

Rùnaire a' Chairinneil airson Cuisean Dùthchan agus na n-Àrainneachd
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Ridseard Lochhead BPA
Richard Lochhead MSP



[Redacted]

[Redacted]
Scottish Countryside Alliance

[Redacted]

In 2014, Scotland Welcomes the World



Ur faidhle/Your ref:
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0017513
June 2014

15

[Redacted]

Thank you for your email dated 19 May 2014 regarding your views on the Glasgow research and the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs.

Your views have been noted and will be considered along with others I have received. I will write again once the appropriate course of action has been determined.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

RICHARD LOCHHEAD

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2014 15:55:58
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Subject: FW: Tail Docking research response

Attachments: Mr R Lochhead MSP.docx

For maccs please

[REDACTED]
Deputy Private Secretary - Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
[REDACTED]

Address: 1N.04 - St Andrews House - Regent Road - Edinburgh - EH1 3DG
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2014 15:39
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Subject: Tail Docking research response

Please find attached the Scottish Countryside Alliance's response to the published papers "Survey of tail injuries sustained by working gundogs and terriers in Scotland" R. Lederer, D. Bennett, T. Parkin and "The prevalence of tail injuries in working and non-working breed dogs visiting veterinary practices in Scotland" N. Cameron, R. Lederer, D. Bennett, T. Parkin

Kindest Regards
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Director
Scottish Countryside Alliance
[REDACTED]

Scottish Countryside Alliance
[REDACTED]

To join: www.scottishcountrysidealliance.org/join<<http://www.countryside->

alliance.org.uk/join>

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mr R Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

19/05/2014

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Further to your request for comment on the findings of the recently published research I write to inform you on the considered view of the Scottish Countryside Alliance in relation to the University of Glasgow published and peer reviewed papers "*Survey of tail injuries sustained by working gundogs and terriers in Scotland*" R. Lederer, D. Bennett, T. Parkin and "*The prevalence of tail injuries in working and non-working breed dogs visiting veterinary practices in Scotland*" N. Cameron, R. Lederer, D. Bennett, T. Parkin

The Scottish Countryside Alliance welcomed and supported the Scottish Government commissioned research into the prevalence of tail injuries in working and non-working dog breeds and further welcomes the conclusive outcomes which indicates a clear potential benefit to be gained from docking (at least by one-third) in spaniels and HPRs and the published papers authors belief that the research provides the best available evidence on which to base a consultation for changes to the legislation on tail docking in working dogs in Scotland.

Tail docking of dogs for non-therapeutic (that is prophylactic or cosmetic) reasons has been banned in Great Britain since 2007 when the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 came into force. However, amendments made to the Act (DEFRA 2007) allow the docking of certain working dogs or working dog breeds. More recently the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 came into force with similar exemptions (DEFRA 2012). However, The Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 (DEFRA 2006) includes a total ban on non-therapeutic docking of dogs, with no exemptions.

The Glasgow University research concluded that Spaniels and HPRs with undocked tails in Scotland were reported to have been at greatest risk of tail injury, with 56.6 per cent of all undocked spaniels and 38.5 per cent of all undocked HPRs sustaining at least one tail injury during the 2010/2011 shooting season. These findings concur with the results of earlier studies utilised to introduce the working dog breed exemptions in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The outcome of the Scottish Government commissioned research leads to further calls from the Scottish Countryside Alliance and other supporting organisations for the Scottish Government to introduce an exemption under the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 to allow the prophylactic docking of certain working dog breeds and breed types.



We welcome the peer reviewed report conclusion that there are "*clear potential benefits to be gained from docking*" certain breeds of working dogs, but are most concerned at the suggestion that this only applies to Spaniels and HPRs.

The papers, however long awaited, did contain inconsistency's which if recognised would have made a more compelling case for the inclusion of certain breeds of working Terriers. It is the belief of the Scottish Countryside Alliance that the vast majority of working Terriers would not have been "working" during the research timeframe and therefore the injuries to the undocked tails of certain working Terrier breeds would have went unrecorded.

The time frame for the use of terriers by those employed within the game shooting sector is quite short and generally coincides with localised fox denning. Terriers are generally deployed underground where they locate, pursue and flush out its quarry. It does this by continually barking at the quarry and causing it to leave its earth or den. While doing so its tail is continually "wagging" or "flicking" from side to side and the closer it gets to its quarry, the more vigorously it wags its tail. The angle and position of a full tail can also in certain circumstances prevent the dog reversing out of a tight space. Those operating "pest control services" will operate under the same format but throughout the year as opposed to the targeted spring offensive of the gamekeeper.

