

Licensed Dog Breeding in the UK and Republic of Ireland **2026**



Contents

- Executive summary 4
- Introduction 7
- Methodology 7
- Number of licensed dog breeders in the UK and Republic of Ireland 8
- Scale of licensed dog breeding operations 9
- England’s star rating system 13
- Licensed pet sellers of dogs and puppies 15
- Public licensing registers and transparency 17
- Recording of dogs by local authorities 18
- Recent legislative and policy developments 19
- Recommendations 20
- Endnotes 23
- Annex A: Nations at a glance 25
- Annex B: FOI questions 28

Executive summary

The majority of the trade in dogs in the UK continues to take place outside of dedicated regulatory frameworks, with just an estimated 10.5 - 14% of UK dogs being bred by licensed breeders. We estimate as many as nearly 9 in 10 UK puppies could be being bred outside of dedicated UK dog breeding legislation.

Key findings in 2026 compared to 2025:

- The number of licensed dog breeders across the UK and Republic of Ireland has decreased by 8% from 2,897 to 2,664.
- There has been a significant reduction in the number of female dogs kept for breeding by licensed operators. Almost 6,000 fewer female dogs are kept for breeding compared with 2025, with the most notable reductions in Northern Ireland and England.
- Transparency has improved, with nearly three quarters of all councils now publishing a dog breeding licensing register in some form, compared to 68% in 2025.
- The number of one-star rated dog breeders in England has decreased from 55 to 30 and the number of dogs kept at one-star rated premises has fallen dramatically by over 70%.
- There are now zero licensed pet sellers of dogs in Wales compared to two in 2025, reinforcing the lack of awareness amongst Welsh dog breeders that a pet selling licence may be needed if they do not meet the threshold for a licence but operate commercially.

- The number of registered sellers of dogs in the Republic of Ireland has decreased by nearly 23% from 721 to 556.
- Similar to 2025, only one third of councils could confirm the total number of dogs kept by breeders they have licensed, as well as the number of litters of puppies specified on the licence, either at one time or in a 12-month period.

Also, for the first time, we know there are at least 13 licensed pet sellers of dogs in the UK, all of which are based in England. This includes several sellers of protection dogs, providing a potential avenue for greater oversight of this growing trend, particularly in England and Wales, where general licence conditions specify that training methods must not cause pain, suffering or injury.

Encouragingly, the UK Government, Northern Ireland Executive and Government of Ireland have all made recent policy or legislative commitments related to dog breeding, whilst Plaid Cymru, which forms the new Welsh Government elected in May 2026, also signalled in its manifesto that promoting responsible dog breeding and ownership would be one of its animal welfare priorities. By contrast, the new Scottish Government has not yet made any commitments or announcements related to dog breeding, but is similarly urged to make tackling the low welfare puppy trade an urgent animal welfare priority.

Summary of recommendations:

- **Improve transparency:** Local authorities that do not yet publish a register of licensed dog breeders should do so. In addition, each nation's government should support the creation of a national animal licensing register to make it easy for the public to verify whether a breeder is licensed.
- **Ensure licensing conditions genuinely promote animal welfare:** Minimum staffing ratios should be improved to require at least one staff member for every 10 adult dogs across all nations. Consideration should also be given to introducing a maximum cap on the number of dogs that may be kept on a single premises, helping to ensure that the individual welfare needs of dogs kept for breeding and puppies can more feasibly be met.
- **Standardise the recording and monitoring of dogs:** To improve traceability and facilitate monitoring of breeding dogs over time, local authorities should be required to record and retain details of dogs kept at licensed premises during inspections.
- **Tackle the low-welfare puppy trade:** To close existing loopholes, a system of registration should be introduced for breeders operating below licensing thresholds, supported by a proportionate set of registration conditions. This would establish a clear expectation that anyone breeding dogs is either registered or licensed. Governments should progress policy and legislative commitments relating to the puppy trade without delay.



