

“Backstreet Breeding”

Many constituents have written to me as part of the “backstreet breeding” campaign.

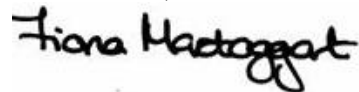
It is important that all breeders follow the high animal welfare standards enshrined in the Animal Welfare Act (2006) which was introduced by Labour in Government.

The Act embedded in statute clear standards relating to the welfare of domestic animals. It makes owners and keepers responsible for ensuring that the welfare needs of their animals are met, including providing them with a suitable environment and diet; and ensuring they exhibit normal behaviour patterns and are protected from pain, suffering, injury and disease.

However, this needs to be built upon. The last Government believed that there are already adequate laws in place requiring those breeding puppies for sale to have a licence from the local authority. The laws relating to the breeding, dealing and trade in dogs are outdated and need to be reviewed.

There should be a comprehensive review of standards in the breeding and sale of puppies and more needs to be done to promote responsible dog ownership. Working with animal welfare organisations is important, to review the breeding and sale of puppies and ensure animal welfare standards can be applied to modern trading practices such as the online trade of puppies and kittens.

Yours ever,



Fiona Mactaggart MP