

## QUESTIONS

### ABOUT YOU

**1. Are you responding as:**

- an individual – in which case go to Q2A  
 on behalf of an organisation? – in which case go to Q2B

**2A. 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".)**

- Politician (MSP/MP/peer/MEP/Councillor)  
 Professional with experience in a relevant subject  
 Academic with expertise in a relevant subject  
 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:

**2B. Please select the category which best describes your organisation:**

- Public sector body (Scottish/UK Government or agency, local authority, NDPB)  
 Commercial organisation (company, business)  
 Representative organisation (trade union, professional association)  
 Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)  
 Other (e.g. clubs, local groups, groups of individuals, etc.)

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).

**3. Please choose one of the following:**

- I am content for this response to be published and attributed to me or my organisation
- I would like this response to be published anonymously
- I would like this response to be considered, but not published ("not for publication")

**Please give a reason why you have requested anonymity or asked for your response not to be published:**

**4. 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(This will not be published if you have asked for the response to be anonymous or "not for publication".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.)

on behalf of East Ayrshire Council

**Please provide 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.)**

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

## YOUR VIEWS ON THE PROPOSAL

### Aim and approach

#### **A - Reducing the threshold for a breeding licence to three litters a year**

1. 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
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

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

This option would provide greater control over smaller breeders, however would not address the issue of sale of puppies from unlicensed breeders or imported dogs, and would place an additional burden on local authorities for regulation and inspection

#### **B - Extending the breeding licence regime to any form of transfer, not only sale**

2. 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
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed

Fully opposed  
 Unsure

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

This would provide greater traceability of animals and would perhaps go some way to imposing additional controls on unlicensed puppy sales

**C - Introducing a temporary registration scheme for those that breed fewer than three litters a year.**

**3. 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
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

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

This would provide an additional control but again would place a burden on local authorities with regard to administration and inspection, which given the possible numbers of breeders involved would be difficult, if not impossible, to police within existing resources

4. 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
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

**Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages.**  
The rationale behind this is agreed but monitoring and policing of this would be difficult if not impossible, except in those circumstances where a complaint was made to the local authority

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

5. 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
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

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

This approach will have an effect on those persons who take a responsible approach to dog ownership and to a large extent would ask themselves these questions in any event, but it is suggested that irresponsible dog owners would be unlikely to consider these when obtaining a dog

**6. 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
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

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

This would be of benefit where the breeder/vendor of the dog is a reputable breeder but will have no effect on "car park" sales of dogs or from other irresponsible breeders

**7. 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
- Partially supportive
- Neutral (neither support nor oppose)
- Partially opposed
- Fully opposed
- Unsure

**Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages.**  
This approach is sensible but would be difficult to achieve in practice other than with reputable breeders

**Financial implications**

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

**(a) Local authorities**

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure

**(b) Dog Breeders**

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure

**(c) General public (including dog owners)**

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure



**(d) ) Police and animal welfare organisations**

- Significant increase in cost
- Some increase in cost
- Broadly cost-neutral
- Some reduction in cost
- Significant reduction in cost
- Unsure

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

**The potential increase in numbers of breeders requiring to be licensed is significant, and the resource implications for local authorities in licensing and policing these breeders may well be beyond existing resources**

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

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

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

**Equalities**

**10. 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, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex, sexual orientation?**

- Positive
- Slightly positive
- Neutral (neither positive nor negative)
- Slightly negative
- Negative
- Unsure

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

**Sustainability**

**11. 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
- No
- Unsure

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

**There would be significant difficulties in enforcement – whisl**

**Ist reputable breeders will continue to conduct their business in a responsible manner the large-scale sale of dogs whose origins are difficult to trace will continue to present issues.**

**General**

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

It is our view that the sale of puppies and adult dogs should only take place from a licensed breeding establishment or premises having a pet shop licence, sale of puppies and dogs by any other route should be made an offence. It should also be the case that where a puppy is sold the mother of the puppies should be present on the premises - it is often the case with sales of puppies from houses or "car park" sales that the mother is absent - this is in itself an indicator that the dog has not been bred or reared in appropriate premises

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

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

**Please explain the reasons for your response.  
Legislation to more strictly control the breeding and sale of dogs, with enforceable offences and penalties is welcomed**

## HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS CONSULTATION

You are invited to respond to this consultation by answering the questions in the consultation and by adding any other comments that you consider appropriate.

### Format of responses

You are encouraged to submit your response via an online survey (Smart Survey) if possible, as this is quicker and more efficient both for you and the Parliament. However, if you do not have online access, or prefer not to use Smart Survey, you may also respond by e-mail or in hard copy.

#### *Online survey*

To respond via online survey, please follow this link:  
<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/ResponsibleBreedingandOwnershipofDogs>

The platform for the online survey is Smart Survey, a third party online survey system enabling the SPCB to collect responses to MSP consultations. Smart Survey is based in the UK and is subject to the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and any other applicable data protection legislation. Any information you send in response to this consultation (including personal data) will be seen by the MSP progressing the Bill and by staff in NGBU.

Further information on the handling of your data can be found in the Privacy Notice, which is available either via the Smart Survey link above, or at the end of this document.

Smart Survey's privacy policy is available here:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/privacy-policy>

#### *Electronic or hard copy submissions*

Responses not made via Smart Survey should, if possible, be prepared electronically (preferably in MS Word). Please keep formatting of this document to a minimum. Please send the document by e-mail (as an attachment, rather than in the body of the e-mail) to:

Christine.Grahame.msp@parliament.scot

Responses prepared in hard copy should either be scanned and sent as an attachment to the above e-mail address or sent by post to:

Christine Grahame MSP  
Room Q2.01,  
Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Responses submitted by e-mail or hard copy may be entered into Smart Survey by my office or by NGBU.

If submitting a response by e-mail or hard copy, please include written confirmation that you have read and understood the Privacy Notice (set out below).

You may also contact my office by telephone on (0131) 348 5729

### **Deadline for responses**

All responses should be received no later than **Monday 30 July 2018**. Please let me know in advance of this deadline if you anticipate difficulties meeting it. Responses received after the consultation has closed will not be included in any summary of responses that is prepared.

### **How responses are handled**

To help inform debate on the matters covered by this consultation and in the interests of openness, please be aware that I would normally expect to publish all responses received (other than "not for publication" responses) on my website <http://christinegrahame.com/>. Published responses (other than anonymous responses) will include the name of the respondent, but other personal data sent with the response (including signatures, addresses and contact details) will not be published.

Where responses include content considered to be offensive, defamatory or irrelevant, my office may contact you to agree changes to the content, or may edit the content itself and publish a redacted version.

Copies of all responses will be provided to the Scottish Parliament's Non-Government Bills Unit (NGBU), so it can prepare a summary that I may then lodge with a final proposal (the next stage in the process of securing the right to introduce a Member's Bill). The Privacy Notice (below) explains more about how the Parliament will handle your response.

If I lodge a final proposal, I will be obliged to provide copies of responses (other than "not for publication" responses) to the Scottish Parliament's Information Centre (SPICe). SPICe may make responses available to MSPs or staff on request.

### **Requests for anonymity or for responses not to be published**

If you wish your response to be treated as anonymous or "not for publication", please indicate this clearly. The Privacy Notice (below) explains how such responses will be handled.

