

c0xcr}U zvtSç xrsv1

R ; z- r }Y vr }sy lr ; u.h v }m r v U z' z f ç ; 1

1

1

eKABDB>CEEIGEGC1WKABDB>CEEIGGBG1

VKlz ; }fSç rtyr ; Q ftç Sç r ; u x f z ç ' P | 1

1

1

Mr Fergus D Cochrane
Clerk to the Committee
Public Petitions Committee
TG.01
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP



4th May 2009

Dear Mr Cochrane

CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS PE 1196 and 1230

Your letter of 28 January to Betty Morgan asked for a further response from the Scottish Government on the issues raised in petitions PE 1196 by Michael Brander and PE 1240 by Dr Colin Shedden calling for the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to allow the prophylactic tail docking of working dogs.

The Committee considered these petitions at their meeting on 27 January and agreed to suspend their consideration until the study by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College into the risks of tail injuries had concluded and reported.

The researchers have now completed the analysis of the returned questionnaires, however, their report needs to be peer reviewed. That will take some time and they have indicated that it will be the autumn before the report can be finalised and published.

Only after the report finalised and peer reviewed can we be certain that the methodology used and the findings and conclusion reached are robust will the Scottish Government be in a position to review the policy on tail docking using this research and report to the Committee.

In the meantime, the total prohibition on the tail docking of dogs in Scotland will remain in force.

Yours sincerely

IAN W STRACHAN
Head of Animal Welfare Branch

av ; Sç r ; u Y ç ç f v =EHlc ç ss }f] ç r ; =Vuz ; s ç x y IIVY BEI Be j 1

" " " }ftç Sç r ; u x ç ' P | 1

