

Shut down puppy farmer was part-owner of famous horse, Forpadydeplasterer

North Cork dog breeder got large inheritance from her father in 2016

By Niamh Walsh

A DOG breeder whose puppy farm was shut down after it was found to pose a 'serious and immediate threat to animal welfare' inherited a substantial share of her father's €11.6m estate and is a well-known figure in elite horse racing circles.

Anne Broderick, 51, of The Hermitage in Doneraile, Co. Cork has a licence to breed 50 dogs.

But inspectors say they found 218 dogs and pups crammed into tiny cages with no access to water on her estate, which includes an impressive manor house. They reported that, in some cases dogs were

'Fearful and abnormal behaviour'

found eating their own faeces.

The closure order was issued under the Dog Breed Establishments Act (2010) after inspectors discovered a litany of issues at Ms Broderick's premises.

The closure order outlined how inspectors visited the establishment on December 12 last after the breeder failed to comply with the terms of a Dog Breeding Establishment Order and an Animal Health and Welfare Notice issued the previous month.

The order gave four reasons for the closure order, the first being the 'failure to provide suitable accommodation in respect of size of quarters, number of dogs, cleanliness, exercise facilities, temperature requirements and beds'.

During their visit, inspectors found dogs and puppies confined in 'undersized' kennels without proper bedding in sub-zero temperatures. There was no

water in two pens into which 14 dogs were crammed.

Two adult German Shepherd dogs were confined to a 6sq.m kennel, far short of the legal size requirement, and 'walking in their own faeces'. A Labrador bitch and cocker spaniel were similarly confined in tiny kennels.

According to the closure order, dogs were found eating faeces and 'a strong smell' of urine was evident.

It said some dogs displayed 'fearful and abnormal behaviour' due to their neglected state.

Some animals were 'severely matted' and the puppy farm was 'inadequately staffed'.

Inspectors found Ms Broderick also failed to 'present treatment

records for dogs' when requested and was unable to provide records of 'births, dog identification, sales/transfer records'.

The report claimed the puppy farm operator failed to comply

'Serious and immediate threat to animal welfare'

with previous notices issued to her, and so a closure notice was issued citing a 'serious and immediate threat to animal welfare'.

Ms Broderick has lodged an appeal against the closure order to the District Court.



CLOSED: Dog breeder Anne Broderick's puppy farm housed 218 animals

WINNERS: Syndicate members, including Anne Broderick, circled, celebrate Forpadydeplasterer's win in the Arkle Challenge in 2009

The puppy farm operator is well-known in horse racing circles. She also owns racehorses and has bred and trained some for point-to-point races.

She bred and bought a 1% share for €1,500 in 'Forpadydeplasterer', which won the Arkle Trophy at Cheltenham in 2009 and accumulated €472,000 in winnings for his owners.

Ms Broderick told a newspaper at the time that she bought her first mare, 'when I was only in Inter Cert. I had a couple of cattle and swapped them... that's how I got into horses.'

According to property register records, in May 2018 half of her late father John Broderick's interest in The Hermitage, including 50 acres of land, was transferred into her ownership under the Succession Act after he died in 2016, leaving €11.06m in his will. The Hermitage is also the licensed address of the puppy farm that has been issued with a closure notice.

The same month she was listed as

full owner of large tracts of land at Ardnageehy. The previous year she was also listed as being full owner of 50 acres of land at Skahanagh in north Co. Cork.

Ms Broderick was first listed on Cork's Dog Breeding Establishment Register in 2014.

She advertises puppies for sale on the North Cork Kennels website from a 'registered family-owned breeder for 20 years', boasting of the 'best conditions with large green areas.'

Although no prices were visible, the breed of pups – Cockapoos, Mal-shis, Cavachons – she advertised were listed for sale on other sites for €2,000 each during the pandemic. Visitors to the North Cork Kennels site this weekend were informed it was 'temporarily closed', although no reason was given.

Ms Broderick did not respond to requests for comment.

Cork County Council also did not respond to queries.

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Assaulted garda hospitalised with bite injuries

A GARDA suffered serious injuries after he was assaulted while responding to a report of dangerous driving yesterday morning. The incident occurred at Gulliver's Retail Park in Ballymun, north Dublin, at about 11.30am.

