

# 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).**

We are a local authority Environmental Health Team. We inspect and licence a range of commercial animal premises and investigate animal welfare issues. The views expressed came from a meeting of 5 experienced officers.

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.

Fife 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.**

To ensure the welfare of more breeding bitches. However we feel that this approach is looking at the tip of the iceberg which we think is large scale puppy farms, particularly from outwith Scotland.

## 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.**

This covers the fostering of bitches and ensures that the local authority has knowledge of the breeder and whoever is looking after the pups and bitches.

## 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 opposed

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

We understand that the aim is to locate more people breeding dogs, but it would be an onerous paperwork exercise with no cost recovery, and difficult to enforce. Do breeders register before the litter arrives? What if the litter is already born? The welfare of the pups is then too late.

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 opposed

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

As above.

## 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 opposed

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

We feel that a national campaign on this issue linked to the Code of practice for the welfare of dogs would be a good way to bring this issue to the attention of the general public. This would educate dog owners and non owners alike.

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?

Partially supportive

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

We agree that buyers should carefully consider what is involved in owing a dog and whether they can realistically look after the particular dog that they are choosing. Enforcing this would be a huge burden.

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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Partially opposed

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

We feel that checking this or enforcing it is both unnecessary and undesirable. Registration does not guarantee welfare.

## 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

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.**

We need to tackle the large puppy farms where bitch and pup health and welfare is a huge concern. As previously mentioned, a large scale media campaign is required to deter the public from buying dogs from someone they don't know at a supermarket car park.

## 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?

Unsure

## 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?

We understand the health and welfare concerns but do not feel this is the best way forward. An education campaign for buyers and the general public is essential. We think small scale breeders are being focused on, whereas the scale of the problem is from large scale breeders, particularly from abroad.

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

Yes

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Use of education campaign.