

Rural and Environment Directorate
Animal Health and Welfare Division



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Franck David
Assistant Clerk
The Public Petitions Committee
Tower 4
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The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
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26th July 2010

Dear Mr David

CONSIDERATION OF PETITIONS PE1196 and PE1230

Thank you for your letter of 1st July in which you asked the Scottish Government:

“What actions will [it] take in the light of the study by the University of Bristol and the Royal Veterinary College on the risks of tail injuries in dogs which will address the issues raised in the petition?”

Mr Lochhead, the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment decided that interested organisations should have an opportunity to comment on this report. Therefore, the report has been sent to field sport organisations such as the Scottish Gamekeepers' Association, the British Association of Shooting and Conservation, the Scottish Countryside Alliance and the Scottish Rural Property and Business Association. Mr Brander, who lodged petition PE1196, has also been sent a copy.

The report has been sent to veterinary organisations including the British Veterinary Association, the British Small Animal Veterinary Association and the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Animal welfare organisations, including the Scottish SPCA, the Dogs Trust and Advocates for Animals, were also sent copies.

As you will be aware the report and the invitation to comment was also sent to members of the Public Petitions Committee.

I have requested that comments be sent to me by Friday 3rd September.

Once received, the comments and the points raised by the respondents will be analysed, and this information will be used by the Cabinet Secretary when he considers whether the RVS/Bristol University Report and the comments made by respondents could justify any change to the present ban on the tail docking of working dogs.

I shall write to you once the Cabinet Secretary has made his final decision.

Yours sincerely

Ian W Strachan
Animal Welfare Branch