



An Bille um Leas Madraí (Leasú), 2025
Dog Welfare (Amendment) Bill 2025

Mar a tionscnaíodh

As initiated



AN BILLE UM LEAS MADRAÍ (LEASÚ), 2025
DOG WELFARE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

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ACT REFERRED TO

Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 (No. 29)



AN BILLE UM LEAS MADRAÍ (LEASÚ), 2025
DOG WELFARE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

Bill

entitled

An Act to provide for animal welfare considerations in the operation of dog breeding establishments, including but not limited to a cap on the number of breeding bitches, the age of bitches allowed to breed, the age of pups when removed from their mothers, a staff-to-bitch ratio, and to prohibit the use of surgical artificial insemination; and to provide for related matters. 5

Be it enacted by the Oireachtas as follows: 10

Definition

1. In this Act, “Principal Act” means the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010.

Amendment of section 2 of Principal Act

2. The Principal Act is amended, in section 2, by the substitution of the following definition for the definition of “dog breeding establishment”: 15

“ ‘dog breeding establishment’ means a premises at which there should be at least four bitches that are—

(a) more than 15 months old, and

(b) capable of being used for breeding purposes,

the premises should not be a local authority dog pound, and at each premises— 20

(i) the ratio of bitches to staff member will be set at 10:1, and

(ii) there should be no more than 30 breeding bitches on site at any one time;”.

Offences 25

3. Section 6 of the Principal Act is amended, by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (2):

“(2) A person guilty of an offence under section 9A, 12(7), 21(7), 22 or 23 shall be liable—

- (a) on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding €5,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months or both, or
- (b) on conviction on indictment, to a fine not exceeding €250,000 or imprisonment for a term not exceeding 5 years or both.”.

Restriction on breeding

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4. The Principal Act is amended, by the insertion of the following section after section 9:

“Restriction on breeding

9A. An offence is committed by a person—

- (a) where a bitch, 15 months or younger, is mated, inseminated or otherwise used for breeding, 10
- (b) where a bitch that is over 8 years old is mated, inseminated or otherwise used for breeding,
- (c) where a bitch gives birth to more than one litter per year,
- (d) who causes or permits a bitch to give birth to more than 4 litters during her lifetime, 15
- (e) who uses surgical artificial insemination for breeding,
- (f) who causes or permits a pup to be removed from its mother before the age of 10 weeks old,
- (g) who exceeds the maximum number of breeding bitches (30) permitted under this Act being kept on their premises at one time, 20
and
- (h) who breaches the staff to bitch ratio of 1:10.”.

Appropriate fee

5. Section 13 of the Principal Act is amended, by the substitution of the following subsection for subsection (1):

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“(1) The appropriate fee shall—

- (a) in the case of a dog breeding establishment at which not more than 18 bitches are kept, be €1,000, or
- (b) in the case of an establishment at which not less than 19 and not more than 30 bitches are kept, be €2,000.”. 30

Short title and commencement

6. (1) This Act may be cited as Dog Welfare (Amendment) Bill 2025.
- (2) This Act shall come into operation on the day of its passing.

BILLE

(mar a tionscnaíodh)

dá ngairtear

Acht do dhéanamh socrú maidir le cúinsí a bhaineann le leas ainmhithe in oibriú bunachas pórúcháin madraí, lena n-áirítear uasteorainn leis an líon soitheanna pórúcháin, le haois soitheanna a gceadófar dóibh pórú, le haois coileán nuair a scarfar lena máithreacha iad, le cóimheas idir foireann agus soitheanna, ach gan bheith teoranta don mhéid sin, agus do thoirmeasc inseamhnú saorga máinliachta a úsáid; agus do dhéanamh socrú i dtaobh nithe gaolmhara.

An Teachta Sinéad Whitmore a thug isteach,
20 Samhain, 2025

BILL

(as initiated)

entitled

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Introduced by Deputy Jennifer Whitmore,
20th November, 2025

BAILE ÁTHA CLIATH
ARNA FHOILSIÚ AG OIFIG AN tSOLÁTHAIR
Le ceannach díreach ó

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