

Dear Julia,

We are writing to you to raise our grave concerns about an event which is being promoted through your platform, Eventbrite.

You may be aware that the event, which is hosted by an American named Jeff Gellman who claims to be a dog trainer, has attracted much attention and concern from the general public.

He is due to run training seminars in both Perthshire and Manchester. A number of videos posted on social media show Gellman physically abusing dogs, including striking one with a rolled-up towel.

We believe these methods are outdated and cause unnecessary fear and suffering. As Scotland's animal welfare charity, we know what it takes to prepare dogs with behavioural issues for rehoming. Animals should be trained with patience, kindness and respect – not made to feel threatened and left cowering in fear.

Mr Gellman has already admitted live on BBC Scotland's 'The Nine' programme that he intends to use these methods when he comes to Scotland. In our view, this shows an admission of intent to harm animals and should the event go ahead in August we will consider what actions we can take in the coming months.

As the only animal charity in the UK recognised as a reporting agency to the Crown Office, should evidence arise which shows Jeff Gellman has harmed an animal whilst in Scotland, we will not hesitate to investigate him and this may lead to a prosecution.

In the meantime, we have advised the general public not to attend his seminar due to welfare concerns.

We would ask that you consider removing this event from your listings to send a clear message to Mr Gellman that this brand of so-called training is not welcome in the UK and that Eventbrite will not provide a platform to events where the host openly admits to hitting dogs.

Yours sincerely,



Kirsteen Campbell
CEO
Scottish SPCA