



Council of Docked Breeds

PRESS RELEASE

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Euro charter would see Labour's bulldog banned

Dog breeders are bemused at Labour's adoption of bulldog Fitz as its election mascot, despite the party's support for a Euro charter which would see the breed banned.

Under the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals over 100 traditional dog breeds would fall foul of new regulations which dog lovers find bizarre and impractical. Britain has not yet signed the Convention, but Labour and the Liberal Democrats say they would do so if returned to power at the election.

"The European Convention declares that the cocker spaniel's ears are too long, the basset hound's legs are the wrong shape and the bulldog's teeth are in the wrong place," said Peter Squires, chairman of the Council of Docked Breeds which is campaigning against the proposed regulations.

"It has been drafted by people with no practical understanding of dog management. If Britain signs it, then we could lose many of our most cherished breeds.

"Of course we're pleased that Labour now appears to be backing the bulldog, but I hope this means that they will now be changing their minds over their support for this Euro nonsense," he added.

In the run-up to the election, the CDB has written to 25,000 dog breeders, urging them to seek assurances from candidates that they will oppose the Convention. It plans to advertise candidates' responses in the canine press prior to May 1st.

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For further information contact Ginette Elliott on 01255 830993