

Proposed Pet Shop (Licensing) (Scotland) Bill

Page 1: Introduction

A proposal for a Bill to improve animal welfare by enhancing local authority pet shop licensing powers and updating the licensing system, including in relation to licence conditions, fees and inspections. The consultation runs from 26 March 2018 to 18 June 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

Please select the category which best describes your organisation

No Response

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 how your name/name of your organisation will be published.

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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: Aim and approach

Q1. Which of the following best describes your view of the proposal to strengthen the licensing regime for pet shops in Scotland?

Fully supportive

Please explain the reasons for your response.

I'm supportive of any regulations to improve animal welfare, especially regarding pet shops as the way a handler/pet shop owner treats a pet in their care before being sold can make a huge difference to that animal's life, and the life they have with their future owner(s).

Q2. Could the aims of the Bill be better delivered in another way (rather than by the means of a Bill in the Scottish Parliament)?

Unsure

Please explain the reasons for your response.

Not sure if this is something individual Local Authorities could regulate better, but think if a Bill in Parliament seems the most logical method to ensure all LAs comply, and that all pet shops in Scotland comply, then believe a Bill may be best.

Q3. Under the proposal, pet shop licence fees would be based on a recovery of the costs incurred by local authorities in processing applications and inspecting premises to ensure animal welfare standards are maintained. In your view, which of the following should local authorities do?

(c) Differentiate licence fees for pet shops according to other criteria (e.g. shop surface area).

Please give reasons for your answer. If you have selected option (c) please indicate which criteria you think should be used.

Some pet shops will be greater in size than others, meaning they may have more animals in their care, which in turn could mean both making more of a profit by having more 'stock', but also requiring more lengthy welfare standards checks due as a result of this.

Q4. Which of the following best expresses your view of developing statutory licence conditions, building on the current Model conditions for pet vending, that would apply to all pet shops in Scotland?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.
Would mean all pet shops are treated the same and have to abide by the same rules.

Q5. Which of the following best describes your view of banning the sale of puppies and kittens in pet shops?

Partially supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.
I believe that people should be encouraged to adopt in the first instance due to the high levels of overcrowding at animal rehoming centres, so if people's access to puppies and kittens were reduced due to pet shops not selling them then this might result in more people rehoming. However, there would need to be work done to ensure people do not turn to selling puppies and kittens illegally to get round this.

Q6. Which of the following best describes your view of pet shop licence applications listing all animal categories they intend to sell, with owners under an obligation to inform the local authority before stocking any new categories?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.
To ensure each LA is aware of all animals being sold at each individual pet shop, which can then be checked with regular welfare standards checks, to ensure no shop is selling animals they shouldn't be.

Q7. Which of the following best describes your view of mandatory inspections for all pet shops before an initial licence is granted?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.
Ensures pet shop owners provide the necessary equipment/take all the appropriate measures for animals to be kept in safe, comfortable conditions prior to a shop being opened and stocked.

Q8. Which of the following best describes your view of all local authorities using a standardised approach to conducting and reporting on inspections of pet shops?

Fully supportive

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.
Is there any reason why a standardised approach would not be appropriate?
Means regardless of who carries out inspections they all follow the same criteria when assessing a shop's welfare standards

Q9. Which of the following best describes your view of local authorities using a risk-based assessment and issuing longer-term licences to pet shops that demonstrate a low risk to animal welfare?

Partially supportive

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

I would support this as long as welfare inspections were still routinely carried out.

Q10. Which of the following best describes your view of enabling local authorities to contract other qualified professionals (in addition to their own officers and vets) to carry out and report on pet shop inspections, including qualified officers from other local authorities?

Partially supportive

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

I'm supportive of this move as long as local authorities put measures in place to ensure inspections are carried out to the same high standard you'd expect from the council's own qualified officers/professionals

Q11. Which of the following best describes your view of enabling local authorities to take steps to address non-compliance with licence conditions, giving licensees the opportunity to make improvements before any further action is taken, with the power to revoke a licence as a last resort?

Partially opposed

Please give reasons for your answer, and any detail you think relevant, including what appropriate intermediate steps could be.

Giving pet shop owners time to make any changes if they haven't been fully compliant with license conditions isn't acceptable where their actions have resulted in animals' welfare being affected, so think that the power to revoke a license should only be a last resort where non-compliance doesn't constitute a breach in animal welfare conditions

Q12. Which of the following best describes your view of increasing the maximum fine for failing to comply with the legislation, in line with more recent animal welfare legislation?

Fully supportive

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

Increasing the maximum fine means that it can be brought in line with more recent animal welfare legislation, meaning it follows the same rationale as other animal welfare regulations, and would act as a deterrent for not complying

Q13. Which of the following best describes your view of placing an obligation on pet shop owners to provide advice to people buying pets?

Fully supportive

Q13. Which of the following best describes your view of placing an obligation on pet shop owners to provide advice to people buying pets?

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.
Just as you would when purchasing a car, a pet shop owner should give you all the information available about the animal you're buying prior to the purchase taking place. This would cut down on people taking on pets they later realise they cannot care for, or do not like.

Page 21: Financial implications

Q14. 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) Pet shop owners		X				
(c) Individuals (including pet owners)			X			
(d) Animal welfare organisations				X		

Please explain the reasons for your responses.

I suspect these measures could result in pet shops making a bigger effort to ensure all the animals in their care are well-looked after and healthy, and could place a responsibility on pet shops to ensure consumers are fully aware of what is required of them to care for said animal they're looking to buy. This would hopefully result in fewer animals needing rehomed if people are more informed about buying pets.

Q15. Are there ways in which the Bill could achieve its aim more cost-effectively (e.g. by reducing costs or increasing savings)?

Unsure

Page 23: Equalities

Q16. What overall impact is the proposed Bill likely to have on equality, taking account of the following protected characteristics (under the Equality Act 2010): race, disability, sex, gender re-assignment, age, religion and belief, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity?

Neutral (neither positive nor negative)

Page 24: Sustainability

Q17. 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 25: General

Q18. Do you have any other comments or suggestions on the proposal?

No Response