We would respectfully suggest there are a number of other more important factors which should also be taken into consideration when considering the inclusion of working Terriers. These include the dog's natural tail length and tail set, the nature of the dog's work, the manner in which the dog itself works and the risks of tail injury posed by the terrain in which it will be working.

In Summary

This Scottish Government commissioned research was designed to estimate the risk of tail injuries examined at veterinary practices across Scotland for working dog breeds and other breeds of dogs and concluded that certain working dog breeds were at a significantly increased risk of sustaining a tail injury that required a veterinary examination. Undocked spaniels types were identified at the greatest risk of tail injury with 56.6 per cent of undocked spaniels sustaining at least one tail injury during the season. This study also demonstrated that there was a highly significant increase (2.3 times) in the probability of a spaniel being taken to a veterinary practice with a tail injury after the docking ban than before its introduction.

This may be the most comprehensive survey of tail injuries presented at veterinary practices in Scotland, however, the Scottish Countryside Alliance suggest that the findings may, for the reasons given within and absent from the research (pest control terriers), underestimate the true prevalence of tail injury requiring veterinary treatment, and even amputation.

This paper supports the Scottish Countryside Alliances call for the amendment of current legislation to allow the prophylactic docking of tails in certain breeds and breed types (cross breeds) of working dogs. It should be noted that the Scottish Countryside Alliance does not agree with the docking of dog's tails for cosmetic reasons, but considers the prophylactic docking of working dogs tails a practical necessity and serious welfare benefit for working dogs.

Yours Sincerely

[Redacted Signature]

Countryside Alliance
Director for Scotland

[Redacted Footer]

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h- Arainneachd
 Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
 Rìdseard Lochhead BPA
 Richard Lochhead MSP



Mr John Swinney MSP
 The Scottish Parliament
 EDINBURGH
 EH99 1SP

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



homecomingscotland.com

GLENEAGLES

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0016489

26th May 2014

John John

Thank you for your letter dated 14 May 2014 on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] regarding tail docking.

As you are aware, Scottish legislation has prohibited the tail docking of all dogs since April 2007. This decision was not made lightly. The issue was the subject of considerable consultation in March 2004, when outline proposals on new animal welfare legislation were first issued, and again in May 2005 when the draft Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Bill (the Bill) was published, and again in October 2006, after the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 came into force, when draft Regulations (The Prohibited Procedures (Exemptions) (Scotland) Regulations) were consulted on.

However, the Scottish Government made a commitment to review the ban in relation to working dogs if evidence subsequently showed that a ban was detrimental to welfare in this specific instance. As your constituent is aware, in 2011, the Scottish Government commissioned a research project from the University of Glasgow examining the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically in relation to spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers. As you know the results have now been published in the Veterinary Record. We are currently gathering comments from key stakeholders on both sides of the debate on the research and how this affects their views on the tail docking of working dogs. Once these have been properly considered I will make a decision on the appropriate next steps.

The Scottish Government currently has no intention of reviewing the ban on tail docking of dogs in other non-therapeutic situations.

Richard Lochhead

RICHARD LOCHHEAD

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
 St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
 www.scotland.gov.uk



[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 13 May 2014 19:13
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Subject: FW: Tail Docking research results

Dear Mr Lochhead

John Swinney MSP has been contacted once more by his constituent [REDACTED] regarding further evidence against tail docking of spaniels. Mr Swinney would appreciate your assistance in replying to [REDACTED]

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant to John Swinney
Perthshire North Constituency Office
35 Perth Street
Blairgowrie
PH10 6DL
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: 08 May 2014 10:55
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
Subject: Re: Tail Docking research results

Dear Mr Swinney

"Docking the tails of HPRs and spaniels by one third would significantly decrease the risk of tail injury sustained while working in these breeds."

Veterinary Record 2014; 174: 451 doi: 10.1136/vr.102041
<http://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/>

The evidence couldn't be more clear, and the sad fact is that legislation was put in place without any.

Would you now please contact Mr Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, and ask him this; in light of the foregoing, what does he intend to do to protect my spaniels from tail injury now?

