



Mr. Seán Delmar  
President  
Irish Kennel Club  
Fottrell House  
Harold's Cross Bridge  
Dublin 6W

20<sup>th</sup> February 2020

Dear Seán,

I would like to thank you for meeting my colleague Catherine Lawler and me on 13<sup>th</sup> February, with Jim Stephens and Karen Murphy. I found it a very useful opportunity to learn more about the history and activities of the Irish Kennel Club. Thank you also for briefing us on the views of your members on the new rules on pet sales.

The meeting was a useful opportunity to brief you on the rationale behind the new rules, which apply to all pet animals, of course, not only dogs.

The new rules attempt to address a number of concerns around the supply of pet animals in recent years. These concerns include the risk of zoonotic disease from exotic pet species (including potential danger reptiles pose to young children); animal welfare and traceability issues around the advertising and sale of pets, including dogs. The rules require anyone selling or supplying more than six pet animals a year to register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). Anyone advertising a pet animal must include certain information in the ad, including the microchip number in case of a dog.

Through the register, DAFM will have a database of pet suppliers that can be contacted quickly if needs be in the case of an outbreak of disease for example. Including detailed information in an ad for a pet will assist a person thinking of acquiring a pet to make an informed decision, thereby contributing to the maintenance of a responsible market for pet animals.

The new Regulations (Animal Health and Welfare (Sale and supply of pet animals) Regulations 2019) were introduced in December 2019, following on from a public consultation by DAFM on the need for further legislation on the sale and advertising of pet animals. The Regulations came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup>

February, and existing sellers and suppliers of pets have 3 months from that date to register with DAFM.

We had a useful discussion on the Regulations, and I would welcome any feedback from the Irish Kennel Club and its members. As I said to you, we intend to review the Regulations in the future, once they have bedded down and we can examine, with the benefit of input from stakeholders such as the IKC and others, whether they are fit for purpose, or whether any amendments are needed.

In the meantime, we have a dedicated information page on the new rules on the DAFM website:

[www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/salesupplyandadvertisingofpets/](http://www.agriculture.gov.ie/animalhealthwelfare/salesupplyandadvertisingofpets/).

We also have a dedicated email address for queries:

[petsalesregister@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:petsalesregister@agriculture.gov.ie), or we can be contacted at 01 607 2862.

I look forward to our continuing engagement with the Irish Kennel Club, as a significant organisation involved with dogs and related issues, on this and any other topics that may arise in relation to canine health and welfare.

Yours sincerely,



Deirdre Bourke  
Animal Health and Welfare Division