

24th September 2012

F.A.O. Stella McArdle
Room 243
Parliament Buildings
Ballymiscaw
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Ms McArdle,

Re: Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments) Regulations


I understand that the above regulations are being considered at a meeting of the Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development soon after the 1st October 2012.

I would request that you intimate to the Committee my opposition as Master of the Tynan & Armagh Harriers to the inclusion of Hunts in these regulations for the following reasons:-

1. The Regulations are intended to control and regulate the activities of commercial puppy breeders. Hunts do not breed puppies on a commercial basis and do not offer for sale hounds or puppies. Puppies bred are retained by the pack for the use of the Hunt.
2. All packs of hounds are members of a recognised Masters' Association and are already regulated by these Associations. It is acknowledged that inspection and monitoring by these Associations is sufficient to maintain proper welfare and management standards
3. There has never been an issue with the breeding, welfare and management of hunting hounds which are kept for hunting to maximum potential.
4. All hounds are now microchipped as required by the local councils and details of same retained by the Councils.
5. Inclusion of Hunts in these regulations will only involve the Council in additional unnecessary work.

I would urge the Agricultural Committee to support the exemption of Hunt Packs which are members of a recognised Masters' Association from these Regulations.

Yours sincerely,


Master of Hounds