

Illegal Puppy Trade

Proposed by Councillor Flynn,

Seconded by Councillor McKeown,

“This Council notes the USPCA ‘Puppy Dog Fortunes’ Report recognising, with concern, the scale and seriousness of the illegal puppy trade and the abhorrent neglect, cruelty and suffering caused to animals. It reaffirms its support for Lucy’s Law and supports the ‘Justice for Reggie’ Campaign.

Accordingly, the Council resolves to write to the Minister of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and to the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine in the Republic of Ireland to express its concerns and to urge the Ministers to:

- i. introduce Lucy’s Law as a matter of urgency, enacting the necessary changes proposed by the Justice for Reggie campaign;
- ii. close the legal loophole that exists within licensing of breeding establishments, allowing individuals to breed litters from multiple breeding bitches without a licence;
- iii. raise, or give Councils the power to raise, breeder licence fees to deter the commodification of puppies via mass breeding and create a central database of licenced breeders across all councils, with unique identifiers assigned to each breeder;
- iv. make changes to microchipping, including a requirement for a new unique number for puppies, related to their breeder, so that puppies can be traced back to their point of origin, and a point of responsibility;
- v. make it mandatory that all breeders arrange and must provide documentation for veterinarian visits for new-born puppies, to enable robust inspections and promote animal welfare; and
- vi. require all sellers, selling forums and sites, to conduct breeder verification and to ensure traceable provenance for each animal advertised and sold and introduce higher penalties for those who break the law, to eradicate cruel breeding methods and inhumane practices.”