

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?

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). Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home has been part of the fabric of our city since 1883, working in partnership with the Council and Police services by welcoming lost or abandoned pets from all corners of Edinburgh and the Lothians. We are the penultimate destination for many animals who have been the victims of illicit breeding practices and poor decision making by the public in relation to taking on a pet. These responses reflect of those of the Home's Senior Management Team.

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.

Edinburgh Dog and Cat Home

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.

We support better animal welfare training for those engaged in selling animals, consistent inspection and provision for licenses to be revoked at any time.

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

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.

Factors that we think should be taken into account when the number of animals on sale per week/month/year. Species should be taken into account, eg Fish vs rabbits. If they were the same for all species we would be concerned with what the inspection schedule should look like.

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

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

Fully supportive

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

Dogs and cats have significant welfare needs in the early months of their life, which can impact on later health and behaviour. We believe that all new prospective owners should have access to inspect the environment in which the animals are bred, without which there is a danger of illegal breeding practices to flourish.

Furthermore, we feel that only approved breeders, or ADCH member rehoming shelters, are in a position to provide breed-specific advice to the public on the long-term care of a dog or cat. We do not believe that many pet shop employees are well placed to advise new owners on the significant financial and lifestyle implications of taking on a new dog or cat.

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

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

Fully supportive

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

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.

Pet shops would need to demonstrate robust self-assessment policies.

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?

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Fully supportive

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?

Fully supportive

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

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

Please give reasons for your answer, including any advantages or disadvantages of the proposal.
Appropriate training / qualifications to provide such advice would need to be evidenced.

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.

Our responses above reflect the fact that we expect pet shops to be absorbing some of the licensing cost, while the public will be greatly reducing their spend through reducing the risk of making ill-informed decisions

Q14. Taking account of both costs and potential savings, what financial impact would you expect the proposed Bill to have on:

on taking on a pet, and reducing risk of purchasing an animal that is likely to have long-term health or behavioural issues. For rehoming centres, the success of the legislation will determine whether it leads to an increase or decrease in cost, if it works then we should be experiencing less of a fall-out from bad purchases so it will save us money.

Q15. 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

This needs resources committed to it to work and needs to be policed.

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?

Unsure

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?

Yes

Page 25: General

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

We have already been supporting the work of the Lucy's Law campaign and we feel that this is the next step forward in protecting animal welfare in Scotland.