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

On 19 February 2014 10:33
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] wrote:
Dear [REDACTED]

Please find attached the response from Richard Lochhead MSP. I must apologise that

this wasn't sent on to you before.
If Mr Swinney can be of further assistance to you please get back in touch.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant to John Swinney
Perthshire North Constituency Office
35 Perth Street
Blairgowrie
PH10 6DL
[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent: 18 February 2014 15:19

To: Swinney J (John), MSP
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: Tail Docking research results

Dear Mr Swinney

It is nearly two months since I wrote. I believe this to be more than a reasonable time to have waited for a response to such a simple question, even though I am sure Richard Lochhead is a busy man.

I look forward to a full response before two months are up.

[REDACTED]
On 28 December 2013 15:49,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] wrote:

Dear [REDACTED]

John Swinney has asked me to thank you for your email. Mr Swinney has been contacted by another constituent on this matter and has written to Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, to ask for some information on this matter. As soon as he has a reply he will send it on to you.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant to John Swinney
Perthshire North Constituency Office
35 Perth Street
Blairgowrie
PH10 6DL
[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Sent: 27 December 2013 15:02
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
Subject: Tail Docking research results

Dear Mr Swinney

I should like you to find out for me why the results of the tail docking research undertaken by Glasgow University, commissioned two years ago, now complete, and promised for delivery over a year ago have not yet been published.

I look forward to your early reply.

Many thanks,

[Redacted signature]

*

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]*****

[Redacted line]*****

[Redacted line]

DOC 65

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h-Àrainneachd
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Ridseard Lochhead BPA
Richard Lochhead MSP



[Redacted]

Dr Eilidh Whiteford MP
House Of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA



Ur faidhle/Your ref: [Redacted]
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0018231
June 2014

Dear Eilidh,

Thank you for your letter of 30 May 2014, on behalf of your constituent [Redacted], [Redacted] regarding tail docking in working dogs.

As you are aware, in 2011, the Scottish Government commissioned a research project from the University of Glasgow examining the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically in relation to spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers.

We have gathered comments on the research which has now been published and how this affects the view point of key stakeholders on both sides of the debate.

Once we have looked over all comments we will then consider what action to take, if any.

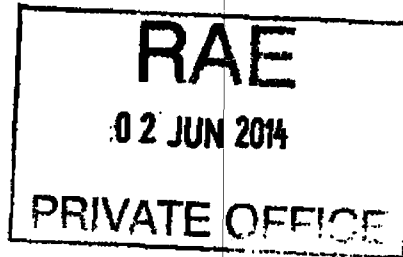
*Just want
to...*

RICHARD LOCHHEAD

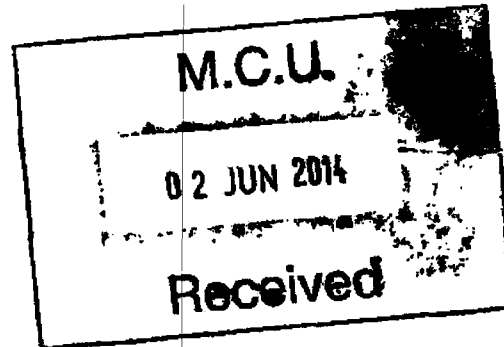


Eilidh Whiteford MP

Richard Lochhead MSP
 Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs & the Environment
 St Andrew's House
 Regent Road
 Edinburgh
 EH2 3DG



30 May 2014
 Our Ref: [REDACTED]



Dear Richard

Tail Docking

I am writing on behalf of my constituent, [REDACTED] relation to long-standing concerns he has about the banning of tail docking in dogs. I previously wrote to you on this matter on 20 June 2011 and received your response on 15 July 2011.

In your letter of 15 July 2011, you explained that the University of Glasgow was to undertake new research examining the risk of tail injuries to working dogs as a result of tail docking. You intimated that following the publication of this research, the Scottish Government would be in a position to review the current legislation on tail docking.

I write to enquire on behalf of my constituent if you could set out what recent reconsideration the Scottish Government may have given to the regulations of tail docking of working dogs following the publication of this research.

