



Subject: Support for Spinone Overseas for Adoption (SOFA)

The Northern Italian Spinone Association (NISA) warmly recognises the important work of Spinone Overseas for Adoption (SOFA) in rescuing Spinoni from Italy and rehoming them responsibly in the UK.

We endorse SOFA's rescue efforts for adult, working-bred Spinoni who have previously been docked in their country of origin. Without access to rehoming in the UK, these dogs face serious welfare risks, due to the almost purely working use of the breed in Italy.

We confirm that:

- Tail docking in this breed is carried out for working purposes, not for cosmetic reasons.
- There is no demand in the UK for docked Spinoni as a matter of fashion.
- Very very few Spinoni are found in UK shelters, thanks to responsible breeders and breed-specific rehoming organisations.
- SOFA, as a small, specialist charity, provides an essential welfare service for the breed.
- An exemption is crucial to enable this registered charity to continue to operate.

NISA has a long-standing connection with SOFA, including supporting home checks and meeting dogs in their care. Over the years, we have observed SOFA's consistent professionalism, thoroughness, and dedication to the welfare of Spinoni.

We are fully supportive of SOFA being consulted during the drafting of secondary legislation under the Animal Welfare (Import of Dogs, Cats and Ferrets) Bill. Ensuring a carefully defined, responsible exemption will protect the welfare of Spinoni in need and maintain this essential rescue pathway.

Signed,

Suzanne Whittingham
President, Northern Italian Spinone Association
Date: 17th November 2025

Suzanne Whittingham

Olwen McGregor
Honorary Secretary, Northern Italian Spinone
Association Date: 17th November 2025

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