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Finlay Carson  
Convener  
Rural Affairs and Islands Committee  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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19 March 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to make the Rural Affairs and Islands Committee aware of the Scottish Government's is publishing the Code of practice for taking ownership of a puppy or dog as required by the Welfare of Dogs (Scotland) Act on the 19 March 2026.

This has been developed in consultation with relevant stakeholders on the content of the code as required by the legislation. My officials have also worked closely with Christine Grahame on this.

I want to thank all the Committee members for their careful and thoughtful deliberations on this Act when it was making its way through the parliamentary process.

Yours sincerely,



**JIM FAIRLIE**

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