

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 have kept dogs for a number of years.

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.

Fiona Grahame

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.

I was actually shocked that the current licence allows for as many as five litters a year. That can be neither good for the bitch or for the puppies she is producing. Indeed for some breeds of dog that would be seriously detrimental to their health .

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 am concerned as to how this will be managed. Local Authorities who would be responsible for this would not be capable at the current time of running an enhanced licence scheme. They would require additional funding for this and it would need to be ring fenced or else it will be spent on something else. It would also require a considerable educational campaign informing the public as to why this was necessary and how they go about it. The educational campaign should be a national one and funded by the Scottish Government.

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.

There does need to be some sort of control over this as I regularly see puppies for sale on social media sites. It must be accompanied by a positive information campaign to avoid a public backlash. This must be a national campaign funded centrally but work also requires to be done in schools.

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.

1. Unless you have a fine many will not bother. 2. A fine requires to be of an amount to deter people from non compliance. 3. Administration of the fine mechanism needs to be efficient and all Local Authorities must have at least one dedicated officer/member of staff full time and permanent employed to do this. 4. Not everyone has access to online or may not be confident online therefore help must be available for them to be able to do this e.g. the permanent member of staff referred to in point 3. 5. A lot of information needs to be made available so that the public understands why this is necessary.

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.

This requires a national campaign in partnership with other agencies SSPCA, PDSA, responsible registered dog owners etc. Work also needs to be done in schools perhaps an education pack.

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

I once adopted a cat and had to go through a rigorous set of questions and a personal interview even though I

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?

already knew the person. They sat me down and went through all the responsibilities of owning a cat - I already had cats. This should be the same for dogs. I have acquired in the past 2 puppies , 1 from a person I knew, so they trusted me but one from a person I did not know. They lived on a nearby island but phoned me several times to check how the dog was doing. I had no problem with that and was pleased that the puppy had come from a caring place. It was a farm and the collie was surplus to requirements.

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

Extremely important but almost impossible to be assured of happening. Again this needs to be part of a national campaign.

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.

As Local Authorities would be responsible for compliance then there would be considerable cost to them, staffing being the main one. If it is not adequately staffed with Full Time Permanent posts then it will fail. A reliable IT system for registration and alerts when these need to be followed up. Visits would also be required - including to schools, check premises etc therefore partnership working is essential with relevant bodies eg SSPCA, local vets. For the General Public there would be some rise in cost but for instance I pay out £12 a month for pet insurance and then there's dog food etc. Keeping a dog has expenses attached to it. I would like to see the benefits to health and wellbeing of keeping a dog stressed in any national or local campaign. Keeping people active but also a companionship could be argued to reduce visits to GPs and have a hidden cost saving.

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

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Yes

Please explain the reasons for your response.

This would be difficult to 'prove' but the cost saving would be in the benefits to a person's health and wellbeing in keeping a dog. There would also be a saving if a dog required is a healthy one. Dogs producing several litters a year in appalling conditions are often of very poor health. People buying these will unknowingly be setting themselves up for considerable vets bills in the future and a lot of heartache.

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?

Positive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

There are considerable health benefits of owning a dog, caring for it, taking it walks, having a companion. Increasingly loneliness is a problem in our society particularly for the elderly and those with a disability. A dog not only motivates people to get out and about meeting others perhaps also dog walking but it is the friend who is always loyal and by your side. Some care homes have allowed visits by dogs and staff have seen the positive impact this has had on residents. For the elderly and those with a disability who are still living in their own home and able to care for a dog it is a great motivator.

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.

Yes - if Local Authorities receive ring fenced money for its implementation and continuing running costs. Yes - if there is partnership working with all relevant organisations. Yes - if there is a national information/educational positive campaign. No - if it is inadequately funded, licences wont be checked, people will default on fines, the public will see it as an intrusion if there is no explanation as to why it is necessary.

Page 15: General

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

This Bill is well intentioned but without adequate ring fenced funding, partnership working and a national educational campaign its proposals will fail to deliver.

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The majority of the public are appalled at puppy farms however they may not see the need for temporary licencing - that requires explanation.

A positive campaign must also include the benefits of responsible dog ownership, including cleaning up after your dog when out walking and keeping dogs on a leash in farming areas, near children, in towns etc.

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

The disreputable breeders and irresponsible dog owners will continue to do what they do unless there is legislation to prevent them from doing so.