THE KENNEL CLUB’S GUIDE TO A SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH PARLIAMENTARY REPRESENTATIVES

Attending the surgery of your Member of Parliament at Westminster (MP), Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP), Welsh Assembly Member (AM), or Northern Ireland Member of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) will be the most powerful way of making them aware of pressing canine issues, enabling them to be taken up in parliament much more efficiently.

Most parliamentary representatives hold surgeries where constituents can meet them face-to-face. Sometimes notices of surgeries appear in local newspapers, but if not you can contact your MP, MSP, AM or MLA’s office directly to book your appointment in advance.

FIVE STEPS TO SUCCESS:

1. **Preparation is key**
   Make a list of questions/topic areas that you want to discuss with your parliamentary representative. Go armed with facts and figures to support your argument. You should also take a notepad and pen to write down any important points for reference.

2. **Be direct**
   Introduce yourself and what you are there to discuss. State your concerns clearly, countering any opposing points that they may make. Do not become emotional – you will make a stronger argument by being calm and reasonable throughout.

3. **Listen and respond constructively**
   Once you have made your position, allow your MP/MSP/AM/MLA to present you with his/hers. Listen carefully for areas of agreement and disagreement, always be positive and try to ask questions that will probe their personal viewpoint rather than that of their party.

4. **Be aware of time**
   Stick to the issue and try not to get sidetracked into general debate - you will have a limited amount of time with him/her and it is important to make sure you get across all the points you wish to make.

5. **At the end of the meeting and beyond…**
   Thank them for the meeting, summarise your discussion and outline the steps you can take going forward. Let them know that they can contact you in the future to discuss the issue further.

   Follow up the meeting by writing a thank you letter, summarising your visit and any actions that your MP/MSP/AM/MLA has offered to take. You could also contact them again after a month to see what progress has been made. This will also help to keep the issue fresh in their mind.

Useful links:
- Find your MP via: [www.theyworkforyou.com](http://www.theyworkforyou.com)
- Find your MSP via: [www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/32438.aspx](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/help/32438.aspx)
- Find your AM via: [www.assemblywales.org/memhome.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/memhome.htm)
- Find your MLA via: [www.nidirect.gov.uk/find-your-local-mla](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/find-your-local-mla)

For further information or advice, please contact the Kennel Club Public Affairs department on 020 7518 1020, or email: denisa.delic@thekennelclub.org.uk