Ireland: Recent Experiences Re Puppy Trade

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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
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 premised 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