



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

26th February 1997

Dog breeders to fight 'Euro Dogs' threat

Gundog breeders are being urged to lobby their MPs and Prospective Parliamentary Candidates over a European treaty which threatens more than one hundred dog breeds.

In the run-up to Crufts, 25,000 breeders are being alerted to the Council of Europe's Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals, which prescribes new regulations for dog breeding and management. The Convention, which has not yet been signed by Britain, calls on member states to prohibit tail docking and the removal of dew claws from working gundogs, hounds and terriers for 'non-curative purposes'.

It also calls on member states to drastically alter breed standards or to prohibit the breeding of some of our most cherished dogs.

These include such favourites as the cocker spaniel, considered by the Convention to have ears which are too long; the basset hound, which has legs which are 'abnormally positioned'; and the bulldog, which has both 'markedly folded skin' and 'abnormally positioned teeth'.

"This Convention has been drawn up by people who seem to have little or no understanding of practical management of working dogs," said Peter Squires, chairman of the Council of Docked Breeds, which is conducting the campaign.

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Euro Dogs ctd....

“So far, the present Government has neither signed nor ratified the Convention, but we greatly fear that after the General Election a future Government might do so if it is not made aware of the implications. If this happens, Britain’s dog lovers could find that all they are allowed to own or breed is a Euro Dog.”

Members of the Council of Docked Breeds are being asked to identify which Parliamentary Candidates are prepared to oppose the restrictions on dog breeding and management contained in the Convention, and to ask those who would sign it to change their minds. Information obtained will be made available when the election is called, to help supporters of the campaign decide how to vote.

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Information on the Convention can be found on the Internet at www.cdb.org/euro.htm