

## **Motion on Puppy Farms**

### **To be proposed by Councillor Hoareau**

#### Pre-amble

Puppy Farms, in which dogs are bred purely for profit with little concern for their welfare, are cruel and inhumane. They are often run illegally without the correct licensing and monitoring from the local council.

Dogs on puppy farms are more likely to be over-bred, kept in poor conditions and not receive adequate food or vet care. Research from the Naturewatch Foundation estimates that 400,000 farmed puppies are bought every year in the UK.

There have been efforts to crack down on illegal puppy farms, such as the introduction of 'Lucy's Law in 2020' banning the third-party sale of puppies in the first 6 months of their life. It is disappointing that the Conservative Government decided in May 2023 to break its promise to introduce a 'Kept Animals Bill' which would add further protections to prevent dogs from being exploited on puppy farms. This bill would have taken steps to limit international puppy smuggling, which would have an impact on UK ports, such as in Newhaven.

The Council has the responsibility to provide licenses to all dog breeders who sell puppies for a profit, and it could play a role in helping make sure those wishing to buy puppies do so from reputable, licensed breeders.

#### Motion

#### **The Council therefore resolves to:**

- Publish an up to date list of locally licensed dog breeders on its website so local residents who wish to buy a puppy are signposted to reputable breeders.
- Publish a list of DEFRA-registered local animal rescue and rehoming centres so that prospective adopters are signposted to reputable rehoming centres in the District.
- Promote publicity campaigns to raise awareness of illegal puppy breeding and signs to look for when buying a puppy that suggest it might come from a puppy farm, and how to report suspicious activity, and promote guidance on how to buy a puppy responsibly.
- Request the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling for the Kept Animals Bill to be revived to make it more difficult for puppy farmers and smugglers to operate.