

The following table aims to set out an overview and assessment of the key dog-related issues. The aim being it will help inform the Associate Parliamentary Group for Animal Welfare to develop an England-wide strategy for dogs.

Issues:

1. Dog control - this includes breed specific legislation, dangerous dogs, dog attacks, stray dogs.
2. Dog breeding, dealing and trade – this includes health and welfare of puppies and dogs, backstreet breeders/dealers/puppy farms/etc, imports as well as sales (including on the internet)
3. Responsible dog guardianship – this includes behaviour and training (including methods), care, vet treatment, owners, handlers, etc.
4. Dog identification – this includes compulsory microchipping, registration, etc.

Issue/area	Legislative/policy issues	Educational issues	Enforcement issues	Resource issues	Opportunities	Barriers
Dog control	<p>Breed specific legislation failure to resolve the problem of dog attacks on people and animals.</p> <p>Given the widespread political acceptance of the failure of BSL to achieve its initial safety objectives and the iniquities it presents, more action is required to improve effectiveness of regulation</p> <p>Lack of legislative</p>	<p>Lack of understanding of dog behaviour and in particular dog aggression by decision makers.</p> <p>Poor understanding of causes of dog aggression and how to manage/resolve it.</p> <p>Failure to ensure breeding is conducted with health, welfare and temperament as priority</p>	<p>Failure to ensure the welfare needs of the animal (s9 Animal Welfare Act)-</p> <p>Inability of police and local authority officers to take preventative action</p> <p>Difficulties and inconsistencies with identifying prohibited 'types'.</p> <p>Confusion by enforcement bodies over who is responsible where</p>	<p>Not enough dog wardens or police officers.</p> <p>Lack of funding to train officers as required</p> <p>Cost to sector and local councils to educate owners and provide information.</p> <p>Cost to enforcement bodies of enforcing the legislation (especially re kennelling).</p> <p>Lack of will to tackle</p>	<p>Recognition within Parliament that DDA is not working effectively.</p> <p>The potential to link identification, breeding and control together.</p> <p>Chance to create a fairer, more considered legislative dog control framework</p>	<p>Lack of training and resources available for police and local authorities.</p> <p>Need to ensure clear and consistent messaging from all partners.</p> <p>Continual cuts to resources in public sector.</p> <p>The need to link issues relating to Defra and animal welfare with issues relating to Local Government &</p>

