



# Council of Docked Breeds

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Candidates shift over Euro Convention**

Despite their national party policies, Labour and Liberal Democrat candidates are now divided over their attitude to the European Convention for the Protection of Pet Animals.

Candidates were questioned by members of the Council of Docked Breeds in a nationwide campaign to ascertain the three main parties' views on the Convention, which would ban tail docking and dew claw removal and which would threaten over 100 dog breeds.

Labour is officially opposed to docking and in favour 'in principle' of the Convention. However only 34% of the 77 candidates who responded supported this view. Of the remainder, 13% said they supported the retention of docking and would not sign the Convention, while 53% expressed no view on the matter.

Of the 47 Liberal Democrats who replied, 30% supported the party's clear commitment to sign the Convention and ban docking. However, an almost equal number, 28%, opposed this view, while 34% expressed no view at all.

Conservative opposition to the Convention was strong. Of 97 candidates who replied, 84% were opposed to the Convention and supported the retention of docking, while only 1% would sign the Convention and see docking banned. The remaining 15% expressed no view.

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“While the clear support for the Convention from Labour and the Liberal Democrats must remain a matter of great concern to all breeders of pedigree dogs, it is encouraging to see the divergence of opinion which is now becoming apparent,” said Peter Squires, Chairman of the Council of Docked Breeds.

“Lobbying by our members has clearly set candidates thinking about this issue, and it is particularly interesting to see the views of Labour candidates. Following the CDB’s pointing out to Labour that even their own mascot, Fitz the bulldog, would be banned under the Convention, it seems that the party’s enthusiasm for the Convention has markedly cooled,” said Peter Squires.

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For further information contact Graham Downing on 01206 263234