

Shirley Hughes

From: Marie Lambden
Sent: 15 January 2015 13:46
To: Shirley Hughes
Subject: FW: Animal Welfare Act
Attachments: PINK FORM JAN 2015.docx

-----Original Message-----

From: blackdog@manx.net [<mailto:blackdog@manx.net>]
Sent: 14 January 2015 22:43
To: Marie Lambden
Subject: Animal Welfare Act

Dear Select Committee,

Thank you for looking into more enforcement to Animal Welfare on the Island. It is true we do not have the problems of the U.K. However it is better to have something and not need it, than need it and not have it. I believe we should have a similar law to the Animal Welfare Act: 2006. The question is would it not be easier to simply bring in the existing Act, into Manx law. Which after several years of use, is a tried and tested law. That has under gone various amendments to improve it. If we try to create our own it will be a big head ache. And I can assure you, there are few if any people on the island skilled or experienced enough in Animal Welfare to create such a complex thing. needlessly as all the hard work has already been done within the existing Act.

So lets say we go down the easier probably more sensible route and introduce the existing Welfare Act... Who will Enforce it? the Police by Default. But even they would need to be given some kind of training in its use. Perhaps shadowing an RSPCA Welfare officer or higher Inspector in the U.K. for 2-3 weeks.

The MSPCA? This seems the most obvious choice, But these guys are not qualified or professional enough at this present time. Everyone presumes they are and they ride the acronym...MSPCA for all its worth without any real substance. Ultimately these people are a amateurs. To empower amateurs with the Law is reckless. The MSPCA need to qualify their staff to high standards similar to that at least of an equivalent RSPCA welfare officer (lower than an inspector) They then would need to shadow an RSPCA officer to fully understand how to apply this Law at a practical level etc.. So PLEASE don't just GIVE this law to them. They must earn the right to wield it first. Another problem is, even if they competently sought a prosecution, how would they afford the legal process? they are cash strapped, broke! these things need proper looking into too. And the MSPCA's word and spiel not taken literally without proper thought.

A serious question that should be asked of the MSPCA, is why did they not lobby the government in the past for the Act??? what on earth were they doing in 2006? 2007? 2008? 2009? 2010? 2011? 2012? 2013? 2014? It took a single member of the public to bring about a possible change. and now there is a movement towards the Act. They feel they must Act themselves.... Act suddenly interested! to me if it were not for the work of others. And left up to the MSPCA all would be quiet right now, and there would be no debate into it all. Sorry to rant, but this annoys me. The people in charge of the MSPCA were happy to let the Act stay in the U.K. taking no interest in it, despite the huge advantages it would give them. And now they get to sit around tables with powerful people acting all concerned and (now) interested... Are they really interested? or just reacting reluctantly to public opinion and scrutiny.

So! anyway the Police, perhaps the MSPCA. and like many councils in the U.K. they train up their Animal Health Officers (Livestock/food chain) employees up on the Act. And enable them to enforce it on behalf of the Government

Alternatively you could perhaps dust off ALL Animal protection Laws already written into Manx law. Give them a new Lease of life with updated Amendments. And encourage all parties to use them to secure prosecutions. I

believe the Animal Welfare Act is a ? Common Law, or whatever the term is that means Anyone! can use it to prosecute, like a member of the public. So if the people we expect don't use it properly, we can perhaps again rely upon member of the public to throw the book at Animal cruelty cases

Regards, Anonymous