

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:

Student of veterinary medicine

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

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.

Conor Crichton

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?

Partially supportive

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

Responsible breeding is a hot topic in the veterinary profession at the moment and I am please to see a politician take this matter seriously. I partially agree with the premise of the proposed bill as outlined by Ms Christine Grahame MSP; however, I believe in order to maximise improvements in animal welfare, a greater degree of stringency should be enforced. Ms Christine Grahame MSP acknowledges that unscrupulous people will still operate irrespective of new legislation. It seems that this amendment attempts to target small scale breeders and owners of family dogs (non-commercial). It is obviously imperative that the number of breeding bitches within a household be considered. I believe that the number of litters should be limited to one annually per entire bitch and that this should be limited to no more than 2 litters per household/owner annually irrespective of the number of entire bitches within that household. I think it is important not only to consider the welfare of puppies, but also that of breeding bitches. I have been in attendance at a small animal veterinary practice since my formative years of High School and now as part of the professional degree course. I visit during holiday time as well as term time (weekends and evenings) and am well accustomed to both the commercial and non-commercial breeder. 414813 bitches are registered in Scotland and 40% of the Scottish canine population are neutered [1]. Non-commercial breeders are often unaware of the challenges, health risks and financial implications involved in breeding their bitch. Many are severely inexperienced and do not do a sufficient level of research before deciding to breed. This can lead to poor standards of welfare for the both the bitch and the puppies. The veterinary profession is proud to support improvements in animal welfare and I therefore, strongly believe that this issue should also be addressed in your amendment. I strongly urge that Ms Christine Grahame MSP make contact with the British Veterinary Association (BVA) and British Small Animal Veterinary Association (BSAVA) if she has not already done so in order to seek advice for her suggestion and consider those which I have outlined also. It is refreshing to hear a politician engaged in animal welfare and I thank Ms Christine Grahame MSP for her work thus far. I strongly recommend her to reconsider the degree to which she plans on reducing the threshold for a breeding license and consider the other factors which I have highlighted. Once again, Thank you, CS Crichton. 1. <https://www.rvc.ac.uk/vetcompass/learn-zone/infographics/uk>

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.

I understand that there is no 'official' monetary transaction but please consider the following scenarios: The welfare of the bitch may still be compromised irrespective of whether the breeder receives or does not receive payment Breeder may not register a monetary transfer Payment may be made by other means other than financial transaction

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?

Partially supportive

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

I think this will at least give local authorities and the Scottish Government some idea of scale and scope for improvement

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.

Providing the amendment to the legislation is well advertised and other means other than electronic registration are available I see no issue with this proposition.

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?

Partially supportive

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?

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

Again, I have seen enough small animal practice to appreciate the magnitude of the problem whereby dogs are treated as commodities. I believe asking people to consider carefully whether they are adept to take on a puppy/dog is a step in the right direction; however, this will not stop those who are completely hellbent on obtaining a puppy/dog.

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

Most responsible breeders already engage with this concept and many see it as their responsibility to ensure prospective owners have carefully considered the implications involved with dog ownership. I would find it alarming if breeders did not suitably question prospective owners and I believe that this is one of the hallmarks of responsible breeding.

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

I fully support this notion. I do believe that prospective owners should study their situation carefully and consider the source of the puppy and legitimacy of the breeder.

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			

Q8. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Cost to local authorities: I do not foresee any obvious means by which costs to local authorities may change. The cost of puppy registrations should cover the cost to maintain the database and any funds generated from increases in breeding license registrations should cover costs of staff time (administrative/inspector) Dog breeders, police and animal welfare organisations: I do not think that dog breeders, police or animal welfare organisation should incur any change to costs General public (including dog owners): It is likely that any costs incurred by dog breeders (puppy registration and licensing fees) will be added to the costs of the puppy These are likely to be negligible and have no effect on the saleability of puppies

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.

I do believe that the penalty for failing to register puppies (£200) is lenient and suggest that this should be increased to (£500). Give the value of a single animal, this seems reasonable in my view.

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?

Yes

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