**Proposal to permit tail docking of working** 

**Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers**

CONSULTATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please ensure that you have read and understood the consultation document before completing this questionnaire. If you have any queries, please contact us: contact details are provided in the consultation document. When returning this questionnaire, please ensure that you have enclosed your completed Respondent Information Form to ensure that we handle publishing your response in the correct manner. Thank you for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

Respondents should take into consideration the information provided in the consultation document alongside any other knowledge or personal experiences that could be relevant. All opinions are welcome.

We ask that you try to answer all the questions in the “General Questions” section of the questionnaire. However, if you are unable to answer any question then please feel free to move on to the next.

We also ask that those involved in the breeding, sale and working use of Spaniels and Hunt Point Retrievers answer the questions in the “Business Impact” section (questions 5-9) to inform the completion of any necessary business regulatory impact assessment.

In order for us to deal with your response appropriately please ensure you complete a Respondent Information Form. This will ensure that if you ask for your response not to be published that we regard it as confidential and will treat it accordingly.

**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*):

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Keeper of Working Dogs | [ ]  | Breeder of Working Dogs | [ ]  |
| Dog Breeder (General) | [ ]  | Animal Welfare Organisation | [ ]  |
| Dog Breed Association | [ ]  | Veterinary Surgeon | [ ]  |
| Recreational Shooter | [ ]  | Shoot Organiser | [ ]  |
| Game Keeper | [ ]  | Pest Controller | [ ]  |
| Member of the General Public | [ ]  |  |  |

Other (please specify)

|  |
| --- |
|  |

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

Scotland [ ]

England [ ]

Wales [ ]

Northern Ireland [ ]

Republic of Ireland [ ]

Other [ ]

**The proposed exemption**

**Question 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?**

 Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Don’t Know [ ]

Please explain why

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|  |

**Question 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?**

 Yes [ ]  No [ ]  Don’t Know [ ]

Please explain why

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**Question 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?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t Know** |
| Permit all veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Permit only specially approved veterinary surgeons to dock on evidence to their satisfaction that dogs are likely to work in future | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Require veterinary surgeons that have docked dogs likely to work in future to carry out the microchipping and registration of that dog | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

Please explain why

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

 Yes [ ]  No [ ]

Please explain

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**Business Impact**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** |
| Breeding | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Sale | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Use | [ ]  | [ ]  |

**Question 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?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know**  |
| Breeding | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Sale | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Use | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

Please explain

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**Question 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?**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Yes** | **No** | **Don’t know** |
| Ban has had a negative financial impact on me  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Impact includes loss of dog sales | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Impact includes loss of dog working days | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Other impacts | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

Please explain

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**Question 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 an exemption was made:** | **Increase** | **Decrease** | **Not change** |  **N/A** |
| Overall financial benefits would | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Working dog sales would  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Loss of dog working days from injury would | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Cost of tail docking would | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |
| Other impacts would | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  | [ ]  |

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| --- |
| Please explain |

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

 Yes [ ]  No [ ]

**About the consultation**

While we have done our best to explain the issues facing us clearly, there may be aspects that you feel we have not explained well or have not covered at all.

The following questions in this consultation paper are to provide you with the opportunity to raise such points, and to provide us with feedback on the consultation itself.

**Question 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:  |

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

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

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

Yes [ ]

No [ ]

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

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| --- |
| Comments:  |