

Animal Welfare / Dangerous Dogs Team  
Defra  
Area 8B, 9 Millbank  
c/o 17 Smith Square  
London , SW1P 3JR



**Telephone: 08459 33 55 77**

**Web:** [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

**Your ref:**

**Our ref:**

**Date:** 23 April 2012

Dear Consultee

**Re: Consultation on package of measures to promote more responsible dog ownership and reduce dog attacks**

1. I am writing to invite views on possible new measures to provide better protection for the public from dog attacks and to generate a more responsible attitude to dog ownership.
2. The attached consultation document sets out the detailed proposals and questions we would like answers to, in order to decide whether or not to seek approval for legislative change. Also attached at annexes B to E are the full Impact Assessments for the proposals. Each proposal contains at least one other option. The consultation applies to England only.
3. The following documents may be found on Defra's website:  
[www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/04/23/dangerous-dogs-1204/](http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult/2012/04/23/dangerous-dogs-1204/)
  - Consultation document (Annex A to this letter)
  - Impact assessment on the compulsory microchipping of dogs (Annex B)
  - Impact assessment on extending the Dangerous Dogs Act to include private property (Annex C)
  - Impact assessment on allowing owners of dogs seized as suspected dangerous dogs or prohibited types to retain possession of their dogs until the outcome of court proceedings (Annex D)
  - Impact assessment on Increasing the application fee for dogs to be placed on the Index of Exempted Dogs (Annex E)
  - List of consultees (Annex F)
4. The list of consultees is not exhaustive and is open to anyone (individual or organisation) to respond. If you consider that an organisation or individual would be interested in responding, and is not on the list, please make them aware of the consultation.

5. We welcome your views and comments on the proposals. If you wish to obtain a copy of this consultation, please contact Hugh Togher, Animal Welfare Team, Defra, Area 8B, 9 Millbank c/o 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR. Tel: 020 7238 5991.

## Responses

6. Please send responses to either: Hugh Togher, Animal Welfare Team, Defra, Area 8B, 9 Millbank c/o 17 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3JR. Tel: 020 7238 5991; or to [animalwelfare.consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:animalwelfare.consultations@defra.gsi.gov.uk) . You can also complete the online survey at: [www.surveymonkey.com/s/dogsconsultation2012](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/dogsconsultation2012)
7. Responses should be received by **15 June 2012**.

## Consultation Criteria

8. This consultation is in line with the Code of Practice on Consultations. This can be found at: [www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance](http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/bre/consultation-guidance)
9. When this consultation ends, we intend to put a copy of the responses in the Defra library at Ergon House, London. This is so that the public can see them. Also, members of the public may ask for a copy of responses under freedom of information legislation.
10. If you do not want your response - including your name, contact details and any other personal information – to be publicly available, please say so clearly in writing when you send your response to the consultation. Please note, if your computer automatically includes a confidentiality disclaimer, that won't count as a confidentiality request.
11. Please explain why you need to keep details confidential. We will take your reasons into account if someone asks for this information under freedom of information legislation. But, because of the law, we cannot promise that we will always be able to keep those details confidential.
12. We will summarise all responses and place this summary on our website at [www.defra.gov.uk/consult](http://www.defra.gov.uk/consult). This summary will include a list of names of organisations that responded but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.
13. To see consultation responses and summaries, please contact the library at:

Defra  
Information Resource Centre  
Lower Ground Floor  
Ergon House  
17 Smith Square  
London  
SW1P 3JR

Telephone: 020-7238-6575

Email: [defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:defra.library@defra.gsi.gov.uk)

14. Please give the library 24 hours' notice. There is a charge for photocopying and postage.
15. If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to Defra Consultation Co-ordinator, Area 7B Nobel House, 17 Smith Square, London SW1P 3JR, or email: [consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:consultation.coordinator@defra.gsi.gov.uk).
16. Thank you for your help in this matter. If you have any queries please contact us as above.

Yours faithfully

Phil Alder