

# 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?

an individual

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".)

Member of the public

**Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:**

As a long-term owner of working dogs (ie Springer Spaniels) I am aware of, and have noted colleagues problems with dogs bought from supposedly reliable breeders and personally through a purchase of a dog ( a pedigree with relevant papers) which later transpired had been bred too closely to a specific line of dogs which then translated later in life to problems with the dog and which appeared to be a common problem amongst other purchasers of such dogs.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

*No Response*

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.

Brian Hay

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.**

Health of breeding dogs.

## 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?

Partially supportive

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

Irrespective of who breeds dogs, any litters need to be vet checked PRIOR to passing to new owners to prevent later-life illnesses.

## 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.**

Previous reasons to Q2 applies - ie health of dogs requiring prior vet check before being passed to new owners.

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.**

As per Q2.

## 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.**

May stop the 'Christmas Dog' being purchased without due prior consideration being given to encourage responsible ownership. To include such Q's as 'Vet checks'; 'keeping dogs fit and healthy'; 'dedicating time to dog'; 'insurance'; 'legal responsibility of owning a dog'.

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**

As per 5 above.

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?

Fully supportive

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?

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

However, there needs to be easy access to licenced/registered breeders lists online - perhaps with level of dog responsibility - eg breeder and trainer; private (individual/home) breeder. I would hope that 'licenced/registered' indicated that the breeder has been checked before inclusion in such lists? However, where someone is passing on dogs from a home litter, checking might not be viable other than them having to complete a statement (online?) to this effect and that dogs have been vet checked and ready for passing on. Breeders need to confirm that they are insured so that dogs which develop later problems (within reason) can be returned - for remedy/vet bills or reimbursement.

**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.**

I would expect there is a cost for such things as time dedicated to checking/registering breeders, preparation and management of online systems, etc though there may well be a reduction in costs over the longer term relating to animal welfare. Local authorities generally currently have 'Dog Wardens' and may also have Housing Wardens who work in unison with Police in dealing with complaints about unruly animals, and registering/checking might reduce this particular aspect of their work.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Largely as per 8 above.

**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?

Positive

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

Whoever breeds/passes on dogs, irrespective of equality, age, etc, will be required to take responsible actions when dealing with dogs.

## 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?

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response.**

There will be running costs but animal health and ensuring irresponsible breeders will be obligated to act responsibly will surely lead to an overall increase in Government action in ensuring responsible dog ownership/breeding.

## Page 15: General

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

Long overdue.

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

Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Not enough knowledge of Parliamentary procedures to make comment.