



To whom it may concern

Efforts to stop the cruelty to animals are starting to work

During recent inspections, vets from the Greenland Home Rule have been able to see signs that efforts to stop cruelty to animals are starting to bear fruit. "We are noticing that dogs are generally looking much better and well fed. When we look at packs which previously had animal welfare issues, we can see that people have either started to look after their animals better, or that they have stopped keeping dogs entirely," say vets in Greenland.

"However, there are still cases where things are not as they should be and here we must issue orders or report the matter to the police. In many cases we do this on site, as inspections are often carried out in collaboration with the police".

Many initiatives have been carried out during 2007 in connection with the Home Rule's action plan on mistreatment of sled dogs. Throughout the summer, TV spots have been shown on how to look after dogs and feed them. Vets from Ilulissat have written articles on how to look after dogs in newspapers and they have held meetings with citizens during their inspection trips. Member of the Greenland Home Rule Government has held meetings with Slædehundekuskenes forening (an association of sled-dog drivers) and the municipalities in order to secure a consensus on the initiatives, and vets and the police have stepped up inspection work and follow-up on specific cases. Therefore it is satisfying to see that work is now bearing fruit, although efforts in the area remain necessary and these will continue.

Abroad, absurd accusations have been spread on the internet by animal rights activists. There have been claims that it is everyday practice to throw dogs out of windows, to then be shot by gun-toting children. This is a strange and unproven claim and according to the vets such circumstances has never occurred in Greenland. The Greenland Home Rule stress that they condemn all cruelty to animals.

There are also internet pages claiming to show dogs in Greenland, despite the fact there are large trees in the background. It is well known that no trees grow in the Greenland sled-dog area. Although these claims are clearly wrong, they demonstrate that people from abroad are concerned about our dogs, and we are grateful for this concern. Positive interest for our dogs is very welcome, and everyone is welcome to visit Greenland and experience for themselves a sled-trip in the company of our beautiful dogs.

Yours sincerely,

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