

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

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

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

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 would ensure that breeders are known and can therefore be inspected by the authorities. Standards can be upheld to make sure the animals are well cared for and not over bred. It also would prevent breeders from staying out of sight and not registering by, for example, saying they are giving away a 'free puppy' when in actual fact although this could be true, they neglect to mention its a free puppy but only if accompanied by the purchase of "a pencil for £500 from the breeder" or some other underhand way of charging interested customers in order to still get the money for the puppy without breaking the law but remaining unregistered. The proposal to make them all register solved this problem.

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

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?

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

I would have everyone breeding or indeed owning a dog to register if I could, however the above proposal is an improvement on what currently exists.

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.

it would have to be a significantly large fine, and word would have to spread that this was indeed being enforced, in order for the unscrupulous breeder to respect the proposed law once in force. Puppies can easily sell for around £500 x 3 of a litter, so the fine would have to be more than that or the risk may still be worth taking, especially if no custodial option exists.

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.

Some people don't have a clue about animal welfare and I would go even further if possible than the above proposals..

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

I support this but customers could easily say all the right things but not do any of them. Many people still say they work part time in order to get a puppy but in actual fact they work all day and have no plans to change this, they just want a puppy and are selfish and ignorant of its needs. How could a breeder check this out? Questions such as "have you considered which vet you will use" the answer could be yes, the local one. Until they realise the prices and suddenly a small injury just gets left uncared for in the hope it will clear up in order to avoid a £25 consultation fee. Not to mention operations not being done when required as someone didn't realise that a dog broken leg can cost over £1k to fix and they didn't bother with the "unnecessary" expense of insurance cover prior.

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

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

It should definitely be required and carry a large fine for those who do not check.

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.

local authorities would have to keep records. dog breeders wouldn't make as much profit as they would breed fewer litters and therefore not sell as many puppies general public may not pay more, but dog buyers would as breeders would still want to make good profits from fewer pups so the price would rise, which is good. police, courts, potentially prisons and animal welfare charities would have increased costs enforcing this legislation.

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.

Bring back the dog licence and make it an annual thing, which can be paid monthly. this would create a funding source which could be used to offset any costs (except those incurred by the breeders, I refer to the local authorities, animal welfare charities etc)

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.

Depends if there is any way of getting money back from dog buyers, such as a dog licence or other means.

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