

# 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

Third sector (charitable, campaigning, social enterprise, voluntary, non-profit)

**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).** As Scotland's animal welfare charity, we've been helping animals in need for over 175 years. We rescue animals and nurse them back to health before finding them loving new homes or releasing them back into the wild. Investigating abuse across Scotland, we're proud to be at the forefront of preventing cruelty to animals. As the only animal charity in the UK recognised as a reporting agency to the Crown Office, our inspectors enforce the Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006. We are committed to supporting the welfare of all

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

animals - domestic, farm and wildlife - and are continually deepening our welfare expertise through our ground breaking work and research with partners. Education is at the heart of what we do and we play a vital role in supporting and educating the public on animal welfare issues. Our free interactive Prevention through Education programme for Scottish primary schools reaches over 275,000 children each year. Demand for our services is at an all-time high. Last year our animal helpline received almost a quarter of a million calls, our inspectorate attended more than 85,000 incidents and more than 19,000 animals were cared for across our nine animal and rescue and rehoming centres and our national wildlife rescue centre. Scottish Charity No. SC 006467

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.

Scottish SPCA

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.**

The Scottish SPCA has long opposed the current 5 litter threshold, having a lower threshold will bring more dog breeders under control to ensure correct standards are met. This will require active monitoring and enforcement by the licensing authority.

## 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.**

Regardless of whether money has been exchanged as part of the sale or transfer, the welfare and traceability elements are the same.

## 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.**

This will give some assurance on traceability and help crack down on those who breed and supply more litters than is claimed.

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.**

Obviously this requirement would have to be widely publicised to ensure there is no doubt that this is a legal requirement.

## 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.**

Part of the issue is not just the supply of pups in the first place. A contributory factor is impulse buying by the general public. A basic knowledge of responsible dog ownership and commitment may be enough to ensure that prospective buyers are aware of the cost and time 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**

Simply to ensure that the pup they are selling is going to a suitable home and will not be returned or abandoned. Also that the seller knows the buyer has the knowledge of the basic legal requirements of a dogs physical and mental needs.

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**

The Scottish SPCA would certainly support this to ensure that pups were only sold via licensed or registered persons from a listed address.

## 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.**

The whole system should be based on cost recovery by the licensing authority therefore no additional costs should be incurred by local authorities. Dog breeders will simply add the cost of the license fee to the purchase price of the pup. If the system is fully adhered to, there should be less unwanted or abandoned pups / dogs in the future.

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Q9. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

No

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

The Scottish SPCA thinks there proposals within the Bill are perfectly reasonable and proportionate.

## 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.**

Not applicable to the subject

## 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.**

As long as the licensing authority ensure that all costs are covered by the breeder there should be no increase to the public purse.

## Page 15: General

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

The key element is monitoring and enforcement of any new regulation.  
The whole purpose of this Bill is to improve the health and welfare of pups and adult dogs, ensure that potential buyers know the basic requirements of responsible dog ownership, and to regulate those who currently fall outside of the current licensing system.

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

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**

All other methods of ensuring responsible selling and ownership have been tried in the past by a range of animal welfare organisations. Without some legal standing sellers have no real incentive to change, as highlighted by our #SayNoToPuppyDealers campaign.