Many thanks for your assistance in this matter and I look forward to your response, which I will share with my constituent.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

Eilidh Whiteford

DR EILIDH WHITEFORD
 MP for Banff & Buchan

Eilidh Whiteford MP
 Office 7, Burnside Business Centre, Burnside Road, Peterhead, AB42 3AW



Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h- Àrainneachd
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Ridseard Lochhead BPA
Richard Lochhead MSP



[REDACTED]

Mr Fergus Ewing MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Ur faidhle/Your ref:
Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0017552
June 2014

Dear Mr Ewing MSP

Thank you for your correspondence of 22 May 2014 to Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment and your request for a meeting to discuss whether the ban on the docking of working dogs' tails should be overturned in Scotland.

Mr Lochhead would be willing to meet with yourself to discuss the matters you have raised on behalf of your constituents.

I would be grateful if you could contact [REDACTED] Mr Lochhead's Diary Secretary, by email at [REDACTED] to make the necessary arrangements.

[REDACTED]
PRIVATE SECRETARY

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2014 16:47:59
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Subject: FW: final SGA submission on tail docking for dissemination

Attachments: Tail Injuries In Working Dogs- SGA submission.docx

MACCS

[REDACTED]
Private Secretary to Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Sent: 22 May 2014 15:21
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Subject: FW: final SGA submission on tail docking for dissemination

Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment

Dear Richard,

I refer to our correspondence of the 7th and 28th March, this year which concerned the issue of taildocking, and have now had the benefit of seeing the SGA evidence submitted to you as attached, in relation to the Glasgow University report.

This analysis demonstrates that the current practice which outlaws taildocking, has the effect that most of the working dogs who have not had their tails docked, in consequence suffer injuries, and therefore suffer pain as a result.

On the basis of animal welfare, the report proves that the ban should be lifted, and the practice be as is south of the border.

The SGA also suggest how future practice should best be conducted.

As an MSP who has had representations from numerous constituents, I would be very pleased to have the opportunity to discuss these matters with you, and on the basis that the Report now provides incontrovertible evidence that harm and injury is the result of the laws passed by a previous administration.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Fergus Ewing MSP
Inverness and Nairn

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, May 22, 2014 10:55 AM

[REDACTED]

Subject: FW: final SGA submission on tail docking for dissemination

Hi [REDACTED],

Please find our submission. Fingers Crossed.

Thanks [REDACTED]

Chairman
Scottish Gamekeepers Association

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail, Biadh agus an Arainneachd
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Ridseard Lochhead BPA
Richard Lochhead MSP



The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

[Redacted]
Ms Alison McInnes MSP
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the world



Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0020499
July 2014

Dear Alison

Thank you for your letter dated 17 June 2014 on behalf of your constituent [Redacted], concerning tail docking. I am sorry to hear that [Redacted] dog had to have its tail amputated.

As mentioned in my letter dated 9 May 2014 after considerable debate the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 has prohibited the tail docking of all dogs since April 2007. There has never been any intention to reverse the decision for domestic dogs; however the Scottish Government did make a commitment to reviewing the ban in relation to working dogs if evidence showed that the ban was detrimental to welfare in this specific instance.

The Glasgow research consisted of both a survey of working dogs for the shooting season 2010/2011 and an analysis of data on injuries to working breeds from veterinary practice databases from 2002-2012. The 16 veterinary practices that agreed to participate provided 2.65 million records for 99,368 dogs. These practices were situated across Scotland to reduce geographical bias.

Subsequent to the research being published comments were invited from key stakeholders on both sides of the debate on the research and how this affects their views on tail docking of working dogs. Once these comments have been properly considered we will make a decision on the appropriate next steps in relation to working dogs.

I must reiterate that the Scottish Government currently has no intention of reviewing the ban on tail docking of dogs in other non-therapeutic situations.

Richard Lochhead

RICHARD LOCHHEAD

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk





The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

RAE
19 JUN 2014
PRIVATE OFFICE

17 June, 2014

Dear Richard

[REDACTED]
I am writing further to your letter of 19 May regarding the issues raised by my constituent, [REDACTED] over the docking dogs' tails. [REDACTED] has been in touch with me since then. She tells me her dog has now had its tail amputated as a result of injuries. She also takes issue with the validity of the findings of the research project that you cite as evidence for retaining the ban. She sets out her criticisms in her email, which I have enclosed.

I would be grateful for your further comments on what she has to say, so that I can reply to my [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

Alison McInnes MSP
North East Scotland (Liberal Democrat)

M.C.U.
19 JUN 2014
Received

Alison McInnes MSP
Member for North East Scotland Region
Ellon Business Centre, Broomiesburn Road, Ellon AB41 9RD
Phone: [REDACTED]
Email: [REDACTED]

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail, Bìadh agus an Àirneachd
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Ridseard Lochhead BPA
Richard Lochhead MSP



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Email [Redacted]

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0030793
October 2014

[Redacted]

Thank you for your email dated 30 August 2014 regarding the ban on tail docking of working dogs.

