

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

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

Job as secondary school teacher who has bred one pedigree litter with all pups KC registered and in new homes after 10 weeks.

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

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.

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.

If breeders are fully caring for the new puppies and mothers, ensuring dogs are healthy and going to good homes, then it would not be feasible to do this more than three times a year at a push. Keeping puppies healthy and happy is a round the clock task which requires dedication and creates exhaustion by the time the pups are going to a forever home. This is enjoyable exhaustion as they are happy pets, but I would argue that anyone who could sustain this level of care for several puppies at 5 points in the year (8 weeks each time) would not be able to provide pups with a good start, as they would be exhausted and their home environment would be stressful.

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.

We have not become licensed breeders as we are not sure how the process works but would welcome this. We have viewed litters and bought pups from unlicensed breeders which were in a safe and loving home environment, and have witnessed so called licenced breeders who are running operations which are effectively puppy farms.

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

I would need further info on this, the pros and cons and be sure this could not be exploited by individuals for their own gain.

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?

Partially opposed

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

Many breeders of our breed are older and find KC website and online tasks more difficult. This could perhaps penalise them, and it is this group who keep our endangered breed going. Perhaps if there was a dedicated telephone operator at KC. At the very least communication to clubs and societies would need to be clear to ensure the service was well used and successful.

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.

This is already done by all good breeders. The onus should be on the breeders to do this and to judge prospective owners fairly on all parties: the pup and the potential new owners. Prospective owners could do this before looking, but are unlikely to admit to others and themselves they are unsuitable (from my experience) as they are excited to get a puppy and don't want to be disappointed.

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 stated above this should be done by breeders already. Those not asking questions already clearly do not

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?

have the pups best interest at heart.

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?

Partially supportive

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

This is something most responsible prospective owners do already. The main issue is people who are not responsible owners or breeders getting a puppy. Legislation would force people to be better educated, but it must not penalise good unregistered breeders by being unaccessible or administrativly heavy.

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.

New owners who buy certain breeds which sadly incur more of the issued addressed in this bill, will usually pay the same as they would for a good pedigree dog from a good breeder. Police and animal welfare stand to save as dogs which have significant health problems would be reduced due to better regulated breeding programmes. Breeders would have a new bill for temporary registration which would incur cost.

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

Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Advertising campaigning to educate people on the process of dog owning and selecting a good breeder would

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

be a good way to start changing attitudes and make long term change.

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?

Slightly negative

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I worry that some traditional breeders would struggle with a change in administration and hope that there will be an option to register and gain recognition other than just online.

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

Page 15: General

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

No Response

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