The number of licensed dog breeders has fallen by 8% since 2025



The number of female dogs kept by licensed breeders has fallen by 22.4%



Almost three quarters of councils now publish a licensing register



The number of one-star rated premises in England has fallen from 55 to 30



There are zero licensed pet sellers of dogs in Wales and 13 in England



The number of pet sellers of dogs has fallen by 23% in the Republic of Ireland



Introduction

The Dog Breeding Map of the UK and Ireland by Naturewatch Foundation helps the public find out about dog breeding in their area and gives potential puppy buyers the tools to check whether a breeder is licensed.

Last updated in August 2026, this interactive map - and the data obtained to produce it - provides valuable insights into licensed dog breeding and the wider domestic puppy trade. Read on to explore the latest findings about dog breeding in the UK and Republic of Ireland in 2026.

Explore the map at naturewatch.org/dog-breeding-map.

Acknowledgements

Thank you to all of the local authorities that provided responses to our freedom of information request.

Methodology

Freedom of Information (FOI) requests regarding dog breeding licensing were sent by Naturewatch Foundation to **390 local authorities across the UK and Republic of Ireland** in March 2026. Responses were collected between April and August 2026, with **98.2% (383) councils providing full or partial responses**. Seven councils in England [1] had not provided a response as of 9th September 2026, although some information was retrievable from several of these councils' websites.

Data was analysed in August and September 2026 and the findings are described in this short report, focusing on:

- The number of licensed dog breeders in the UK and Republic of Ireland.
- The scale of licensed dog breeding operations, including the number of dogs kept for licensed breeding.
- The star-rating system in England.
- The number of licensed pet sellers of dogs and puppies in the UK and the Republic of Ireland.
- The availability of dog breeding licensing registers to the public.
- Local authority recording of dogs kept by licensed dog breeders.

See Annex A for at-a-glance nation-specific statistics and Annex B for copies of the FOI questions sent to local authorities.

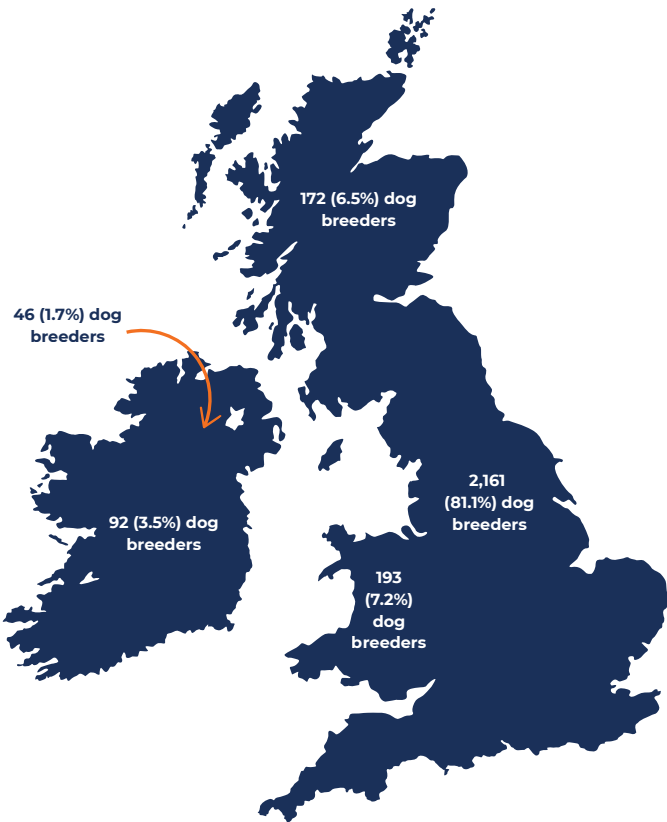
All percentages have been rounded to one decimal place. "Local authority" and "council" are used interchangeably throughout.

Number of licensed dog breeders in the UK & Republic of Ireland

There are in the region of **2,664 licensed dog breeders in the UK and Republic of Ireland**, which is a decrease of 233 (8%) since 2025, when there were 2,897. The majority (81.1%) are in England, with 2,161 licensed dog breeders (a decrease of 194 / 8.2% compared to 2025, when there were 2,355).

60 local authorities (15.4%) do not currently license any dog breeders. 36 of these councils are in England, whilst Scotland accounts for 11, meaning over one third (34.4%) of Scottish councils do not currently license any dog breeders.

