

## Response ID ANON-3T2J-P1FH-J

Submitted to **Proposal to permit tail docking of working spaniels and hunt point retrievers**  
Submitted on **2016-05-02 21:49:35**

### Introduction

#### 1 Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Organisation

#### 2 What is your name or your organisation's name?

**Name/orgname:**

Animal Concern Advice Line

#### 3 What is your email address?

**Email:**

acal@jfrobins.force9.co.uk

#### 4 The Scottish Government generally seeks to publish responses to a consultation, in summary and where possible in detail. We would like your permission to publish:

Your response along with your full name

#### 5 We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

Yes

### Sector and Origin

It would be helpful for our analysis if you could indicate which of the sectors you most align yourself/your organisation with for the purpose of this consultation (please tick one which is most applicable to you)

Animal Welfare Organisation

**If other, please specify:**

To allow us to monitor the geographical area of responses, using the list below, please advise where you currently reside.

Scotland

### The proposed exemption

#### 1 Should the Scottish Ministers allow vets in Scotland to dock Spaniel and Hunt Point Retriever puppies if they believe on the evidence presented to them that they are likely to be used for working in future and that the pain of docking is outweighed by the possible avoidance of more serious injuries later in life?

No

**Please explain why:**

Dogs have tails for a reason. They need them for communication between dogs and to keep flies off their anus. If an owner of a dog thinks his or her dog is going to be injured because of a situation or environment into which he or she is knowingly going to put the dog then that dog owner commits an offence under the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. Under this Act owners of animals have a legal duty not to knowingly expose their animals to risk of injury. If an owner thinks s/he is going to expose their dog to a risk of injury so great that radical surgery is required to prevent it not only are they obviously breaking the Animal Health & Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 they are perhaps proving they are not a fit and proper person to own a dog.

Sniffer dogs used to find people after earthquakes or explosions in buildings wear shoes to protect their paws from glass and shrapnel. Could Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers not be fitted with Kevlar tail gloves to protect them while working?

#### 2 If the Scottish Ministers decide, after consultation, to permit limited tail docking for Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers, do you agree that such tail docking should be limited to the end third of the tail?

Don't know

**Please explain why:**

Top end or bottom end? Might sound stupid but I didn't start it.

**3 If the Scottish Ministers decide, after consultation, to permit limited tail docking for Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers, do you think the following would help effectively restrict the exemption to future working dogs?**

**3 - Permit all veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future:**

No

**3 - Permit only specially approved veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future:**

No

**3 - Require veterinary surgeons that have docked dogs likely to work in future to carry out the microchipping and registration of that dog:**

No

**Please explain why:**

There are really only two options on this. Create a tail protection glove for the dog or don't put the animal at risk.

**4 Do you have any additional suggestions that you think might help to effectively restrict tail docking to future working dogs?**

Yes

**Please explain:**

Keep the ban in place.

## **Business Impact**

**5 Do you have a commercial interest in the breeding, sale or use of working dogs?**

**5 - Breeding:**

No

**5 - Sale:**

No

**5 - Use:**

No

**6 Do you consider that the current total ban on tail docking has had a negative financial impact on the commercial breeding, sale or use of working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers in Scotland?**

**6 - Breeding:**

Don't know

**6 - Sale:**

Don't know

**6 - Use:**

Don't know

**Please explain:**

**7 Has the current ban had a negative financial impact on you personally, and was this linked to the sale of working dogs, working days lost through injury, or other reasons?**

**7 - Ban has had a negative financial impact on me:**

No

**7 - Impact includes loss of dog sales:**

No

**7 - Impact includes loss of dog working days:**

No

**7 - Other impacts:**

No

**Please explain:**

**8 What effect do you think that an exemption to the current ban for working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers is likely to bring to your business, particularly on the expected sale of working dogs, working days lost through injury, the costs of tail docking or other reasons? If**

**exemption was made:**

**8 - Overall financial benefits would:**

N/A

**8 - Working dog sales would:**

N/A

**8 - Loss of dog working days from injury would:**

N/A

**8 - Cost of tail docking would:**

N/A

**8 - Other impacts would:**

Increase

**Please explain:**

We would be inundated with requests to campaign to have the full ban reinstated.

**9 Are you content for the Scottish Government to contact you for further clarification of the financial effects that you have estimated?**

Yes

## About the consultation

**10 Do you have any other comments on whether Scottish Ministers should introduce a tightly defined exemption to the ban on tail docking for working Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers?**

**Comments:**

Stick with the original decision and prosecute owners who illegally have their dogs docked or knowingly put their dogs at risk of injury.

**11 Do you consider that that consultation explained the key issues sufficiently to properly consider your responses?**

Yes

**12 Do you consider that you had sufficient time to respond to the consultation?**

Yes

**13 Do you have any other comments on the way this consultation has been conducted?**

**Comments:**

It seems very much aimed at those who put their dogs at risk of injury and not at those who want to protect dogs from being exposed to such risks in the first place.

## Evaluation

**7 Please help us improve our consultations by answering the questions below. (Responses to the evaluation will not be published.)**

**Matrix 1 - How satisfied were you with this consultation?:**

Very satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

**Matrix 1 - How would you rate your satisfaction with using this platform (Citizen Space) to respond to this consultation?:**

Slightly satisfied

**Please enter comments here.:**

Why not change the name from "Citizen Space" to Scottish Government On-Line Consultations"?