**125 years of saving dogs’ lives**

1891
Dogs Trust was founded as the National Canine Defence League

1908
Dogs Trust introduced the Cruelty to Animals (Amendment) Bill

1912
Our first rehoming centre opened its doors; we now have 20 across the UK and one in Ireland.

1928
The Dogs (Amendment) Act made it an offence to find a stray and not endeavour to trace the owner or deliver it to the police.

1937
Dogs Trust guidelines resulted in the Cinematograph Films (Animals) Act, preventing cruelty to dogs in the making of films.

1967
Dogs Trust’s non-destruction policy was introduced, since then we have never put a healthy dog to sleep.

1997
Dogs Trust successfully campaigned for the removal of mandatory destruction of dogs found guilty under the Dangerous Dogs Act.

2001
Dogs Trust created the Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG)

2006
Dogs Trust played an instrumental role in the introduction of the Animal Welfare Act, which ensures all animals’ welfare needs are legally required to be met by their owner.

2016
Compulsory microchipping was introduced from April 2016, something Dogs Trust had for a long time lobbied governments to do.
As part of the ongoing review of PETS we call on the Government to develop and implement an immediate action plan to address the abuse of PETS and the number of undeclared dogs entering Great Britain every day.
In 2016, Defra consulted on animal establishment licensing.

The consultation proposed introducing a single animal establishment licence for dog breeding, selling and boarding. Whilst Dogs Trust welcomes the move to update the currently outdated legislation, we are concerned that the proposal may not go far enough to protect dog welfare.

We believe that the Pet Animals Act 1951, the Animal Boarding Establishments Act 1963, the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973, the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 and the Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, which all pre-date the Animal Welfare Act 2006, are in urgent need of revision. There have been significant advances in the understanding of dog behaviour and welfare in recent decades and so we strongly believe that the current legal requirements on dog breeding, selling and boarding need to be comprehensively updated and strengthened. This should be done with input from independent experts including vets and recognised animal behaviour and welfare experts.

We urge the Government to comprehensively update and strengthen the minimum legal requirements for dog breeding and sale.
The Pet Advertising Advisory Group (PAAG) was created in 2001 to combat growing concerns regarding the irresponsible advertising of pets for sale, rehoming, and exchange. The Group comprises animal welfare organisations, trade associations and veterinary bodies. Defra, DAERA in Northern Ireland, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government have endorsed PAAG.

Dogs Trust believes that to tackle the irresponsible breeding and selling of dogs, anyone breeding, selling or transferring the ownership of a litter or a single dog, regardless of any financial transaction or gain, should be required to be registered.

In addition to this, anyone breeding, selling or transferring the ownership of more than one litter or dog, regardless of any financial transaction or gain, should be required to have a licence.

There should be a link-up between individuals and their address so that it is possible to identify situations where multiple individuals are evading licensing by individually registering to breed or sell animals on the same premises.

All forms of advertising, including online, should be required to display the seller’s registration or licence number and a centralised, publicly accessible list of registered and licensed breeders and sellers should be kept or facilitated by the government to enable websites and buyers to check the legitimacy of breeders or sellers.

We want the Government to introduce the PAAG minimum standards as a legal requirement for all adverts, in conjunction with displaying a registration or licensing number for each pet advertised, to better protect the welfare of dogs.
As part of the ongoing review of PETS we call on the Government to...

Dogs Trust has long highlighted the failures of the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS). Our investigative work in this field reveals that each year thousands of puppies are illegally imported into Great Britain under PETS. These puppies are often unsuitable conditions, destined to be sold via online adverts to unsuspecting members of the public. This not only presents a serious animal welfare concern authorities. In December 2015 we launched our pilot quarantine initiative, imported puppies. Until Dogs Trust stepped in, seized puppies were at risk of being put to sleep or turned away at the borders only to enter the country at another time instead. Puppies seized under the initiative are then rehomed. Between December 2015 and May 2016, 194 puppies were rehomed by Dogs Trust after going through quarantine. The majority of puppies seized (96%) were deemed to be underage. Sadly, around 8% of the puppies died before we were able to rehome them. We believe these puppies would have been sold via online advertisements across the country if they hadn’t been seized.

Abuse of PETS and the number of undeclared dogs entering Great Britain every day. Recognised animal behaviour and welfare experts. Should be done with input from independent experts including vets and selling and boarding need to be comprehensively updated and strengthened. This advances in the understanding of dog behaviour and welfare in recent decades.

Welfare Act 2006, are in urgent need of revision. There have been significant updates in the currently outdated legislation, we are concerned that the proposal of any legislative protection for greyhounds during breeding, kennelling and retirement.

In 2015 Defra research into the effectiveness of the regulations identified concerns with the current legislation. However, their Post Implementation Review of the 2010 Greyhounds Regulations still fails to address key greyhound welfare concerns, as well as recommendations made in the EFRA Committee’s June 2016 report.

