

# 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:**

I am currently employed as MSP staff, however I have many years (over thirty) experience as a Dog Groomer and Trainer. I have also been involved in Dog Showing and Breeding (using my dog at stud) over the years. On the occasions that my dog was used at stud the genetics of both sire and dam were fully explored before any agreement was reached.

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.

Sheena McCulloch

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.**

Personally I would like to see the threshold reduced even further i.e. one litter per year. Any responsible breeder would be happy to register and obtain a licence. Anyone producing more than one litter per year is either running a business or totally irresponsible.

## 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 make breeders and new owners more aware and responsible for the puppy. Could also help to avoid puppies being given to those who really don't want them.

## 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.**  
I have concerns as to how this would be policed.

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.**  
Again I have concerns as to the policing of such legislation.

## 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.**  
Although some people will answer untruthfully, it would, at least, make people aware of what is involved in dog ownership.

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**  
The breeder/keeper of any animal should always be responsible for checking where that animal is being transferred to and that their welfare needs will be met.

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?

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?

Neutral (neither support nor oppose)

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

The majority of the public are not aware that a breeders licence exists. Only breeders who are fully compliant will give out information voluntarily, others will simply ignore.

## 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 anticipate that, after a period of time, Local Authorities would benefit from a reduction in stray dogs with the knock on effect on the work of dog wardens. There would be an initial cost of administering any new legislation but this could be covered by licence fees. Responsible dog breeders would incur a small increase in expenditure but this could easily be offset against any increase in value of livestock. The General public should notice no financial impact. New purchasers may incur a slight increase in price but offset this against the probability of a healthier puppy. Police and animal welfare organisations should benefit from a reduction in stray dogs. I would also anticipate that it would be considerably easier to track where a dog has come from, making it easier to hold owners responsible for the actions of their animals.

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.**

In my opinion savings will result in the long term. Overall savings would depend on setup and running costs.

## 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)

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

Gender, disability and sexual orientation are not relevant in this Bill. There should be no reason for the Bill to impact on equality issues.

## 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.**

My concerns are about how the legislation would be policed.

## Page 15: General

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

Making it easier to track dogs, and making owners/keepers responsible for their animals, along with more responsible breeding could have a positive effect on the number of dog attacks. Reducing the number of dog attacks would have a knock on effect on the NHS.

Responsible ownership can be encouraged by advocating dog training classes.

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

**Please explain the reasons for your response**

Where there is an opportunity for profit, unscrupulous breeders will exploit this. A Bill will make this harder.