

16 May, 2007.



Ms. Ursula Donnellan,
A/Administrative Officer,
South Dublin County Council,
Corporate Services,
County Hall,
Tallaght,
Dublin 24.

RE: REP1409/DR/07

Dear Ms. Donnellan,

I have been asked by Mr. Dick Roche, T.D., Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to refer further to your letter in connection with pit-bull terriers.

The Control of Dogs Acts 1986 and 1992 place statutory responsibility for dog control and licensing services on local authorities. The implementation of the Acts is vested in local authorities who have power to appoint dog wardens, to provide shelters for stray and other dogs, to impose on-the-spot fines for a number of offences and to take prosecutions. Local authorities may also make bye-laws in relation to the control of dogs within their functional areas.

The Control of Dogs Regulations 1998 made under the above Acts, place controls on the following ten breeds of dogs: American Pit Bull Terrier; English Bull Terrier; Staffordshire Bull Terrier; Bull Mastiff; Doberman Pinscher; German Shepherd (Alsatian); Rhodesian Ridgeback; Rottweiler; Japanese Akita; Japanese Tosa and to every dog of the type commonly known as a Ban Dog (or Bandog).

The controls, which must be observed when the dog is in a public place, require that these dogs, or strains and crosses thereof, must be kept on a short lead by a person over 16 years of age who is capable of controlling them and that they be securely muzzled. Furthermore, the Control of Dogs Act 1986 gives specific powers to the




courts to order that a dog, which the court considers dangerous, must be kept under proper control or be destroyed.

The Minister has asked me to tell you that he considers the existing arrangements provide a balanced and workable regulatory framework for enforcement by local authorities and he does not propose to ban the owning of any particular dog breed at this stage. However, he proposes to review existing control measures to consider, for example, if the micro-chipping of dogs could bring benefits to dog control.

The Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter, the contents of which have been noted.

Yours sincerely,


Cathy Bruton,
Private Secretary