

For Immediate Release

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## **Animal Rescue Home Releases Violent Case Study to Expose Need for Revision of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991**

[The Mayhew Animal Home reveals details of horrific dog abuse and calls for a review of legislation and a study of Canadian and German initiatives](#)

London – Images of a scarred, beaten and burnt dog were today released to the press by The Mayhew Animal Home in Kensal Green to highlight the immediate need for a review of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and tighter monitoring of dog sales. It is possible in the UK to purchase a dog without any checks carried out to ensure a potential owner is suitable. Websites like Gumtree and free ads in newspapers like Loot mean advertised animals can be obtained for any purpose. Purposes like dog-fighting and baiting mean a listed puppy can become a disposable commodity for dog-fighters and is likely to be dead before a year old.

The dog featured in the photograph is assumed to have been the victim of dog-fighting activities, due to the severity and pattern of the injuries. The animal was dumped at The Mayhew Animal Home covered in deep scars, burns and with a ten-inch abscess on its back after being repeatedly beaten. Although it is assumed these injuries came as a result of involvement with dog-fighting, it is impossible to establish anything one hundred percent, due to the underground nature of these activities. This case study presents a concrete reason why The Mayhew is calling for preventative measures to be created to protect animals being purchased by people who are capable of such shocking abuse.

*“To see this sort of violence against an animal is horrifying but it certainly isn’t an isolated case. The greater horror, however, is that whoever beat this poor dog half to death can freely go out and obtain another puppy on the same day, no questions asked.” Said The Mayhew CEO, Caroline Yates. “There needs to be a high priority placed on serious revisions of this legislation immediately in order to address how this rapid exchange of animals can be prevented. To know that the person responsible for this extreme cruelty could already have another dog, or more, in their custody is truly terrifying.”*

This shocking case study is representative of many animal welfare cases arriving at rescue centres and the police are seizing dogs on a regular basis across the country after they are identified as a Section 1 breed. After creating an act specifically to eradicate ownership of these animals it appears little has changed –except the legal consequences, which appear to hold little deterrent. These animals are still being found beaten and abused and no effective, preventative measures made. Countries like Canada and Germany have licensing programmes in place to ensure that a tighter control is placed on breeding and taxes from the Canadian programme are re-distributed to local animal shelters and warden facilities.

*“ Caroline Yates added: “Section 1 breeds, as they are classified, are certainly not always aggressive dogs so instead of measures to destroy these animals more must be done to prevent people in the UK breeding litters and selling them on, with no idea of what will happen to them.”*

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For more information about The Mayhew Animal Home, the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 and the specific abuse case mentioned, please contact Sarah Dickinson, Media Officer at [sarah@mayhewanimalhome.org](mailto:sarah@mayhewanimalhome.org), or 0208 968 2443