

# 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 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.

Mirabelle Maslin

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.**

The reduction is sensible, but the change should also involve appropriate inspection/monitoring to be effective.

## 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.**

It is very important for each canine to have something akin to an animal passport - which would be a document that logged all owners and locations where the dog has lived.

## 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.**

Tracking the movements of every dog would be sensible. The above situation refers to a particular set of circumstances.

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.**

Issues of animal safety and welfare should be taken seriously as they are an indicator of attitudes towards life itself.

## 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.**

It is of considerable concern to me that even well meaning potential owners can be ignorant of important considerations. A set of questions would provide as step in the direction of alerting people to what they should consider carefully.

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**

This is an essential part of a system that seeks to ensure the safety and wellbeing of dogs, their owners and other members of society. A dog that has not been properly trained and which is not cared for appropriately may become a dog that will inflict harm on another dog, farm animals, children or adults. Treating dog bite injuries is an extra burden on the NHS that could be avoided. Dogs that maul farm animals or harm babies, children, the dog's owner or other adult may well have to be destroyed. Proper training of dog and owner and detailed awareness of responsibilities on the part of the owner are central to secure a good life for dog and owner in relation to the communities in which they move.

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?

Fully supportive

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

It would be wrong if this obligation was not included. The outcome of the obligation is for the good of the dog and its owner.

## 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.**

If there is an increased financial impact this would not be wrong. We have a moral responsibility to ensure that animals are cared for properly, thus ensuring their wellbeing and a reduction of likelihood of their causing harm.

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.**

We should remember that some savings might be on fronts where we were not previously properly aware of the extent of problems.

## 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?

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?

Positive

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

Increases equality of safety for people and for animals.

## 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

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

Only good can come from the proposals. If found to be needed, these proposals might be extended or added to at a later date.

## Page 15: General

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

The proposed legislation appears to me to represent a good start on tackling problems that have been escalating.

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**

I think it is very important that this is brought into legislation. There is a risk that in the absence of such measures, guidance alone would be inadequate.