

Ireland: Recent Experiences Re Puppy Trade

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An Roinn
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Outline of Presentation

- 1. The Market-Supply and Demand
- 2. Legislation in Ireland
- 3. What we found when we looked
- 4. Our plans

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Dublin

MUNSTER

ISLE OF MAN

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NORTH WEST

YORKSHIRE AND THE HUMBER

EAST MIDLANDS

WEST MIDLANDS

ENGLAND

EAST OF ENGLAND

WALES

Gardiff

SOUTH WEST

LONDON

SOUTH EAST

CELTIC SEA

IRISH SEA

ENGLISH CHANNEL

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Amster

De Ha

ZUID-HOLL

Middelburg

ZEELAND

VLAANDERE

Brus

Supply and Demand..

- Ireland: 4.6 Million people, 500 000* dogs (20% of households own a dog)
- UK: 64 million people, 8.5 million* dogs (24% of households own a dog)

*Sources: estimates from petfood manufacturers & pet insurance companies

UK= (i) large potential market;
(ii) accessible via ferry routes



Legislation in Ireland

- Very good legislation!
- (i) Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 (6 or more breeding bitches-must be registered with Local Authority)
- (ii) Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013
(Good, modern legislative framework)

Legislation cont.

- June 2015- compulsory microchipping of pups
- March 2016- compulsory microchipping of all dogs
- All microchipped dogs must be registered on an approved database

Recent activity...

- 2015: greater activity/checks at ports
- Relatively few welfare issues
- Initially lots of issues re documents, pet passports, balai certs etc
- Now big increase in awareness and compliance.....

Recent activity cont.

- 2015: One large commercial dog breeding premises served with closure notice and all dogs (300+) removed
- Joint inspections of all (70) registered commercial dog breeding establishments (Local authority vet plus Dept. of Agriculture vet)

Recent activity cont.

- Joint inspections reveal variation in standards. Approx. 20 to be re-inspected on foot of issues found

Possible Next steps/plans Ireland

- Develop code of practice for dog breeding establishments (exercise, socialisation etc)?
- Enforce microchipping legislation & record keeping requirements for DBEs
- Ban on advertising of non-microchipped/unregistered pups?

Negatives

- Dangers of “Underground” trade (difficult to police)
- Some operators/premises not at high standard
- Some fraud/misrepresentation re origin of pups

Positives

- Good legislation
- Many very good operators/premises
- Compliance levels have improved
- Good NGO support
- Education of puppy buyers important

Thank You



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