

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".)

Professional with experience in a relevant subject

Optional: You may wish to explain briefly what expertise or experience you have that is relevant to the subject-matter of the consultation:

veterinary surgeon also have bred family pets on occasion

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.

Mrs A martin BVM&S MRCVS Dip AS (CABC)

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 opposed

Please explain the reasons for your response, including any advantages or disadvantages.

I believe that anyone having three litters a year should be subjected to license to ensure all the bitrches are being kept properly. In my exeperience now many people who opt to breed their family pet make little or no attempt to fully understand their responsibilities to the bitch and the pups. They often present to me when the bitch is in the early stages of labour and they have no clue about the stages of labour. This lack of knowledge on their part often results in the bitch having a caesarian instead of having a natural birth. The clients wish to have a ceasraian because they are already counting up how much money they are going to get from the litter. Putting the maximum litter to one per bitch in a year but no more than 2 litters per household would eliminate some of the current "holiday funding" that is currently going on.

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 have not personally come across anyone who gives pups away but having to have a license will make people aware they have a responsibility to prevent unwanted litters. Though with the Internet now pups are too easy to sell and I am afraid the general public are too happy to get a cheap pup and pick it up from a local car park

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rather than seeking out a reputable breeder and then going to see pups mum etc.

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.

I think a license will ensue that owners of bitches are responsible for the welfare of the bitch & pups

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.

this would need to be well publised and I think it would be hard to police. Also it may well encourage even more people to get a dog from Romania- An increasingly common practice and raises futher welfare concrens

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.

I personally vet all potential owners when i am selling a puppy. It is important to consider the new owners lifestyle as how are they able to care for a young ananimal on a daily basis. What are their views on exercise etc

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?

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Fully supportive

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

I personally give a contract and a full set of advice re feeding exercise behaviour etc. I also encourage anyone with issues to get in touch because of my background in veterinary medicine and animal behaviour

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

i think sensible people do this at the moment but there are a lot of people who do not- A large number of pups are at the moment being sold on because the original purchaser was not aware of the amount of time and effort a new pup takes

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 license would need to have a premises inspection attached so hence this will cost time for an official to undertake the visit . It would be unlikely that the cost of the license would fully cover this . The dog breeder would need to pay for the license but at the moment there is an assured breeder scheme with the Kennel club which responsible breeders who breed quite frequently are already signed up to. Cost of policing this would fall on the Police and RSPCA

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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Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

i think that the current Kennel club scheme is not suitable for the person taking one litter from a family pet but it may be that the sites that advertise these pups could add a fee which would help with the policing of the license A lot a sites will not advertise pups under 8 weeks old and the fact that pups are all now microchipped could help with the selling of older pups

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)

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

Page 15: General

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

If the act is going to achieve anything it has to decrease dramatically how many litters a pet owner can take. I counsel all my clients about the difficulties in letting their family pets have pups. I strongly advise they do not breed and question why they wish to have puppies. If it because they want another pup then I suggest it would be cheaper and less stressful for all that they go and buy a second pup. If they are still convinced they want pups then I direct them to reading matter- The Book of the Bitch- which fully lays how to care for the bitch from feeding before to looking after the pups until they leave. I also stress that things can go wrong and a ceasarian section at 2am is very stressful for the bitch, owner and very likely to be very costly. I also point out that pregancy is not without its risk to the bitch

I also believe that in the Act uit should include that bitches that have had one ceasarian should not be allowed to have a second ;itter something the kennel club still allows but I do not believe this is the bitch's best welfare

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

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Unsure