



THE ITALIAN SPINONE SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND (ISSS)

To Whom It May Concern,

The Italian Spinone Society of Scotland (ISSS) recognises the invaluable work of Spinone Overseas for Adoption (SOFA) in rescuing Spinoni from Italy and rehoming them responsibly across the UK, including in Scotland.

We support SOFA's efforts to protect the welfare of this breed, particularly their rescue of adult, working-bred Spinoni who have been previously docked in their country of origin. These dogs face a genuine welfare risk if they are unable to be rehomed in the UK.

We confirm that:

- Docking in this breed abroad is carried out for working purposes, not cosmetic reasons.
- There is no demand in the UK for cosmetically docked Spinoni.
- The UK has very few Spinoni in shelters, thanks to responsible breeders and rehoming organisations.
- A small, specialist, registered charity like SOFA provides a genuine welfare service for the breed.
- An exemption is essential to allow a workable solution for the rescue of these dogs.

The ISSS particularly values SOFA's work in Scotland. Many SOFA dogs participate in the Highland Spinone Walks, and we have adopters, supporters, and volunteers within our club who have directly benefitted from their expertise and dedication. SOFA consistently demonstrates high standards in rehoming, home checking, and welfare support.

We fully support SOFA's request to be consulted during the drafting of secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill, in order to secure a narrow, responsible exemption that protects the welfare of Spinoni and maintains this important welfare bridge with Scotland

Signed, Victoria Ciesielski

Victoria Ciesielski

President

Italian Spinone Society of Scotland, Date: 27/10/2025

Jane Smith

Jane Smith, Vice President Italian Spinone Society of Scotland Date: 27/10/2025