

Consultation on Proposed Animal Welfare Policy Reforms in Northern Ireland

Written Response Template

About you

Q1. What is your name?

Q2. What is your email address?

Q3. Are the views and opinions in your response personal or expressed on behalf of an organisation?

- Personal
- Organisation

If the views and opinions expressed are on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of the organisation below.



Q4. Please indicate if you are happy for your response to be published.

Yes

No

Q5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate if you are content for the name of the organisation to be associated with your response.

Yes

No

Not Applicable

POLICY PROPOSALS

The consultation seeks views on proposed changes across four key policy areas:

- the regulation of rescue and rehoming organisations;
- an inflationary increase in dog licence fees;
- a ban on specific aversive training devices; and
- strengthened microchipping requirements for dogs.

In addition, the consultation includes a call for evidence on the mandatory microchipping of pet cats.

Full details of the proposals and the relevant consultation questions are set out in the consultation document.

Respondents may choose to comment on any or all of the policy areas outlined above.



REGULATION OF RESCUE AND REHOMING ORGANISATIONS

Q6. Do you agree that all rescue and rehoming organisations that rehome more than five animals annually should be inspected and licensed?

Yes

No

Comments

Q7. Do you agree that all rescue and rehoming organisations that care for eight or more animals (or five or more dogs) should be inspected and licensed?

Yes

No

Comments



Q8. Do you agree with the proposed licence conditions, as listed in the consultation document?

Yes

No

Comments

Impact Assessments

Q9. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Regulation of Rescue and Rehoming Organisations, and its conclusions, or any additional information regarding impacts/costs?

Yes

No

Comments



Q10. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Rural Needs Impact Assessment or the Equality and Disability Screening for the Regulation of Rescue and Rehoming Organisations, and their conclusions?

Yes

No

Comments



DOG LICENCE FEES

Q11. Do you agree with the proposed inflationary increase across all categories of dog licence fees as set out in the consultation document?

Yes

No

Comments

Impact Assessments

Q12. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the proposed increase in Dog Licence Fees, including its conclusions, or any additional information regarding impacts/costs?

Yes

No

Comments



Q13. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Rural Needs Impact Assessment or the Equality and Disability Screening for the proposed increase in Dog Licence Fees, and their conclusions?

Yes

No

Comments



BAN ON SPECIFIC AVERSIVE TRAINING DEVICES

Q14. Do you agree that the use of handheld remote controlled electric shock collars (e-collars) on dogs and cats should be banned?

Yes

No

Comments

Q15. Do you agree that the use of choke collars on dogs and cats should be banned?

Yes

No

Comments



Q16. Do you agree that the use of prong collars on dogs and cats should be banned?

Yes

No

Comments

Impact Assessments

Q17. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Regulatory Impact Assessment for the proposed Ban on Specific Aversive Training Devices, including its conclusions, or any additional information regarding impacts/costs?

Yes

No

Comments

Q18. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Rural Needs Impact Assessment or the Equality and Disability Screening for the proposed Ban on Specific Aversive Training Devices, and their conclusions?

Yes

No

Comments



STRENGTHENING MICROCHIPPING REQUIREMENTS FOR DOGS

Q19. Do you agree that owners should be required to update any changes onto the relevant microchip databases within a specified time, such as 14 days?

Yes

No

Comments

Q20. Do you agree that the owner must indicate if they are / are not the breeder of the dog?

Yes

No

Comments



Q21. Do you agree that all dogs should be microchipped before they are older than eight weeks?

Yes

No

Comments

Impact Assessments

Q22. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Regulatory Impact Assessment for Strengthening Microchipping Requirements for dogs, including its conclusions, or any additional information regarding impacts/costs?

Yes

No

Comments



Q23. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Rural Needs Impact Assessment or the Equality and Disability Screening for Strengthening Microchipping Requirements for dogs, and their conclusions?

Yes

No

Comments



CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON MICROCHIPPING OF CATS

Q24. Do you keep, or own, one or more cats?

Yes

No

If Yes, please answer Q25 below.

Q25. Is your cat microchipped?

I have one cat, it is microchipped.

I have one cat; it is not microchipped.

I have more than one cat, none are microchipped.

I have more than one cat, some are microchipped.

I have more than one cat, all are microchipped.

Q26. What benefits, if any, do you think the microchipping of pet cats could bring?

Please provide any evidence, data or examples to support your views.



Q27. What challenges, if any, do you think the microchipping of pet cats could bring?

Please provide any evidence, data or examples to support your views.

Q28. What do you think might present a barrier for cat owners to microchip their pet cats?

Please provide any evidence, data or examples to support your views.



Q29. Are there any other challenges that should be considered, in relation to mandatory microchipping of pet cats?

Please provide any evidence, data or examples to support your views.

Q30. Are there any other challenges, including for any other type of cats, which should be considered?

Please provide any evidence, data or examples to support your views.



Q31. Is there anything else you would like DAERA to consider on this issue?

Please provide any evidence, data or examples to support your views.

Written responses should be sent to:

E-mail: animalwelfarepolicy@daera-ni.gov.uk

Postal address: Animal Welfare and Dog Control Policy Branch

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

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Closing Date for Responses is Tuesday 30 June 2026.