The local authority with the most licensed breeders is the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk in England with 65 licence holders.



The average number of breeders licensed by local authorities across the UK and Republic of Ireland is 6.9. For the UK, this jumps slightly to 7.2.

10 local authorities with the most licensed dog breeders 2026	2026	2025
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (England)	65 (+3)	62
North Yorkshire District Council (England)	60 (-12)	72
Shropshire Council (England)	51 (-2)	53
Carmarthenshire Council (Wales)	51 (-4)	55
East Riding of Yorkshire Council (England)	44 (=)	44
Fenland District Council (England)	40 (-3)	43
Doncaster City Council (England)	40 (+2)	38
Durham County Council (England)	39 (-5)	44
Cumberland Council (England)	36 (-5)	41
Dumfries and Galloway Council (Scotland)	30 (+4)	26

Scale of licensed dog breeding operations

Across the UK and Republic of Ireland, licensed dog breeders keep at least 20,186 [2] adult female dogs for breeding between them, which is a **notable decrease of 5,812 dogs (22.4%) compared to 2025**, when at least 25,998 female dogs were kept.



Limited traceability means it is impossible to know outcomes for this large number of dogs and whether they were kept as companions, sold or otherwise rehomed, relinquished to a rescue centre or euthanised.

In England, licensed operators “must make arrangements for any dog no longer required for breeding to be appropriately rehomed” if they are not to be kept as a companion, and statutory guidance requires rehoming outcomes to be documented. [3] In Wales, statutory guidance requires licensed breeders to have a retirement plan in place. [4] There appears to be no legal obligation to rehome dogs who are no longer required for breeding in Scotland or Northern Ireland.

Reasons for the significant reduction in dogs potentially include the decrease in licensed operators, voluntary reductions in the numbers of dogs kept in anticipation of potential future legislative changes or greater scrutiny of dog breeding, [5] and probable changes in the marketplace.

As in 2025, **Irish dog breeders keep a disproportionately high number of female dogs for breeding**. Despite Irish councils issuing only 5.2% of dog breeding licences overall, 20.5% (4,147) of the adult female dogs kept for licensed breeding are in Ireland.

It is, however, significant that **the greatest reductions in female dogs kept since 2025 have occurred in Northern Ireland**, where 1,356 female dogs are now kept (-493 dogs, a decrease of 26.7% from 1,849 in 2025) **as well as England**, where 12,917 dogs are now kept (-3,700 dogs, a decrease of 22.3% from 16,617 in 2025).

* The figure for Wales is an underestimate as Carmarthenshire County Council, which licenses 51 dog breeders (26.4% of operators in Wales), would not confirm the exact

number of dogs kept by breeders they license this year, although they have in previous years. This will account for some of the notable reduction in female dogs kept. They instead provided an indicative breakdown and confirmed the number of female and male dogs kept by the single largest operator.

At least **17,395 female dogs used for breeding are kept by licensed breeders in the UK specifically**. This again is a notable reduction of 5,627 dogs / 24.2% compared to 2025, when we found at least 23,022 female dogs were being kept.

Based on 2026 figures, **we estimate in the region of 10.5 - 14% of UK dogs are bred by licensed breeders**. [6] Between 2018 - 2024, an average of 49,810 dogs were commercially imported into the UK annually, accounting for approximately 0.45% of the current estimated UK dog population. [7]

We infer from these estimates that approximately **86-89% of UK dogs originate from other sources**, including unlicensed breeders falling below the commercial licensing thresholds, illegal breeders who should be licensed and puppy smugglers. As in 2025, it is impossible to determine what proportion of dogs comes from each of these sources.

