

PRESS RELEASE | For immediate release Thursday, 27th October 2011

IRISH VETS CALL FOR RAPID INTRODUCTION OF PUPPY FARM REGULATIONS

Back in June 2010, the Dail passed legislation to regulate puppy farms, in the form of the Dog Breeding Establishments Bill. Since then, there have been three Ministers for the Environment, one Green, one Fianna Fail, and the current Fine Gael incumbent, Minister Phil Hogan. Yet the Commencement Order for the regulations under the Dog Breeding Establishments Act remains unsigned, and puppy farmers are allowed to continue as before, as highlighted in Tuesday night's TV3 documentary, "Animal A&E Investigates Ireland's Puppy Farms."

Veterinary Ireland understands some of the reasons for the delay: it was agreed that greyhounds would be excluded from the new Dog Breeding Establishments Bill, on the condition that the welfare and breeding of greyhounds would be adequately protected via another new piece of legislation - the Welfare of Greyhounds Bill 2011. The plan has been that the two new pieces of legislation will come into effect at exactly the same time.

The new Welfare of Greyhounds Bill was meant to be completed by early 2011, and it was hoped that the Commencement Order for the Dog Breeding Establishments Bill would be signed off at that stage. But it's only now, as we reach the end of 2011, that the Greyhound Bill is finally moving through the Dail and the Seanad with the second stage of the Bill being debated in the Seanad on Tuesday 25th October, coincidentally the same day as the TV3 documentary on puppy farming was aired.

Veterinary Ireland is calling on the Minister for the Environment to ensure that this process happens as rapidly as possible, and to sign the Commencement Orders on both pieces of legislation at the earliest possible opportunity. Only at that stage will dogs – greyhounds as well pet dogs – be given the protection that they deserve.

In view of the importance of this issue to Irish pet owners and the many members of the public who were shocked by the contents of Tuesday night's television documentary, perhaps it would be a fitting gesture if the new legislation was to be the first to be signed by Ireland's new President.

Press Release Ends

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Veterinary Ireland represents veterinary practitioners in private practice and in Central and Local Government. We are happy to provide appropriately qualified and informed persons to contribute further to this debate in a constructive and reasoned manner



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