The Scottish Government takes the welfare of animals, including working dogs, very seriously. Any decision taken on the issue of tail docking must take into account the welfare of every dog, and we need to decide where the balance is best struck between protecting the welfare of puppies and of adult working dogs.

To this end following the publication of the Glasgow University research on tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, the Scottish Government undertook a series of further discussions with key stakeholders on the findings and how they affected their views on the tail docking of working dogs. I have subsequently asked the Chief Veterinary Officer for Scotland to further analyse how existing exemptions allowing the tail docking of working dogs have worked in practice in other parts of the UK, and how any potential exemption in Scotland could be genuinely restricted to working dogs.

Officials are currently in contact with DARD, DEFRA and the Welsh Government to better understand how tail docking legislation functions and is enforced in other administrations. I will consider the matter further once I have their report.

I am aiming to make an announcement in autumn 2014 on whether the Scottish Government will formally consult on any exemption for working dogs.

RICHARD LOCHHEAD

Taigh Naomh Anndrais, Rathad Regent, Dùn Èideann EH1 3DG
St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.scotland.gov.uk



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 23 September 2014 16:51:16
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Subject: FW: Tail docking exemption

MACCS - Ministerial reply.

[REDACTED]
Private Secretary to Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] guidance on Mr Lochhead's preferences, please visit the following webpage

-----Original Message-----

[REDACTED]
Sent: 23 September 2014 16:44
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Subject: FW: Tail docking exemption

-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, August 30, 2014 1:00 PM
To: Lochhead R (Richard), MSP
Subject: Tail docking exemption

Hello Richard, I have been lobbying for a few years now as I feel very strongly about it, I was just wanting to ask you again what is happening with the tail docking exemption debacle! I have personally spoken with Alec Salmond at his home who was in favour of an exemption but still seem to be getting nowhere! And with the independence vote coming up I'm pretty sure there are a lot of voters still undecided like myself in Scotland, I personally spoke with Alec at his home at [REDACTED] just ten minutes from where I live and he gave me clear answer that once the SNP had a majority in the Scottish government he would be putting it before Government again and that there defiantly should be an exemption for working dogs, now as far as I am concerned to keep going down the same road we are going just now is having a serious impact on the health and welfare of pedigree spaniels in Scotland, the Scottish dog owners who have some of the best pedigree spaniel lines in the UK and I am one of them are in this unbelievable position that I breed maybe one to three litters per year keeping one or two pups back to train on to see if they are going to be good enough to go to field trials which is run by the kennel club and the Championships in January is the equivalent of Crufts for show dogs. if any pups that we keep have any faults or health problems they are sold on either to shooting homes or pet homes but we would never breed with them! This is my point with the current legislation that is in place take for example the Kennel Clubs Cocker Spaniel Championship which is run in January every year had approximately 48 Cockers running this year which are the best of the best Cockers in the U.K. of which there were only 4 Scottish dogs and I qualified and ran 2 myself! And at The 2013 championship there were 39 dogs with 2 Scottish dogs one of which was mine Here's the point I have the best cocker spaniel lines in Scotland and arguably the UK but if I have a litter of pups at home in

Peterhead I would not get one sold to anyone for the purpose that they have been born due to not being docked and every other breeder responsible or not as is the case a lot of time do nothing to better the breed standard in dogs or their welfare all that they are interested in is shelling out pups for money with no regard for welfare, they say that you shouldn't dock tails for the reason that it might! Hurt it's tail when it's older! So you shouldn't do the procedure just in the hope that it might save the dog getting hurt later on! Well I can honestly say that if that is the route that the vets are taking I find it totally disgusting because if you ask anyone who gets a new puppy now when they take their pup to get inoculated the first thing the vets ask is if you have any intentions on breeding if no they suggest getting the bitch spayed or dogs neutered which is total hypocrisy as it is a far more invasive operation to perform on a twelve or fourteen old pup just in the off chance that it might get cancer or related health problems when it's older!!! Touch?! The problem has arisen due to the vets getting little to no money from the docking of working dogs tails as the owners did it themselves and it is safe to say that if the vets were to have been paid for the procedure it would never have got to the situation it is in now

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

passion , Jamie

Sent from my iPad

[REDACTED]

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail, Biadh agus an Àrainneachd
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment
Ridseard Lochhead BPA
Richard Lochhead MSP



[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

In 2014 Scotland Welcomes the World



Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0033891
19 November 2014

Dear [Redacted]

Thank you for your email date 24th October 2014 to Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs, Food and the Environment regarding tail injuries resulting in tail amputations in adult working spaniels.

