

## **Additional information for the e-petition**

From our limited enquiries it has become apparent that there are large variances in the required criteria for licensing kennels and commercial breeders within the local authorities in Wales.

As all authorities should be taking cognisance of the relevant animal welfare legislation and other statutory requirements for the care and health of dogs there should be some uniformity in the granting of licences. This is not happening. We believe that the only way to determine why there are these variances is to have an independent enquiry into the processes and requirements of each authority.

At the present time the effect of the licensing of commercial breeders who in the opinion of several 1000s of people do not meet basic welfare and health needs only shows Wales in a negative light.

Wales has the reputation for being the centre of bad practices within both the councils, licensed and unlicensed dog breeders. In 2012 the battery farming of chickens is to be outlawed. How can it be correct to allow the continuance of what is in effect the battery farming of dogs?

A basic question has to be asked of local authorities as to why are licences granted when, by some of the local authorities own admission, there is insufficient staff to properly monitor the situation.

Unfortunately some authorities become entrenched and take on an almost siege mentality when questions are asked about the planning and licensing processes. It is our considered opinion that only by having an independent enquiry will mal-practice be recognised and hopefully a world class system can be initiated.

An independent enquiry will only enhance the reputation of Wales and show the UK and the rest of the world that the Welsh Government takes its legal and ethical responsibilities seriously and will not condone the ill-treatment of animals due to the inadequacies of a failing planning and licensing system.