Dogs Trust, along with the EFRA committee, is calling for the regulations to be extended to cover trainers’ kennels, where greyhounds spend approximately 95% of their time, and amended to require the publication of welfare data relating to injury, euthanasia and rehoming, as approximately 3,500 greyhounds are unaccounted for every year in the UK.

In light of the significant turnover the sport generates, we also believe the onus should be placed on bookmakers who profit from greyhound racing to contribute financially to improving welfare standards. We strongly support EFRA’s call for a commitment from the Government on what further action it will take if sufficient welfare contributions aren’t voluntarily made by the industry.

We call on the Government to implement the EFRA Committee’s recommendations to make much needed changes to the 2010 regulations to ensure they better protect all racing greyhounds throughout their racing careers.
As part of the ongoing review of PETS we call on the Government to develop and implement an immediate action plan to address the needs of imported puppies. Our investigative work in this field reveals that each year thousands of puppies are underaged, with fraudulent veterinary records and transported for days in unsuitable conditions, destined to be sold via online adverts to unsuspecting members of the public. This not only presents a serious animal welfare concern but also a risk to public health and puts additional pressure on local authorities to deal with the consequences. Puppies seized under the initiative are then rehomed, and we were able to rehome them. We believe these puppies would have been sold via online advertisements across the country if they hadn’t been seized.

Great Britain every day.

Breeding and Sale of Dogs (Welfare) Act 1999, which all pre-date the Animal Welfare Act 1999, the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973, the Breeding of Dogs Act 1991 and the Control of Dogs at反 Greyhounds Act 1933. However, the legislation only focused on welfare measures at the track, failing to provide any legislative protection for greyhounds during breeding, rearing, and exchange. The Group comprises animal welfare organisations, the Greyhound Trust, Dogs Trust, the Kennel Club, the British Pest Control Association, the British Veterinary Association, the Council of Europe, the RSPCA, and so we strongly believe that the current legal requirements on dog breeding, selling and boarding. Whilst Dogs Trust welcomes the move to update the currently outdated legislation, we are concerned that the proposal may not go far enough to protect dog welfare.

In 2016, Defra consulted on animal establishment licensing. The consultation proposed introducing a single animal establishment licence for dog breeding and sale, and so we strongly believe that the current legal requirements on dog breeding, selling and boarding. In addition to this, anyone breeding, selling or transferring the ownership of more than a single dog, regardless of any financial transaction or gain, should be required to be registered. Dogs Trust believes that to tackle the irresponsible breeding and selling of dogs, we call on the Government to introduce the PAAG minimum standards as a legal requirement for all adverts, in conjunction with other measures such as placing the emphasis on the advertisements themselves. In 2015, Defra research into the effectiveness of the regulations identified huge pressure from charities, MPs, media and the public to ensure that the proposals are robust.

Greyhounds

Greyhounds, as well as other aversive training devices such as sonic and spray collars, is detrimental to the welfare of dogs.

Research commissioned by Defra concluded that the routine use of electronic training collars even in accordance with ‘best practice’ presents a risk to the well-being of pet dogs. The application of electric shocks has been associated with a physiological stress response in dogs as well as behavioural signs of distress, pain and fear.

Under no circumstances do we condone the use of equipment or techniques that use pain or fear to train a dog. Dogs Trust cares for approximately 17,000 dogs a year using reward-based training methods only.

In 2010, Wales led the way by banning the use of electronic collars. This decision was based on consultations and evidence available at the time. In 2015, the Welsh Government commissioned a review of these Regulations and concluded that the animal welfare cost is likely to exceed the benefits from use of electronic collars as training devices, since they may cause pain, effective alternatives exist, and the scope for misuse or abuse is too great. The Scottish Government has also committed to regulating the use of static pulse, sonic and spray collars in Scotland.

We call on the Government to introduce a ban on the sale and use of aversive training devices.

Aversive training devices

Dogs Trust believes that the use of electronic shock collars, as well as other aversive training devices such as sonic and spray collars, is detrimental to the welfare of dogs.

Research commissioned by Defra concluded that the routine use of electronic training collars even in accordance with ‘best practice’ presents a risk to the well-being of pet dogs. The application of electric shocks has been associated with a physiological stress response in dogs as well as behavioural signs of distress, pain and fear.

Under no circumstances do we condone the use of equipment or techniques that use pain or fear to train a dog. Dogs Trust cares for approximately 17,000 dogs a year using reward-based training methods only.

In 2010, Wales led the way by banning the use of electronic collars. This decision was based on consultations and evidence available at the time. In 2015, the Welsh Government commissioned a review of these Regulations and concluded that the animal welfare cost is likely to exceed the benefits from use of electronic collars as training devices, since they may cause pain, effective alternatives exist, and the scope for misuse or abuse is too great. The Scottish Government has also committed to regulating the use of static pulse, sonic and spray collars in Scotland.

We call on the Government to introduce a ban on the sale and use of aversive training devices.