

Dear Sir Madam

I would like to bring to your attention a situation concerning a number of your constituents, which clearly shows greyhounds are continuing to suffer under self regulation but more alarmingly, these appalling kennel conditions are being sanctioned by the governing body of the Greyhound Board of Great Britain – the Greyhound Regulatory Board.

Eve Blanchard – Old Rectory Gardens, Shillingstone - has been a licensed professional trainer for more than 20 years. Now in her 70's , she relies heavily on kennel hand assistance to meet the welfare needs of her dogs, which has recently been reduced to 26 greyhounds but she also claims to be financially burdened.

In January of this year, undercover footage of Mrs Blanchard's kennels was published on the internet. Accompanying statements obtained from the Area Steward – Colin Betteridge – indicated he had 'no serious issue' and the kennels were 'nothing to be alarmed at' but confirmed an Improvement Notice had been served on Mrs Blanchard in November 2008.

In May of this year Neil Haine, a kennel hand employed by Mrs Blanchard phoned me in disgust of the deplorable level of welfare deemed acceptable by racing officials and obvious breaches of environmental law. Mr Haines' statement and substantial graphic evidence can be seen here.

<http://greytexploitations.com/resources-reports/kennel-hand-speaks-out-as-the-greyhounds-voice/>

As a greyhound protection group, our immediate concerns were for the dogs which Mrs Blanchard had planned to be euthanased and we did everything possible to prevent the killing of these healthy greyhounds.

I was also concerned regarding the hazardous waste that was collecting at the property and lodged a complaint with Waste Management at North Dorset Council. After a series of emails whereby council officers were more concerned with the complainant and dismissed the photographic evidence, Mr Kerry Pitt-Kerby concluded the council's response with

'Therefore, unless I am provided with direct evidence that this material is having an ongoing material affect upon the occupation of a nearby property, then there can be no reason to intrude upon the owner's private property'

Research shows the average dog produces 165 kg of faeces annually and 144 flies can hatch from just one defecation. Regardless of these obvious risks, under EU law, dog faeces and soiled bedding is considered hazardous waste and anyone who produces over 500kg annually – in a commercial operation - must hold a Hazardous Waste Producers license and must use a licensed

Hazardous Waste Carrier to dispose of the waste. Had your council officers investigated my complaint seriously, they would have only had to contact the Environment Agency to ascertain that Mrs Blanchard does not hold a Waste Producers license and as a consequence is not able to dispose of the waste in a lawful manner using a licensed Waste Carrier.

Of further concern is the response I received from a council officer to possible breaches of planning. Mrs Blanchard has boasted in the past to having a second kennel block built without seeking planning permission. Again, there have been a series of emails between myself and Mr J Cousens – Planning Enforcement Officer - who repeatedly ignores the second kennel block and persistently assures me there are no planning issues with the *original* kennel block, completely dismissing my complaint of a second kennel block being built without planning authority. I am extremely concerned with the standard of the electrical circuits in both kennels and I would ask for your immediate assurances they comply with current building regulations.

In conclusion, I appreciate whilst animal welfare is not on top of everyone's agenda, I hope you would agree, there are some serious issues which need to be addressed. Most importantly, the reluctance of North Dorset Council to fully investigate an obvious breach of EU Environmental Law and a possible breach of Planning Control.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I look forward to your assurances that procedures are in place to address my concerns.

Regards
Trudy Baker
Co-ordinator
www.greyexploitations.com