

CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME



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Executive Summary

Many dogs are abandoned every year in this country and London organisations such as Battersea Dogs and Cats Home rehome thousands of dogs every year. According to Battersea, last winter over 20,000 animals were abandoned.¹

While there are many dogs in need of homes in this country, over the past few years large numbers of street dogs have been imported from other countries, particularly Romania, for rehoming in the UK. Between 2014 and 2018 56,125 dogs were imported into the country from Romania.² This does not include dogs that may have come in “under the radar” via the Pet Travel Scheme (PETS) according to the serious concerns of the British Veterinary Association (BVA). This report also highlights:

- There is a danger of illnesses entering the country via rescued street dogs. Professor The Lord Trees warned about “Trojan Dogs” in September 2018 and the dangers of bringing in dogs with unknown health histories:

“It is particularly worrying that as the practice of rehoming rescue dogs from abroad in the UK appears to have increased, there have been reports of canine diseases that have not previously occurred as endemic infections in the UK; for example, in 2016 four cases of canine babesiosis were diagnosed in Essex (<https://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/178/17/417>).”³

- The BVA recommends the regulation of pet travel:

“BVA supports the regulation of pet travel - both commercial and non-commercial - that enables the safe and legal movement of pets. Any movements must ensure that animal health and welfare, and public health, are protected, and travel routes are not abused for purposes that negatively impact on animal health and welfare (eg. puppy smuggling and the importation of stray dogs with unknown health histories).”⁴

¹ <https://www.battersea.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-work>

² FOI Responses from ALPHA 10 December 2018 and 28 June 2018

³ <https://www.bva.co.uk/news-campaigns-and-policy/bva-community/bva-blog/trojan-dogs-%E2%80%93-do-you-know-the-risks-of-rehoming-a-stray-dog-from-abroad/>

⁴ https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/News,_campaigns_and_policies/Policies/Companion_animals/BVA%20Position%20on%20Pet%20Travel%20Full-%20Website.pdf

- Rescue organisations' charges for bringing in a dog to the UK seem to range from £250 - £350 per dog usually including vaccinations, tick treatment, micro-chipping and transport to the UK.
- Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charges a fee of £135 for dogs and £165 for puppies including worming, flea treatment, vaccinations, insurance cover for one month, microchipping and a full veterinary and a behavioural assessment.⁵
- The Dogs' Trust charges an adoption fee of £140 which includes neutering, microchipping, vaccinations, four weeks insurance cover and advice from the Dogs' Trust centre team for the rest of the dog's life.⁶
- 56,125 dogs were imported from Romania between 2014 and 2018. At an average fee of £300 per dog, a total of some £16,837,500 could have changed hands during this period.
- Owners of a rescue dog brought in from Romania may incur heavy vets' bills that cannot be covered by pet insurance companies if the conditions existed before the date of the policy. We quote an organization in the report offering dogs with problems including "orthopedic issues", "behavioural challenges" and "neurological problems".
- Some dogs are unsuitable for the homelife of a domestic pet. These are "street dogs" who while suffering on the streets do have total freedom to roam. By their very definition they are not "house trained" or used to living in a normal home with all its constraints.

While some charities continue to encourage the export of street dogs from Romania and other countries and the financing of shelters and veterinary fees in those countries, they may be encouraging the proliferation of such dogs and their suffering rather than attacking the root cause. It might be better to concentrate on schemes tackling the problem with longer-term in-country operations concentrating on neutering programmes and other tactics designed to prevent the problem arising in the first place.

⁵ <https://www.battersea.org.uk/dogs/dog-rehoming-faq>

⁶ <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/faqs/>

Recommendations

- 1 That the Mayor of London embrace the opportunity offered by Brexit to take control of our borders by recommending to the government:

That the government impose strict restrictions on the movement of stray dogs from countries that are endemic for diseases not currently considered endemic in the UK such as brucellosis, babesia, ehrlichia, dirofilarial and leishmania and introduce testing in stray dogs for any such diseases as a mandatory requirement before travel to the UK as recommended by the BVA.

That stricter health checks also be imposed on dogs being brought into the country via the Pet Travel Scheme as opposed to the legally required commercial route.