You may be aware that earlier this year Glasgow University published the results of Scottish Government funded research on tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland. Scottish Government officials subsequently undertook a series of further discussions with key stakeholders on the findings and how they affected their views on the tail docking of working dogs. Mr Lochhead has also asked the Chief Veterinary Officer for Scotland to further analyse how existing exemptions allowing the tail docking of working dogs have worked in practice in other parts of the UK, and how any potential exemption in Scotland could be genuinely restricted to working dogs.

Given that this is on-going Mr Lochhead has suggested that you meet [Redacted] Head of the Scottish Government Animal Welfare Branch, to discuss the matter with you. I would be grateful if you could contact [Redacted] direct by email at [Redacted]

PP [Handwritten signature]

[Redacted]
PRIVATE SECRETARY



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 24 October 2014 13:07:16
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: F.A.O Mr R Lochhead re- spaniel welfare

Dear Mr Lochhead

My name is [REDACTED] & I run [REDACTED]. The tail injury leading to amputation in adult working spaniels is now becoming a severe welfare issue as you already have been made aware by the SGA and the CSA. I would like to meet with Richard or at least speak to him but have no idea how to go about it. You can follow some of the horrific stories about my rescue dogs and their tail damage and amputations as adult dogs on my rescue page on Facebook along with many many others who are going through the same thing. Please could you let me know how I can get together with him as I really appreciate that. Here is one of the links to a dog that has had to have her tail amputated this week that is causing tremendous stress. Thanks.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Kind Regards

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Press F11 key to move through the fields
ADVICE FOR: RICHARD LOCHHEAD

MACCS Case Number:	2014/0033891	Respond by: 21/11/2014	
Correspondent/Organisation:	[REDACTED]		
Date of Event:	Date is flexible		
Overview of invitation and audience profile:	[REDACTED] runs the [REDACTED]. She would like to meet or talk with Mr Lochhead regarding tail injuries leading to amputation in adult working spaniels and how it's becoming a severe welfare issue.		
Has the Minister been asked to attend of behalf of FM?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No X	Don't Know <input type="checkbox"/>
RECOMMENDATION:	Reject		
	<p>Comments: In 2011, the Scottish Government commissioned research from the University of Glasgow, to look at the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers. The project has now been completed and scientific papers have been published by the Veterinary Record. The Chief Veterinary Officer for Scotland is further analysing how existing exemptions allowing the tail docking of working dogs have worked in practice in other parts of the UK, and how any potential exemption in Scotland could be genuinely restricted to working dogs. Officials are currently in contact with DARD, DEFRA and the Welsh Government to better understand how tail docking legislation functions and is enforced in other administrations. We are well aware of the issues involved, however it is important that these further investigations are completed. It is not clear that a meeting with [REDACTED] could add anything to the process.</p>		
	If recommendation is to accept, has this advice been agreed with your Head of Division? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>		
Has another Minister been asked to attend:	No Name of Minister: Right click here to select Minister		
Main theme that the event supports:	Right click here and select main theme		

Press F11 key to move through the fields

Main purpose of attending: [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	
Main message to communicate:	Type text here	
Most appropriate type of Ministerial input:	Right click here and select type of input	
Private Office view:	Right click here and select view	
	Private Office contact:	
Communications Office view:	Comments:	
	Communications Office contact:	
Action Officer:	[REDACTED] / [REDACTED]	

Rùnaire a' Chaibineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h-Àrainneachd
 Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
 Ridseard Lochhead BPA
 Richard Lochhead MSP



The Scottish
 Government
 Riaghaltas na h-Alba



THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
 Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mr John Swinney MSP
 The Scottish Parliament
 EDINBURGH
 EH99 1SP

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0000216

27th January 2014

John John

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 December 2013, on behalf of your constituent [REDACTED] on the issue of tail docking for working dogs.