**We estimate only
10.5 - 14% of UK
dogs come from
licensed breeders**

As was the case in 2025, **the vast majority of the UK puppy trade continues to operate outside of dedicated dog breeding regulations**, resulting in limited oversight and visibility of the trade. Consequently, most UK dogs originate from sources that are neither inspected nor expected to comply with minimum dog breeding welfare standards. This is of concern given that the statutory purpose of dog breeding licensing regulations in the UK is to promote or secure the welfare of animals for which a person is responsible, as set out in each nation's Animal Welfare Act. [8]

Licensed breeders across the UK and Republic of Ireland also keep at least **3,129 adult male dogs for breeding** and a further 1,219 adult breeding dogs whose sex was not specified. In total, there are at least 24,534 adult dogs being kept for breeding that is licensed in the UK and Republic of Ireland. [9]

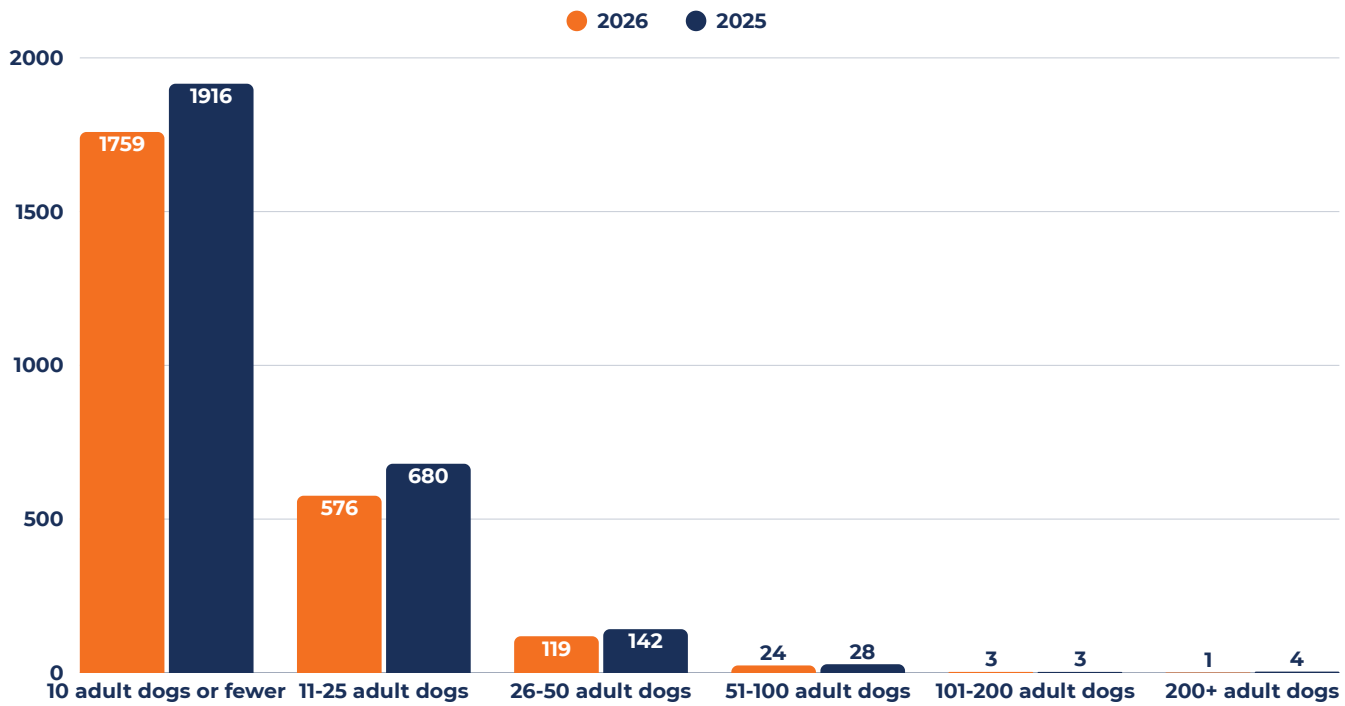
Local authorities in the UK and Republic of Ireland were able to provide full or partial data about the size of 2,482 (93.2%) licensed dog breeding businesses across the UK and Republic of Ireland, which shows:

- 66.1% (1,759) are licensed to keep 10 or fewer adult dogs for breeding
- 21.6% (576) are licensed to keep 11-25 adult dogs for breeding
- 4.5% (119) are licensed to keep 26-50 adult dogs for breeding
- 0.9% (24) are licensed to keep 51-100 adult dogs for breeding

Three businesses in Northern Ireland are licensed to keep between 101-200 adult dogs for breeding, and one business in the Republic of Ireland is licensed to keep over 200 (*n* 300) adult dogs for breeding.