	<p>overview bringing together control and welfare.</p> <p>Complex and confusing legislation needing clear consolidation Includes: Dogs Act 1871, Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953, Guard Dogs Act 1975, Dangerous Dogs Act 1989, Environmental Protection Act 1990, Dangerous Dogs Act 1991, Control of Dogs Order 1992, Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Act 1997, Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005, Animal Welfare Act 2006, Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014</p>	<p>Failure to socialise puppies and young dogs properly. *reference puppy socialisation plan here or in opportunities?</p> <p>Failure to understand the legal requirements concerning dogs (by both public and authorities).</p> <p>Failure to understand how to look after and control a dog properly and humanely in accordance with the AWA 2006 and other legislation, including understanding of how a puppy grows and changes for those taking on young dogs.</p>	<p>and when.</p>	<p>the issue comprehensively by some politicians and decision makers.</p> <p>Limited resources for charities and need to find a way to avoid duplication of work.</p>		<p>Communities as well as Home Office.</p>
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<p>Dog breeding, dealing and trade (including internet and international)</p>	<p>Overbreeding of dogs and-legislation not fit for purpose for addressing breeding practice</p> <p>Overpopulation - numbers of dogs being rehomed by charities.</p> <p>Numbers of stray dogs being euthanased in various places due to lack of good homes.</p> <p>Increase in adverts selling puppies, especially on the internet.</p> <p>Licence only required for 5+ litters per annum (or if operating a business which difficult to prove) meaning huge numbers not requiring any sort of inspection or standard to breed.</p>	<p>Educating and working with stakeholders to avoid breeding practices which lead to exaggerated conformation and hereditary disease and disorders in all dogs.</p> <p>Encouraging public to think more before they buy and to only purchase puppies from reputable sources which prioritise health and welfare. Ensure messaging is consistent and clear with positive signposting rather than just scaremongering, teaching would-be owners the importance of seeing puppies with their mother and the right questions to ask of sellers etc.</p>	<p>Enforcement of licensing varies between LAs.</p> <p>Councils only inspect those breeding 5+ litters owing to resource issues.</p> <p>No breeding standards to set guidelines and encourage breeders to improve practices.</p> <p>Ports, ferry companies and general enforcement of travel scheme conditions</p> <p>Trading Standards activity varies per area</p>	<p>Licensing inspection often falls to local authorities who do not always have the knowledge or resources to carry out inspections.</p> <p>Limited funding and resources to enforce the travel scheme conditions</p> <p>Different local authorities dedicate differing amounts of funding for their Trading Standards teams.</p>	<p>The Animal Health Trust and Kennel Club Canine Genetics Centre can provide useful statistics.</p> <p>European Commission study into trade in puppies and kittens is currently taking place.</p> <p>Welsh Government is expected to legislate on this later in the year.</p> <p>Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack.</p> <p>There is increased interest in this issue from some politicians.</p> <p>CIEH update on model licensing conditions</p> <p>Canine and Feline</p>	<p>Difficult to get figures. Unlicensed trade makes it impossible to get accurate figures.</p> <p>Difficulty to get recognition of scale of problem by some breeders and take responsibility for improving situation.</p> <p>Continual cuts to resources in public sector.</p> <p>Need to ensure clear and consistent messaging from all partners.</p> <p>Government's lack of acknowledgement of the increased risks since the PETS changes alongside decreased quarantine capacity.</p> <p>Bound by European</p>
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	<p>Poor enforcement of PETS legislation and the associated loophole that has facilitated the illegal trade in puppies into the UK.</p> <p>Due to imports of puppies from other countries any legislation in England must go hand in hand with legislation in Europe otherwise people could still be buying poorly socialised/ bred puppies.</p>	<p>Puppy Contract and Puppy Information Pack.</p> <p>Education for enforcers so they can better use current/future legislation in this area.</p>			<p>Sector Group Rabies and PETS working group.</p> <p>Pet Advertising Advisory Group minimum standards for online advertising websites (here or in opportunities tab).</p>	<p>regulation – could not secure a continued derogation so forced to fall in line with the rest of Europe.</p>
Responsible dog guardianship	<p>Meeting the 5 welfare needs under the AWA (s9).</p> <p>Use of aversive training devices, Shock collars, prong collars, are contrary to the CoP.</p> <p>Prohibiting their use would address this.</p> <p>Safety around dogs –</p>	<p>Poor understanding of the Dog Code of Practice and what it means both for public and enforcement bodies – all those who interact with dogs.</p> <p>Need to ensure a consistent message is given by charities and enforcement</p>	<p>Lack of understanding and use of AWA by enforcement bodies and thus burden of enforcement falls largely on RSPCA.</p>	<p>Lack of training and resources for enforcement bodies.</p> <p>Limited resources for RSPCA and others.</p>	<p>Shock collars are banned in Wales and there is currently significant activity around other aversive methods within dog owning population.</p> <p>Media appear increasingly interested in dog</p>	<p>Agreement needed from varying stakeholders to signpost the trainers and behaviourists who meet recognised standards</p> <p>Lobby against the collars within Parliament</p>

	<p>School programmes, Kennel Club Safe and Sound Scheme etc.</p>	<p>bodies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Via the Education Alliance? - National Curriculum? Staying safe around dogs and/or animal welfare?? <p>Wider awareness of dog behaviour and body language across the public.</p>			<p>issues so opportunities for awareness raising are available.</p> <p>Some research available which prioritises welfare issues in dogs so may help with areas to focus on.</p> <p>Major stakeholders promote the Animal Welfare Act so working together, could ensure consistency in approach.</p> <p>Animal Behaviour and Training Council made significant head way in regulating behaviourists and trainers, just need to get a recognised standard from Defra.</p>	<p>Lack of recognition by some decision makers on the need to ensure an up to date and consistent approach to dog welfare and advice.</p>
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Dog identification	<p>Compulsory micro-chipping has been agreed for England and Wales. Need to ensure it is updated and amended when owner or address changes to work.</p> <p>Consideration of a registration scheme.</p> <p>Need harmonised databases within Europe to provide proper traceability. Encouragement of membership with the European Pet Network</p>	<p>Need to ensure clear and consistent messaging for the public on this issue from all partners.</p> <p>Need to ensure enforcement bodies understand rules.</p>	<p>With continual cut backs in the public sector will local authorities be able to enforce compulsory microchipping regulations?</p> <p>A registration scheme (licensing) did not succeed previously. Issues with the lack of guaranteed ring-fencing of funds</p>	<p>Lack of dog wardens to check micro-chips and no suggestion that wardnes will be expected to actively scan.</p> <p>Funding and resource questions in relation to mandatory registration.</p>	<p>Issues such as dog theft are on the rise, a stronger linking and identification system could be welcomed by responsible dog owners and stakeholders.</p> <p>Could help bring together more information on dog ownership in the UK to create a clearer picture</p> <p>May reduce number of stray dogs and help dogs be</p>	<p>Some fragmentation of views on idea of introducing fees for dog ownership</p> <p>Lack of single reunification number/resource. No easy/universal access to central database.</p> <p>Risk of owners bristling against compulsory microchipping if message is not properly disseminated that it is about registration</p>

	Increase in strays.				reunited with their owners. Other stakeholders could be involved in enforcement. Opportunities to input into the accompanying guidance of the regulations.	not tracking.
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