As you will be aware, the Scottish Government commissioned a research project from the University of Glasgow examining the incidence of tail injuries in working dogs in Scotland, specifically in relation to spaniels, hunt point retrievers and terriers. The project has now been completed and scientific papers have been submitted to the Veterinary Record for peer review and publication.

Although we do not have a definite date yet, we expect these papers to be published soon, and, after which, we will undertake to review the legislation on tail docking of working dogs in Scotland.

I hope this is helpful.

*Best with
 Richard*

RICHARD LOCHHEAD



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 17 December 2013 16:52:06
To: Ministerial Correspondence Unit
Subject: FW: Tail docking review

for maccs please

[REDACTED]
Deputy Private Secretary ? Richard Lochhead MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment

[REDACTED]
Sent: 17 December 2013 16:47
To: Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Subject: FW: Tail docking review

Dear Mr Lochhead

John Swinney MSP has been contacted by his constituent [REDACTED] regarding the review undertaken into docking of tails. [REDACTED] is concerned that the report has not been published as yet.

Mr Swinney would appreciate your assistance in replying to his constituent.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Assistant to John Swinney
Perthshire North Constituency Office
35 Perth Street
Blairgowrie
PH10 6DL

[REDACTED]
Sent: 12 December 2013 12:20
To: Swinney J (John), MSP
Subject: Tail docking review

Dear Mr Swinney

As you are probably aware, it is illegal to dock a dog's tail in Scotland and there is no exemption for working dogs. This can result in considerable damage to a working

dog's tail, with the only resolution often being amputation, a complicated and painful experience for the dog, and costly for the owner. This totally unnecessary suffering can be alleviated by a simple procedure before the dog is 3 days old to dock, or partially dock, the tail.

The ban was introduced on the grounds of perceived cruelty, yet farm animals continue to have much more severe action incurred e.g. Rings through noses etc.

A review was undertaken regarding the docking of dogs tails by Glasgow University Veterinary School some time ago now but the government is still to publish the results. I would be extremely grateful if you would investigate why the results have not yet been published and the reason for the considerable delay in publication.

Kind regards

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted line]*****

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

*

[Redacted line]

[Redacted line]

Rùnaire a' Chabineit airson Cùisean Dùthchail agus na h-Àrainneachd
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment
Rìcheard Lochhead BPA
Richard Lochhead MSP



LEGACY 2014
AN COMHARRALATHAIDH
SCOTLAND

PR and Communications Officer
The Scottish Gamekeepers Association

By email [redacted]

Ar faidhle/Our ref: 2014/0000732
20 February 2014

Thank you for your correspondence of 9 January 2014 to Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment, regarding the Scottish Gamekeepers Association petition asking people if the ban on the docking of working dogs' tails should be overturned in Scotland.

Mr Lochhead would be willing to meet with representatives of the Scottish Gamekeepers Association at Parliament and receive the petition.

I would be grateful if you could contact [redacted] Mr Lochhead's Diary Secretary, by email at [redacted] to make the necessary arrangements.

PRIVATE SECRETARY



From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 09 January 2014 16:48:22
To: [REDACTED]
Subject: Petition Handover Request- Richard Lochhead MSP

FAO: Richard Lochhead MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Environment.

Dear Richard,

The Scottish Gamekeepers Association is currently running a petition asking people if the ban on the docking of working dogs' tails should be overturned in Scotland. This is an issue close to the hearts of many people in the Scottish countryside, not solely gamekeepers, who have working dogs. As you may be aware First Minister Alex Salmond promised the Scottish Gamekeepers Association during an AGM speech five years ago that the SNP administration would overturn the ban if there was sufficient evidence to do so, within the first term of an SNP government.

We understand recent evidence from Glasgow University vets provides this evidence yet working dogs are continuing to suffer.

Our petition closes on January 31st, 2014, and it is our intention to deliver it to Holyrood.

We would appreciate it if you would be able to accept the petition from us at the Scottish Parliament so that the SNP administration may consider its findings with some urgency and, we hope, take this issue to the wider Parliament to be reconsidered, as promised.

We understand you will have many pressures on your time. If you were amenable to accepting our petition, we hope to deliver it between Monday 17th February and Friday 28th February 2014 and would be happy to work around your own diary in terms of this timescale. We look forward to hearing from you regarding this.

Yours Sincerely,

[REDACTED] PR and Communications Officer, The Scottish Gamekeepers Association.

[REDACTED]