

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 adopted rescue dogs throughout my life and still do. In effect I'm one of the people who help to sort out the mess left by people who abandon their dogs.

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.

Pat Anderson.I'm not a member of an organisation,although I support a rescue charity Blind Dog Rescue UK.My most recent adoptions come from dogs this charity has promoted.

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.

Personally I would prefer anyone who breeds even one litter to be licenced. That might be too costly though.

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.

this needs to be done.This is how puppy farms are run.The potential buyer doesn't go to the puppy farm to get their pup.They are invited to some house that looks nice and they have no idea where the pup came from.I would also ban pet shops from selling puppies as they tend to get them from puppy farms.

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.

That might work. Back street breeders who don't constantly breed need to be known and identified too.

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.

A fine might deter them from more breeding. This could cut down the back street breeders.

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 is badly needed. The public are told time and time again never to buy a pup without seeing it with its mother. They don't listen. The public need to be educated and aware of what they are taking on. The ones that don't dump their dog in a rescue.

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?

Partially opposed

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

A decent breeder would do this if they had any concern for where their pups are going. They should be made to uphold this responsibility. The problem with this is people who sell their dogs online, eg Gumtree. These sites don't seem to care who advertises on their sites, and there is no way of tracing them. Persuading these sites to stop selling live animals of any kind would do a lot to help the problem of unwanted pets.

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

There would have to be a lot of advertising to make people aware of this. People should ask to see the licence before inspecting the pups. How effective this would be I'm not sure. People are still stupid enough to leave their dogs in hot cars, no matter how often they are told not to. It would work for some but not all.

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.

There might be some increase in cost for breeders, but bearing in mind that the Inland Revenue usually sees none of that extra income from breeding, I wouldn't worry about that. There would have to be additions to the SSPCA's remit to include checking for licences. The police would need an increase to investigate illegal puppy farms as more of them could be identified through the new measures. They need to be on hand at the ports to stop Irish puppy farmers smuggling pups into Scotland. Oddly enough the increase in smuggling from Eire was caused by an EU directive. All pups brought to the UK from the EU have to be at least 3 months old and have a rabies vaccination. Eire was only included in this rule a few years ago. I guess, because Eire is rabies free, it was missed from EU rules for a while. I think this is the reason for the increase in smuggling puppies from Eire to the UK. Puppy farmers there don't want the expense of rabies vaccines and keeping pups for 3 months before export. Presumably they are meant to have 'Traces' and passports for their pups too as in other EU countries.

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

Unsure

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.

I don't think any of the above comes into the equation. This is for the benefit of dogs and getting rid of puppy farms producing sickly dogs.

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 it is acted upon by those involved with seeing it is put into practice and those found disobeying taken to task by the authorities.

Page 15: General

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

Encourage buyers to ask the breeder for their vet's card that shows the pup has had its first vaccination at 8 weeks and has been microchipped. This is already the law. If vet's haven't already done so, they could have leaflets to guide buyers about what to look for and what to avoid when buying a puppy.

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

Legally a bill to become an act is better. This would make any prosecutions easier if it's the law.