- 2 That as Mayor of London, having expressed his support for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home's recent report on Housing Policies to allow pets⁷, he further shows his support for London charities, such as Battersea, by actively promoting the rehoming of dogs from the UK in the London area by such London charities.

⁷https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/16_mayors_response_to_motions_agreed_at_7_feb_2019_plenary.pdf

Introduction

We are a nation of dog lovers and many people's lives are enhanced by owning a companion animal. We donate large amounts of money to animal charities – indeed, animal welfare is now the most popular cause for UK charitable giving⁸ – and appeals for aid for ill-treated animals receive an instant and generous response. However, large numbers of dogs are abandoned every year in this country and London organisations such as Battersea Dogs and Cats Home rehome thousands of dogs every year. According to Battersea, last winter over 20,000 animals were abandoned.⁹

And yet here where there are numerous dogs in need of homes, over the past few years large numbers of street dogs have been imported from other countries, particularly Romania, for rehoming in the UK. A simple Google search for “Romanian rescue dogs” throws up pages of results with the details of UK organisations offering rescued street dogs from Romania for rehoming in the UK, on an average charging some £250 - £350 per dog covering vaccinations, tick treatment, micro chipping and transport to this country.

⁸ <https://www.cafonline.org/docs/default-source/about-us-publications/caf-uk-giving-2019-report-an-overview-of-charitable-giving-in-the-uk.pdf>

⁹ <https://www.battersea.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-work>

Entry

Between 2014 and 2018 56,125 dogs were commercially imported into the country from Romania under the Trade Control and Expert System (TRACES).¹⁰ The figure has risen every year with 3616 arriving in 2014 and 17,189 entering in 2018.

The numbers of dogs entering the country from Romania under this scheme compared to those entering from other European countries are striking:¹¹

Country of Origin	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Albania	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bulgaria	0	245	235	389	463	216
Egypt	7	7	7	10	7	78
Greece	5	12	15	108	114	107
Hungary	1197	1662	1958	2027	1423	1586
Lithuania	0	0	2	0	6	6
Romania	0	3616	8113	11659	15548	17189
Spain	113	16178	2525	3367	4303	1995

There is another scheme for pet owners who transport their own pets into the country, the PETS Scheme, which enables dog, cat or ferret owners to import animals without the need for quarantine on arrival providing they had been microchipped, held a pet passport, had been vaccinated against rabies and that the dogs, have received tapeworm treatment.¹² The Animal and Plant Health Agency (ALPHA) has responded to a Freedom of Information Request asking for numbers of animals brought into the country under this scheme stating that no figures are held.¹³

It is impossible to tell if rescue dogs are being brought into the country “under the radar” via this scheme but it seems quite probable. There is already

¹⁰ FOI Responses from ALPHA 10 December 2018 and 28 June 2018

¹¹ Ibid

¹² <https://www.gov.uk/take-pet-abroad/overview>

¹³ FoI response from ALPHA 14 January 2019

evidence quoted in our previous report, SICK PUPPY – An examination of the puppy trafficking trade in London.¹⁴ The Dogs Trust published a report into the puppy trade in which it examined the lack of controls over vehicles importing puppies into the UK. It stated:

“Checking regimes of Dunkirk and Calais are based upon declaration at the check-in booth. The microchip reading is carried out by the person responsible for the animals and the scanner is then passed to the individual within the booth. The work station of the individual within the booth, and the position of the rear of the vehicle in relation to this, prevents visual inspection. At no time during our investigation were ferry operator staff observed leaving their booths to check vehicles.”¹⁵

There is a danger of dogs microchipped abroad not being traceable. Battersea Dogs and Cats Home in a recent report dealing with microchips in stray dogs not being traceable highlighted this problem.

“Strays registered to a foreign database. Local Authorities had previously commented informally on cases where strays had been microchipped but registered to a foreign database. In 2018, we have been able to quantify this problem more systematically. There were 15 dogs in this category, and in 11 cases the Local Authority could not find where the dog lived. Although a small number, it is significant if this flags dogs that are likely to have come into this country illegally or as victims of the international puppy trade, with all the risks to health and safety this implies.

