

PE2058/I: Require all dog boarding kennels to install smoke detectors, smoke alarms and sprinkler systems

Petitioner written submission, 22 January 2025

I have looked at all the written submissions attached to the petition and appreciate the input from all organisations.

I accept and understand that there may be cost and logistical issues in the fitting of sprinkler systems and this may be prohibitive to small businesses. I also understand that some older buildings may not be able to accommodate this.

However, I would urge the Committee to ensure more robust requirements are put in place for boarding kennels, and that the Animal Boarding Establishments 1963 Act is revoked and they are instead regulated under The Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021.

At present, all that is required for fire safety to be given a dog boarding licence by the council is a fire extinguisher. That is all! The boarding kennels where the fire occurred was licenced by East Renfrewshire Council. A fire extinguisher is of no use if a fire breaks out overnight or if the owners are not alerted to the fire. In the circumstances of our pets' deaths, an early warning system, smoke detector, heat detector or alert to the owners would have given the dogs a chance to be freed into the surrounding field. However, the fire was burning for several hours before the emergency services or kennel owners were alerted and tragically the dogs had perished by then.

I do not want any other family to go through the pain and torment that we all have. The death of our beloved pets was so traumatic for us never mind the poor wee souls who died in such a horrendous manner.

Thank you for considering this petition.