

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:

Volunteer at dog rescue and dog owner

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

Please choose one of the following:

Please choose one of the following:

I would like this response to be published anonymously

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.

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.

Think three is too many. Given the number of dogs overcrowding animal shelters and facing euthanasia for want of a home, any more than one litter exacerbates the problem and can be detrimental to the bitch's welfare. Given the large amounts charged for the latest desirable designer crosses, any more than one litter is likely to be an activity for financial gain

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.

"Transfer or give away" will just become a loophole to be exploited by the unscrupulous.

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.

Added overcomplication. You are either registered at a given level of litters or you are not. Think temporary registration would be the devil to enforce

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.

Supportive of a financial deterrent, however, if set at a low level, it will not impact those who sell litters of say 10 for £800-1200 a pup. Again, how will it be enforced? Think would just be written off rather than pursued

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

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

It's part of the whole public education process. May make some more responsible individuals stop and think, will be irrelevant to the impulse purchase then throwaway purchaser. Ad campaign might help and also presentation in schools might impact on the next generation

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

Any responsible breeder would wish to be fully aware of the circumstances of a prospective owner. Again, the unscrupulous will not. Home checks should accompany questionnaire, but again subject of course to practicality and enforceability

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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Fully supportive

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

Would require a centralised totally up to date database. Might be expensive, also not sure if compulsory microchipping has been a runaway success. Potential purchasers could look up bona fides of breeder. Will not stop impulse buyers. Responsible purchasers would want to do this anyway

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.

Enforcement by local authorities, police and welfare organisations may require significant financial cost. Depends at what level fines and registration costs are set.

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.

Might the database be managed or at least be made compatible UK wide?

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?

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Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Seems irrelevant in this case

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.

Dog ownership is not a right, it is a responsibility which can carry a not insignificant financial cost and therefore there may be certain socio economic impact.

Page 15: General

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

A ban on the advertising on FTGH websites such as Gumtree, Preloved and Pets4Homes of sentient beings, particularly puppies and adult dogs should be an ultimate aim.

There would be significantly less suffering and irresponsible rehoming. Sign overs of "accidental" litters to rescue centres (albeit already overcrowded) may then happen more frequently, and more stringent home checks by these rescues may ensure more successful rehoming.

Any legislative proposals should include and should not exempt greyhounds bred for racing. These dogs are often bred from frequently and intensively and are imported young and transported around Scotland and England from Ireland. Some find their way to FTGH websites, others do not even make it there.

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

Unsure