The use of non-compliant or foreign microchips. A growing problem that should be investigated and addressed. Microchips should be obtained through a reputable source, such as a member of the Microchip Trade Association.”¹⁶

The BVA is aware of the dangers inherent in the PETS Scheme and last year called for stricter pet movement legislation, stating:

“We strongly believe that any movement of pets must ensure that animal health and welfare, and public health, are protected, and travel routes are not abused for purposes that negatively impact on animal health and welfare. That is why, apart from issuing advice to owners, we have also called upon the government to introduce compulsory tests and more rigorous checks for both commercial and non-commercial pet movement.

¹⁴ <http://legacy.glaconservatives.com/reports/files/SickPuppy.pdf>

¹⁵ P23 [https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/press-materials/dt_puppy_smuggling_report_v12_web\(1\).pdf](https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/press-materials/dt_puppy_smuggling_report_v12_web(1).pdf)

¹⁶ http://www.bdch.org.uk/files/Microchipping_report_2018.pdf

We are concerned that many of the dogs being brought into the country for rehoming purposes are coming via the Pet Travel Scheme as opposed to the legally required commercial route, which requires stricter health checks.”¹⁷

The BVA Position Paper on Pet Travel states:

“BVA supports the regulation of pet travel - both commercial and non-commercial - that enables the safe and legal movement of pets. Any movements must ensure that animal health and welfare, and public health, are protected, and travel routes are not abused for purposes that negatively impact on animal health and welfare (eg. puppy smuggling and the importation of stray dogs with unknown health histories).”¹⁸

Danger of Infections

There is also the danger of illnesses being brought into the country by street dogs imported in this fashion. While it is true that they are vaccinated against rabies, receive anti-tick treatment and are micro-chipped, there are numerous other illnesses that such dogs might bring with them. Professor The Lord Trees posted on the British Veterinary Association’s blog a warning about “Trojan Dogs” in September 2018 warning of the dangers of bringing in dogs with unknown health histories:

“A ‘Trojan Dog’ is a stray dog with an unknown health history that has been brought into the UK for rehoming. These dogs are of particular concern as they are likely to be carrying infections which are common abroad, including in continental Europe as well as farther afield, but which we are free of in the UK. These infections may cause serious and fatal diseases in dogs which may affect not only the imported dog but could be transmitted to other untraveled dogs. In this way the owner of such a dog could unintentionally introduce a new and dangerous infectious disease into the UK to which our native dogs have no immunity. Moreover, some of these infections can infect humans.”¹⁹

He raises the following concerns:

“The infections concerned include a range of parasitic and bacterial infections which are characterized by an initial acute infection which may cause illness

¹⁷ <https://www.bva.co.uk/news-campaigns-and-policy/bva-community/bva-blog/what-is-the-disease-risk-from-imported-dogs/>

¹⁸ https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/News,_campaigns_and_policies/Policies/Companion_animals/BVA%20Position%20on%20Pet%20Travel%20Full-%20Website.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.bva.co.uk/news-campaigns-and-policy/bva-community/bva-blog/trojan-dogs-%E2%80%93-do-you-know-the-risks-of-rehoming-a-stray-dog-from-abroad/>

and death followed by, in survivors, persistent infection which can be transferrable to other susceptible dogs. Stray dogs from rescue centres are especially likely to have acquired such infections during months or years living a feral existence. Whilst specialized tests may reveal whether a dog has been exposed to these infections, it is difficult or impossible to eliminate the acquired infection so that the animal is no longer a potential source of infection to other dogs.

It is particularly worrying that as the practice of rehoming rescue dogs from abroad in the UK appears to have increased, there have been reports of canine diseases that have not previously occurred as endemic infections in the UK; for example, in 2016 four cases of canine babesiosis were diagnosed in Essex (<https://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/178/17/417>)."20

He states that while:

*"...the desire to rehome stray dogs from abroad comes from a good place, those involved want to ensure a good life for the animal in question."*²¹

And recommends that:

*"...anyone looking to adopt a rescue dog to rehome from the existing UK dog population and UK rehoming charities or welfare organisations. These organisations generally do an excellent job of checking the temperament and health of the dogs in their care before matching them with appropriate homes, meaning there is less chance of costly vet's bills or failed adoptions."*²²

Lord Trees issues a stark warning of the dangers of these dogs:

"As a nation of dog lovers, we must weigh up the potential consequences of rehoming a "Trojan dog" to the UK dog population and consider whether our good intentions could potentially do more harm than good. As I put it when I wrote about this issue for the Vet Record back in 2016, "Who wants to be the owner of the Trojan dog which introduces a new serious illness to the UK dog population? (<https://veterinaryrecord.bmj.com/content/178/14/347.2>)."23

In its [Pet Travel Position Statement \(pet travel position statement \(404 KB PDF\)\)](#) the BVA recommends:

²⁰ Ibid

²¹ Ibid

²² Ibid

²³ Ibid

“... that the government impose strict restrictions on the movement of stray dogs from countries that are endemic for diseases not currently considered endemic in the UK and introduce testing in stray dogs for any such diseases as a mandatory requirement before travel to the UK.”²⁴

Recommendation 8 of the BVA Position Statement states:

“To reduce the risk of importation of disease endemic in other countries, the UK Government should restrict the movement of stray dogs from countries which are endemic for diseases not currently considered endemic in the UK eg. brucellosis, babesia, ehrlichia, dirofilarial, leishmania and introduce testing for any such diseases as a mandatory requirement for stray dogs before travel to the UK.”²⁵

It is interesting to note that between 2014 and 2017 18 cases of suspected Rabies were reported. Fifty per cent of those cases were in animals imported from Romania.²⁶ Whilst there were no confirmed cases, it is significant that such a high proportion originated in Romania.

Year	Total number of suspected reported cases of rabies	Of the total of suspected cases the amount 'brought in' from abroad were	Of the total of those 'brought in' from those that were imports from Romania were
2014	7	7	2
2015	5	4	1
2016	7	4	4
2017	4	3	2

In 2018 of 2 reported cases of suspected Rabies in dogs brought in from abroad, one of the two dogs originated in Romania.²⁷ Figures for the first six months of 2019 show that of two reported cases of suspected Rabies in dogs brought in from abroad one came from Romania.²⁸

²⁴ <https://www.bva.co.uk/news-campaigns-and-policy/newsroom/news-releases/dog-rescuers-risk-harming-uk-dogs-and-owners-by-importing-dangerous-exotic-diseases-into-the-country,-vets-warn/>

²⁵ https://www.bva.co.uk/uploadedFiles/Content/News,_campaigns_and_policies/Policies/Companion_animals/BVA%20Position%20on%20Pet%20Travel%20Full-%20Website.pdf

²⁶ DEFRA Animal and Plant Health Agency FoI response 8 February 2019

²⁷ DEFRA Animal and Plant Agency FoI response 7 June 2019

²⁸ DEFRA Animal and Plant Agency FoI response 15 July 2019

Pet Insurance Cover Exclusions

Vet fees can be very expensive and many pet owners take out insurance policies to cover their pets in the event of their needing treatment. However, insurance companies will not cover animals with pre-existing conditions. We contacted some insurance companies that insure dogs and were informed that, while they do not specifically exclude animals brought in from abroad, any pre-existing condition would be excluded. Direct Line told us:

“At Direct Line Group we do not differentiate our policies between dogs rescued from abroad or obtained in the UK. Customers purchasing pet insurance are advised at the point of sale that all previous or current medical conditions are excluded from cover. Customers are advised of this key exclusion both at the point of sale, and also in their policy booklet as it is an essential consideration when taking out a policy. This is standard practice across the industry and the exclusion applies regardless of whether a diagnosis has been made, or where the pet has originated from, so isn’t specific to dogs purchased from abroad.”

This obviously would impact on the insurance cover of rescue dogs brought in from abroad since, if they develop a disease that is endemic to their country of origin but not this country such as those cited by Professor The Lord Trees mentioned above, their owners are leaving themselves open to the insurer citing the illness as a pre-existing condition and refusing to pay.

Dogs are also offered for adoption despite suffering from pre-existing conditions which would mean that any adopter would be liable for any vet bills which may arise:

“Nellie - has long terms orthopaedic issues and some behavioural challenges - in foster

Pepper - neurological problems with her legs -needing further assessment and diagnosis - going to foster next week

Apollo - a hole in the heart causes him to collapse and he needs a long term foster family

Ruby - long term skin issues and allergies - in foster

Dec - broken leg injury and unreliable with other dogs- in foster

Brooke and Benny - brother and sister he has some behavioural issues she has physical orthopaedic problem.”²⁹

²⁹ https://www.facebook.com/amiciidogrescue/posts/2185715224844482?__tn__=K-R

It would be heartbreaking for a pet owner, having become fond of a rescued animal, to find that they cannot afford continuing and unexpected vet's bills and face the choice of attempting to borrow money, trying to find somebody willing to take on an ailing pet or having to have the dog put to sleep.

