ‘Lucy’s Law in 2020’ banning the third-party sale of puppies in the first 6 months of their life. Council therefore condemns the Conservative Government’s decision in May 2023 to break its promise to introduce a ‘Kept Animals Bill’ to add further protections to prevent dogs from being exploited on puppy farms.

Council recognises the legal role it has to provide licenses to all dog breeders who sell puppies for a profit. Council further believes it can help make sure those wishing to buy puppies do so from reputable, licensed breeders.

Council therefore resolves to;

- a) Publish an up-to-date list of locally licensed dog breeders on its website so local residents who wish to buy a puppy are signposted to reputable breeders.
- b) Undertake a publicity campaign, **at no additional cost to the council**, to raise awareness of illegal puppy breeding and signs to look for when buying a puppy that suggest it might come from a puppy farm, and how to report suspicious activity.
- c) Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Kept Animals Bill to be revived to make it more difficult for puppy farmers and smugglers to operate.