It is understood the garda was injured after being attacked while arresting a man.

The officer appears to have been bitten in the attack and sustained serious injuries to his hand and fingers. He was taken to James Connolly Hospital in Blanchardstown

By Colm McGuirk

where he was treated for his injuries.

A man in his 30s was arrested and taken to Ballymun Garda Station where he was being detained last night.

Interim Justice Minister Simon Harris condemned the attack yesterday. He tweeted: 'My thoughts are with the Garda member who was seriously injured today, and I encourage any witnesses to the

appalling incident to come forward as @gardainfo have called for. We must always remember the dangers gardaí face when doing their job in keeping us all safe.'

A Garda spokesperson said: 'Gardaí are appealing to anyone who may have witnessed this incident to come forward. Any road users who were in the area between 10.30am and noon, who may have camera footage (including dash cam) are asked to make it available to investigating gardaí.'

'Anyone with any information can contact Ballymun Garda Station on 01 666 4400, the Garda Confidential Line on 1800 666 111, or any Garda station.'

The attack comes after figures published earlier this week revealed that 243 members of An Garda Síochána were assaulted since 2021.

GRA spokesman Garda Damien McCarthy said the issue of assaults on members of the force has been getting worse, with an increase of 17% in attacks since 2021.

By Niamh Walsh

GARDAÍ will have the power to seize dogs whose ears have been cropped to make them look more ferocious as part of a new clampdown on rogue breeders, the Irish Mail on Sunday has learned.

At present it is illegal to dock or crop a canine's ears – a barbaric procedure often carried out on pit bull terriers, some of whom are cruelly bred to participate in illegal dog fights.

Earlier this month, the MoS revealed how beefed-up pit bull crossbreed dogs, similar to the one that recently savaged nine-year-old Alejandro Mizsan in Co. Wexford are advertised as 'family and child-

'The dogs are listed for sale at up to €20,000'

friendly pets' by breeders who are registered and fully approved by the Department of Agriculture.

The dogs – which one breeder described as being like 'a pit bull on steroids' and 'all muscle' – weigh up to 65kg and are listed for sale on one website at up to €20,000.

Following widespread calls to tighten laws around the control of dogs in the wake of the Wexford attack, Agriculture Minister Charlie McConalogue admitted more needs to be done to enforce existing laws. He also said he would be coordinating with other ministers on legislation and enforcement surrounding dogs and owners.

In response to queries from the MoS, Minister McConalogue's department confirmed one of the new measures will be a clampdown on the practice of ear cropping.

Gardaí set to have power to seize dogs whose ears are cropped

A spokesman said a statutory instrument or executive order is being drafted that will give An Garda Síochána the power to seize dogs with cropped ears.

A senior animal welfare industry source said they warned the minister this change to the law was urgently needed eight months ago. The source said: 'It took a child having his face ripped apart before the department even acknowledged the problem, which is directly in the remit of his department.'

According to Section 16 of the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013, it is illegal for anyone to 'carry out, cause or permit' ear cropping, a procedure which

involves the removal of ear tissue and bone structure, which causes the animal immense pain.

However, it is not illegal to own a dog with cropped ears, a loophole that allows owners of

'Some of these breeders are on official register'

certain aggressive breeds, often used for dog fighting, to escape prosecution.

Meanwhile, the Department of Agriculture has also confirmed that not a single prosecution has

been secured under 2019 laws regulating the sale of dogs – despite being furnished with hundreds of adverts taken out by rogue breeders that are clearly in breach of the legislation.

The MoS has learned several animal welfare industry figures furnished the department with the phone numbers and email addresses of sellers advertising dogs with no microchip or registration numbers, but no action was taken.

One source said: 'Some of these breeders are on his [Minister McConalogue's] own department's approved register of sellers, but now he's highlighting the need for tighter controls because of the

public outrage following the most recent attack.'

While no prosecutions have been taken against breeders in breach of the legislation, the department did confirm that 'two registrations have been revoked'.

However, these registrations were revoked after the MoS informed the department it had approved these sellers despite the fact that it had previously prosecuted the same breeders for animal welfare breaches.

The department also previously admitted that 'no prior checks are carried out' on breeders registered on its 'approved' list.

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NEW LAWS: Clampdown is aimed at rogue dog breeders who illegally crop dogs ears to look like this







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