Clamping Down on Dangerous Dogs:
Protecting the Public and Promoting More Responsible Pet Ownership

A Public Policy Exchange Symposium

Tuesday 16th July 2013
10:15am – 4:30pm
Central London

Public Policy Exchange holds regular interactive seminars which provide an invaluable interface for policy discussion, debate and networking. These special events offer local practitioners, civil servants and other stakeholders not only an insight into current policy thinking, but also the opportunity to feed into future development across all areas of public policy.
Overview

In recent years there has been a spate of high profile serious attacks by dogs on members of the family or visiting friends and family inside the home. Many of the victims in these attacks have been children, disabled and elderly people, resulting in serious injury and in some cases death.

According to Government figures, dog attacks and assaults requiring hospital admissions have increased from 2,915 in 1997-98 to 6,118 in 2010/11 – a 210% increase. The cost to the NHS on treating the most serious cases was £3.3m.

In April 2012, recognising that the law on dangerous dogs needs to be changed and the number of dog attacks reduced, Defra launched a consultation on a package of proposals to tackle this problem alongside other work already being carried out.

Following this consultation process, Defra announced a package of measures on 6 February 2013 to tackle welfare and irresponsible dog ownership. The key measures include the microchipping of all dogs and Defra working closely with the Home Office and other authorities to extend existing legislation.

In response, the cross-party select committee of MPs on environment, food and rural affairs issued a series of further conclusions and recommendations in a Dog Control and Welfare committee report published on 15 February.

The Government also announced in February that it was to extend the dangerous dogs legislation to make it an offence for a dog to be dangerously out of control in any place, including all private property. On 9 May these legislative changes were introduced among other changes published in the draft Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill.

This special symposium provides an invaluable opportunity for local authorities, the police and other agencies and organisations and other key stakeholders to discuss the latest Government policy proposals to protect the public from dangerous dog attacks, and explore innovative solutions for more responsible dog ownership.

"Out of control dogs are just as much a threat on private property as in public places. We are extending the law so that owners who allow their dogs to be dangerously out of control anywhere can be brought to justice...The law must recognise the devastating effect that an attack on an assistance dog can have on its owner. In the past, assistance dogs have been harmed so badly by other dogs that their owners have been robbed of their independence and quality of life."

- Animal Welfare Minister, May 2013

"I am pleased to announce a package of measures to tackle welfare and irresponsible dog ownership on which Defra consulted last year. In that consultation... we put forward a number of possible measures to encourage more responsible behaviour and deal with the consequences that irresponsible dog ownership has on everyone else... I am today publishing the results of the consultation, including the proposed way forward..."

- Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, February 2013

Why Attend?

✓ Examine the legislative changes published in the draft Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill and their potential impact
✓ Discuss the microchipping of all dogs in England from 6 April 2016, the regulations to be introduced and stakeholder requirements
✓ Assess the recommendation to develop a voluntary code of practice to set minimum requirements for any internet site offering dogs, puppies or pets for sale
✓ Share ideas with local authorities, the police and other agencies and explore solutions to tackle dog-related antisocial behaviour and crime

Who Should Attend?

- Local Authorities
- Local Government Dog Service Professionals
- Dog/Animal Wardens
- Animal Welfare Officers/Professionals
- The Police
- Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO)
- Dog Legislation Officers
- Legal Professionals
- Judges and Magistrates
- Animal Welfare Organisations
- Dog Charities
- Dogs Homes
- Dog Re-Homing Centres
- Veterinary Professionals
- Veterinary Associations
- Pet Insurance Companies
- Dog and Kennel Clubs
- Enforcement Agencies
- Pet Shops/Retailers
- Microchip Database Companies
- Specialists in Animal Health, Welfare and Education
- Animal/Dog Breeders
- Community Safety Teams
- Animal Rescue Officers
- Environmental Health Officers
- Housing Officers and Related Professionals
- Animal Adoption Professionals
- Animal Care Assistant and Handlers
- Relevant Central Government Departments
- Royal Mail
- Parcel Force
- British Telecom
- Communication Workers Union (CWU)
- Social Workers
- Nurses
- Utility and Emergency Workers

Accommodation

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Alternatively, if you would like to book your accommodation by phone, you can call Daniel Spinner at HotelMap, on 020 7292 2335 quoting Special Reference Code MSNUZ

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Programme

09:30  Registration and Morning Refreshments
10:15  Chair’s Welcome and Introduction

10:30  Panel Session One: The Next Steps to Tackle Irresponsible Dog Ownership – Taking Forward the Draft Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill and Other Proposals
- Discuss the pros and cons of the legislative changes published in the draft Dangerous Dogs (Amendment) Bill
- Microchipping of all dogs in England from 6 April 2016 – understanding the regulations to be introduced and the requirements of stakeholders
- Dangerous Dogs Index Fee – is the raising of the application fee for prohibited dogs high and fair enough to offset the burden on the taxpayer?
- Examine the need for steps that are not covered by the new proposals

11:15  Morning Refreshments
11:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel One
12:30  Networking Lunch

13:30  Panel Session Two: Reducing Dog Attacks and Protecting the Public
- Amending the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953 to protect the full range of livestock now farmed and the practical considerations for enforcement agencies
- Is there an argument to legislate for the introduction of Dog Control Notices, using as a model the Dog Control Notices introduced in Scotland?
- Dog welfare – considering the recommendation to develop a voluntary code of practice to set minimum requirements for any internet site offering dogs, puppies or pets for sale to adhere
- How can local authorities, the police and other agencies better tackle dog-related antisocial behaviour and crime, and do they need a clearer set of powers?

14:15  Afternoon Refreshments
14:30  Open Floor Discussion and Debate with Panel Two
15:30  Chair’s Summary and Closing Comments
15:40  Networking Reception
16:30  Close

**Please note that the programme is subject to change without notice**

Event Details

Date:      Tuesday 16th July 2013
Time:     10:15am – 4:30pm
Venue:    Central London

Forthcoming Events

Better Skills, Better Careers: Improving Graduate Employability
18th June 2013

Policing in the 21st Century: Raising Standards, Cutting Crime and Protecting the Public
18th June 2013

Zero Tolerance on Forced Marriage and ‘Honour’ Based Violence: The Way Forward
19th June 2013

Prevention, Education and Rehabilitation: Transforming Youth Justice
20th June 2013

Defusing the Diabetes Time-Bomb
20th June 2013

The Role of Local Authorities in the Future of Youth Services
25th June 2013

From Gold Medals to Go Pedals: Creating a Revolution in Cycling and Road Safety
26th June 2013

Driving Quality and Improvement: Reforming School Governance
2nd July 2013

Improving Local Road and Highway Maintenance: Moving Beyond the Potholes Review
3rd July 2013

Calling Time on Binge Drinking and Alcohol-Fuelled Violence: The Changing Role of Local Authorities
4th July 2013

6th Annual Sexual Health and Young People Symposium: A New Framework for Tackling Teenage Pregnancy
9th July 2013

Safeguarding Access to Justice: The Future of Legal Aid
10th July 2013

Young Runaways and Missing Children: Prevention, Protection, Provision
10th July 2013

Transforming Public Sector Communications: Using Social Media to Encourage the Digitisation of Public Services
11th July 2013

Marketing and Exhibition Opportunities

We offer a range of opportunities to enable your organisation to raise its profile and communicate with key decision makers in the public sector.

For further information please contact Parvin Madahar on 020 3137 8630 or email parvin.madahar@publicpolicyexchange.co.uk

Enquiries: 0845 606 1535  www.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk  @PublicPolicyEx
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