

Proposed Responsible Breeding and Ownership of Dogs (Scotland) Bill

Page 1: Introduction

A Proposal for a Bill to improve the health and wellbeing of dogs throughout their lives by strengthening the regulation of the activity of breeding, and of selling or transferring puppies, and by establishing a more responsible and informed approach to acquiring and owning a puppy or dog. The consultation runs from 4 May 2018 to 30 July 2018 All those wishing to respond to the consultation are strongly encouraged to enter their responses electronically through this survey. This makes collation of responses much simpler and quicker. However, the option also exists of sending in a separate response (in hard copy or by other electronic means such as e-mail), and details of how to do so are included in the member's consultation document. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) require an answer All responses must include a name and contact details. Names will only be published if you give us permission, and contact details are never published – but we may use them to contact you if there is a query about your response. If you do not include a name and/or contact details, we may have to disregard your response. Please note that you must complete the survey in order for your response to be accepted. If you don't wish to complete the survey in a single session, you can choose "Save and Continue later" at any point. Whilst you have the option to skip particular questions, you must continue to the end of the survey and press "Submit" to have your response fully recorded. Please ensure you have read the consultation document before responding to any of the questions that follow. In particular, you should read the information contained in the document about how your response will be handled. The consultation document is available here: [Consultation document Privacy Notice](#)

I confirm that I have read and understood the Privacy Notice attached to this consultation which explains how my personal data will be used

Page 2: About you

Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?

on behalf of an organisation

Which of the following best describes you? (If you are a professional or academic, but not in a subject relevant to the consultation, please choose "Member of the public".)

No Response

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government/Government agency, local authority, NDPB)

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what the organisation does, its experience and expertise in the subject-matter of the consultation, and how the view expressed in the response was arrived at (e.g. whether it is the view of particular office-holders or has been approved by the membership as a whole).
Local Authority - Community Safety and Protection, Dundee City Council

Please choose one of the following:

Please choose one of the following:

I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation

Please provide your name or the name of your organisation. This will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication". Otherwise this is the name that will be published with your response.

Dundee City Council

Please provide details of a way in which we can contact you if there are queries regarding your response. Email is preferred but you can also provide a postal address or phone number. We will not publish these details.

Page 8: A - Reducing the threshold for a breeding licence to three litters a year

Q1. Which of the following best describes your view of reducing the threshold for a breeding licence from five to three litters in a twelve month period?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any advantages or disadvantages.

The proposed Bill should significantly improve existing controls particularly in relation to puppy farmers posing as "hobby breeders".

Page 9: B - Extending the breeding licence regime to any form of transfer, not only sale

Q2. Which of the following best describes your view of requiring people to be licensed as breeders even if they do not sell their puppies, but transfer them/give them away?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages.

This should also discourage puppy farming. Irresponsible breeders may carry on as they are doing until they are caught.

Page 10: C - Introducing a temporary registration scheme for those that breed fewer than three litters a year

Q3. Which of the following best describes your view of introducing a temporary registration scheme for those breeding one or two litters in a 12 month period who wish to sell or transfer their puppies?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages.

The online registration scheme would significantly strengthen control over the breeding of puppies. To further strengthen it a registration number should be included in the puppy's microchip information. The person who inserts the microchip should have a legal duty to ensure that the breeder's details are accurate.

Q4. Under the proposal, someone with only one or two litters in a 12 month period found to be selling or transferring puppies without completing an online temporary registration would be committing an offence and may be liable to pay a fine. Which of the following best describes your view on this?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages.

Issuing a fine is more pragmatic than prosecution but the collection of fines is likely to be problematic.

Page 11: D - Ensuring future health and welfare needs of dogs through a more responsible and informed approach to acquiring and owning a puppy/dog

Q5. Which of the following best describes your view of creating an obligation on prospective owners to consider carefully a set of questions related to their capacity to take on a puppy/dog?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages.

Makes sense, particularly in relation to the length of time the dog is left on its own. Potential noise nuisance is a factor to neighbours. Such information and points to be considered already exist on Dundee City Council's website at so you think you want a puppy dog?:

<https://www.dundee.gov.uk/sites/default/files/So%20You%20Think%20YOU.pdf>

Q6. Which of the following best describes your view of placing an obligation on the breeder/keeper of a dog to check that any prospective owner is aware that they should have considered these questions?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages

In theory, this is a positive thing for the breeder to do and shows they have concern for the puppy after leaving its mother. The client may not have considered all questions in a realistic manner.

Q7. Which of the following best describes your view of obliging anyone acquiring a puppy from a breeder in Scotland to check that the breeder is licensed or registered?

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Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages

Easy way for the public and local authorities to check whether the breeder is licensed or temporarily registered. There should be a Scottish database that has to be administered centrally but updated by local authorities.

Page 12: Financial impact

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

	Significant increase in cost	Some increase in cost	Broadly cost neutral	Some reduction in cost	Significant reduction in cost	Unsure
(a) Local authorities		X				
(b) Dog breeders		X				
(c) General public (including dog owners)			X			
(d) Police and animal welfare organisations			X			

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Should prevent problems associated with irresponsible breeders and free up time and resources to address more complex cases.

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Unsure

Page 13: Equalities

Q10. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): age, disability, gender re-assignment, marriage and civil partnership, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Page 14: Sustainability

Q11. Do you consider that the proposed Bill can be delivered sustainably i.e. without having likely future disproportionate economic, social and/or environmental impacts?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

There will be costs associated with an increase in the number of breeders who will now need to be licenced however some hobby breeders may reduce the number of litters to avoid the need to become licenced. However, the temporary registration scheme should appeal to these breeders as it is low cost and easy to register. Local authorities' costs are already stretched.

Page 15: General

Q12. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

The temporary registration scheme should allocate a number which should be included in the microchip details. Any vet administering the microchip should have responsibility to complete the details of the owner/breeder and be provided with the temporary registration scheme number. If none is provided, the owner/breeder should be reported to the local authority by the vet.

Q13. Could the aims of the Bill be better delivered in another way (rather than by means of a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

No

Please explain the reasons for your response

A voluntary scheme wouldn't work.