The Finances

As stated above, a Google search throws up details of numerous charities importing rescue dogs from Romania. Most are registered charities. Most explain the plight of abandoned dogs suffering hunger, ill-treatment and disease. On the websites are galleries of photographs of dogs for adoption. Some not only offer the possibility of adopting a rescued dog but also offer the possibility of sponsoring a dog in a rescue centre in Romania and donating regular or one-off sums to maintain the rescue operation. The charge for importing a rescue dog seems to range from £250 - £350 per dog which usually includes vaccinations, tick treatment, micro-chipping and transport to the UK. For example, Amicii Dog Rescue charges £300,³⁰ Rags to Riches Romanian Dog Rescue charges "a minimum of £260",³¹ Romanian Rescue Appeal charges a fee of £310³² and Barking Mad Dog Rescue requests an adoption donation of £350.³³

Whilst not for a moment doubting the sincerity and good intentions of those running the organisations that are importing rescue dogs, some surprising figures emerge. According to Freedom of Information requests to DEFRA, the Animal & Plant Health Agency (ALPHA) stated that a total of 56,125 dogs were imported from Romania under TRACES, between 2014 and 2018 (3616 in 2014, 8113 in 2015, 11659 in 2016, 15,548 in 2017 and 17,189 in 2018). At an average fee of £300 per adopted dog, a total of some £16,837,500 could have changed hands during this period. This does not take into account any dogs that may well have come in "under the radar" via the PETS Scheme according to the serious concerns of the BVA set out earlier in this report.

Battersea Dogs and Cats Home charges a fee of £135 for dogs and £165 for puppies which includes worming, flea treatment, vaccinations, Pet Plan insurance cover for one month, microchipping and a full veterinary and a behavioural assessment.³⁴ The Dogs' Trust charges an adoption fee of £140 which includes neutering, microchipping, vaccinations, four weeks Pet Plan

³⁰ <https://www.amiciidogrescue.org.uk/adoption-info/>

³¹ <http://www.rags-2-riches.co.uk/infofaqs.asp>

³² <http://romanianrescueappeal.uk/adopt/>

³³ <https://www.barkingmaddogrescue.co.uk/adoption-information>

³⁴ <https://www.battersea.org.uk/dogs/dog-rehoming-faq>

insurance cover and advice from the Dogs' Trust centre team for the rest of the dog's life.³⁵

"These fees help us to cover the costs of caring for over 16,000 dogs ever year. Every dog adopted from Dogs Trust is:

- *Neutered (or comes with a neutering voucher if a puppy)*
- *Microchipped*
- *Vaccinated*
- *Vet Checked*

You will also receive four weeks' free insurance with Pet Plan and a collar and lead as well as having a pre-adoption talk to help your dog settle in.

Once they're at home, you'll be able to access advice from the centre team as needed for the rest of the dog's life."

The difference in charges raises the issue that, since it costs some £300 to import a rescued dog from Romania and £135 to rehome a rescued dog from Battersea which reports that last winter over 20,000 animals were abandoned,³⁶ it would arguably be more sensible to encourage adopters to take on animals abandoned in this country. The remainder of what they would have spent on importing a dog could then potentially be donated to schemes in Romania directed at neutering and spaying programmes, which would attack the root cause of the problem by preventing street dogs from reproducing.

Behavioural Problems

The idea of rescuing a street dog suffering hunger and health problems from a country such as Romania can sound appealing, but it appears that many of these dogs have behavioural problems which make them totally unsuitable for the homelife of a domestic pet. These are "street dogs" who while suffering on the streets do have total freedom to roam. By their very definition they are not "house trained" or used to living in a normal home with all its constraints.

