



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

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Explanatory Memorandum



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DOG WELFARE (AMENDMENT) BILL 2025

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

Purpose of the Bill

The purpose of the Dog Welfare (Amendment) Bill 2025 is to amend the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 in order to strengthen animal welfare standards in the operation of dog breeding establishments. The amendments seek to introduce legislative controls over breeding practices, staff-to-animal ratios, and limitations on breeding to ensure the health and well-being of breeding dogs and their offspring.

The Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010 established a regulatory framework for the licensing and inspection of premises where dogs are bred. However, concerns have been raised by animal welfare organisations, veterinary professionals, and the general public regarding the conditions under which breeding dogs are kept, the frequency of breeding, and the use of invasive reproductive procedures.

This Bill is introduced in response to these concerns, with the objective of setting higher welfare standards and reducing practices that contribute to the overbreeding and mistreatment of dogs.

This Bill represents a significant step towards modernising animal welfare legislation in the area of commercial dog breeding. By placing statutory limits on breeding frequency, mandating minimum standards of care, and outlawing harmful or exploitative practices, the Dog Welfare (Amendment) Bill 2025 aims to promote humane treatment, reduce animal suffering, and ensure that dog breeding establishments operate in accordance with best welfare practices.

Provisions of the Bill

Section 1 is the standard provision clarifying that the Act being amended is the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010.

Section 2 amends the definition of the term “dog breeding establishment” to put a statutory limit on the number of bitches that can be held at any one site, a minimum age for breeding, and a staff-to-breeding bitch ratio.

Section 3 amends the liability for a person guilty of an offence in the Bill.

Section 4 introduces a number of new statutory limitations on breeding practices, including a minimum age for breeding, a maximum number of litters, an annual breeding limit, a minimum age for separation and the prohibition of surgical artificial insemination.

Section 5 amends the fee structure to align with the amended cap on number of breeding bitches onsite.

Section 6 includes in standard form the title and commencement of the Bill.

Jennifer Whitmore, TD,
Samhain, 2025.