The Guardian quotes Paula Boydon of the Dogs Trust:

"On the behaviour side, she says that many of the street dogs will have been free-roaming, used to making their own choices, and that taking those choices

³⁵ <https://www.dogstrust.org.uk/rehoming/faqs/>

³⁶ <https://www.battersea.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/our-work>

away by putting them into a British domestic environment can increase their stress levels. She mentions a dog from Romania in the charity's care that was given up for those reasons. "That dog has certain challenges; it's not in a position to be rehomed at the moment."³⁷

The article quotes pet behaviour counsellor Ingrid Haskal:

"Haskal agrees that adopting rescue dogs from Romania has its risks. You know nothing of their backgrounds. They have probably been wandering the streets, abandoned. They may be aggressive towards other people, other dogs, terrified of going outside, or scared of the world in general. "Also, you have to consider the fact that every dog is an individual: some may be able to cope with change better than other dogs, in exactly the same way as people.

People often get Romanian rescue dogs because they have had their heartstrings pulled, she adds. "You go on the internet, you go, 'Ooh, look at the poor dog in a kennel in Romania or whatever - we'll rescue it.'" And this could be their first dog. "So you get first-time dog owners with a dog that has got a lot of behavioural issues, and they can't cope. A lot of people who have had dogs for years will get a dog they can't cope with, but if you're a first-time dog owner, that's quite scary, particularly if the dog is aggressive."³⁸

Even the charities that bring in dogs from Romania acknowledge that there are serious problems. Amici Dog Rescue on its Facebook page in a recent post states that some dogs have had to be returned to Romania:

"We've brought nearly 3000 dogs to the UK on ³⁹the last 5 years. Sadly not all of them are settled and happy. We've sent 7 dogs back to Romania because of severe biting incidents where they may well have been out to sleep. It's our last resort. We don't do it lightly. But we think they are safer in Romania than in the UK."

Additionally, the charity appears to have a number of other dogs maintained in this country that have been returned to them because of behavioural and long-term medical conditions:

"At the moment we have 20 soon to be 24) dogs in RBU. Many are in kennels, a few are in foster homes. These dogs have been returned mostly due to behavioural problems, and some with long term medical issues. It's a huge pressure to look after them here. A huge pressure and a huge expense. it's also very emotionally draining for the team we worry about them all, worry if we

³⁷ <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2019/jan/08/they-look-cute-but-should-we-rescue-romanias-street-dogs>

³⁸ <https://www.theguardian.com/global/2019/jan/08/they-look-cute-but-should-we-rescue-romanias-street-dogs>

³⁹ https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=2185715224844482&id=580398328709521

can find suitable long term homes for them, worry about their health and well being. Worry about the impact that kennels will have on them,”⁴⁰

The post goes on to list a number of dogs that the charity has brought into this country and which appear to have been returned by adopters because of behavioural and/or health issues:

“Rodney - unpredictable biter who cannot cope with men- in kennels

George - another unpredictable biter - in kennels

Halo - takes a very long time to get her confidence with people and has issues with other dogs- in kennels

Mollie - in assessment for behavioural responses – in kennels

Charlie - returned from a rehoming centre and then adopted but very scared of men- in foster

NYla - also returned from a rehoming centre and rehomed but she bit and we’ve now worked out she had a major problem with her leg and is in pain - in foster

Hugo - a puppy that has some resource guarding - and house guarding issues and needs more behavioural guidance- in foster

Dizzy - adopted but didn’t settle and needs a special home that can understand his needs- in kennels

hayley - also returned from a rehoming centre, fantastic dog but needs time and patience she’s very nervous- in kennels.”⁴¹

⁴⁰ Ibid

⁴¹ https://www.facebook.com/amiciidogrescue/posts/2185715224844482?__tn__=K-R

Recommendations

- 1 That the Mayor of London embrace the opportunity offered by Brexit to take control of our borders by recommending to the government:

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That stricter health checks also be imposed on dogs being brought into the country via the Pet Travel Scheme as opposed to the legally required commercial route.

- 2 That as Mayor of London, having expressed his support for Battersea Dogs and Cats Home's recent report on Housing Policies to allow pets⁴², he further shows his support for London charities, such as Battersea, by actively promoting the rehoming of dogs from the UK in the London area by such London charities.

⁴²https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/16_mayors_response_to_motions_agreed_at_7_feb_2019_plenary.pdf



GREATER LONDON AUTHORITY
CONSERVATIVES