Like in 2025, there are some noticeable contrasts between the size of breeding businesses in different parts of the UK and Republic of Ireland. For example, **70.4% (1,522) of licensed breeders in England keep 10 or fewer adult dogs for breeding, whereas just 2.2% (2) of breeders in the Republic of Ireland fall within this category.** Dog breeders in the Republic of Ireland are more likely to operate on a larger scale and be licensed to keep between 11-25 adult dogs for breeding (58, 63%), 26-50 adult dogs for breeding (14, 15.2%) or 51-100 adult dogs for breeding (12, 13%).

Breakdown of size of licensed breeding establishments in UK and Republic of Ireland



No licensed operators in Britain are licensed to keep over 100 dogs for breeding as far as we know from the data available. Two-thirds of the operators licensed to keep 50-100 dogs for breeding are in Ireland (4 in Northern Ireland and 12 in the Republic of Ireland). The remaining third are in England (5) and Wales (3).

In Britain, the largest licensed dog breeding business is based in the **Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk** area in England, where 88 adult female dogs and 12 adult male dogs are permitted on a single licence. This is closely followed by **Carmarthenshire County Council** in Wales, where a single operator is licensed to keep 84 female dogs and 12 male dogs for breeding. The largest operator in Scotland is licensed by **East Ayrshire Council** and permitted to keep 40 female dogs and 10 male dogs for breeding.

As in 2025, **the three largest licensed UK dog breeding businesses are based in Northern Ireland.** Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has issued three licences permitting the keeping of 1). 200 female dogs for breeding, 2). 100 female dogs and 100 male dogs for breeding, and, 3). 200 female dogs for breeding, although it should be noted these numbers are all lower than in 2025. **[10]**

Cavan County Council in the Republic of Ireland has issued a commercial dog breeding licence permitting the keeping of up to 300 female dogs for breeding on one licence.

10 largest licensed breeding businesses in the UK and issuing local authority	Total # adult dogs	# Female dogs	# Male dogs
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (Northern Ireland)	200	200	0
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (Northern Ireland)	200	200	0
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (Northern Ireland)	200	100	100
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (England)	100	88	12
Wrexham County Borough Council (Wales)	81	68	13
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (Northern Ireland)	79	66	13
Stafford Borough Council (England)	71	63	8
Burnley Borough Council (England)	62	55	7
Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (England)	59	50	9
Mid-Ulster District Council (Northern Ireland)	58	52	6

The number of dogs kept by the ten largest UK breeders in 2025 was 1,428, compared with 1,110 in 2026. This represents a reduction of 318 dogs / 22%. Whilst the reduction in numbers at the largest licensed establishments is to be welcomed, we do not think it is feasible to meet the individual welfare needs of parent dogs plus puppies, who are predominantly destined to become companion animals in a home environment, on a large-scale.

As in 2025, there is **currently no legal limit on the number of adult dogs a breeder can apply to keep for licensed breeding in any part of the UK or Republic of Ireland.**

In 2026, an Expert Advisory Group commissioned by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to review dog breeding regulation in Northern Ireland concluded that, amongst other things, a legal limit of no more than 25 adult dogs per premises should be introduced in the nation.

[11] Campaigners in the Republic of Ireland are also calling for a legal limit of no more than 30 adult dogs to be introduced there. **[12]**



Staffing requirements also vary between nations, with some lacking clear guidelines about minimum staff-to-dog ratios. In England and Wales, a minimum staffing ratio of one staff member per 20 adult dogs is specified, either in guidance [13] or the regulations [14] themselves. Furthermore, in England, breeders adhering to higher standards must ensure at least one staff member for every 10 adult dogs. [15] In the Republic of Ireland, proposals have recently been put forward to introduce a statutory limit of one staff member per 20 adult dogs. [16]

Scotland and Northern Ireland do not currently have specific staffing ratios. Instead, Scottish regulations state that “sufficient numbers of people” must be available, [17] but do not define what constitutes sufficiency, leaving it to the discretion of the licensing authority. Northern Ireland’s regulations make no reference to staffing requirements. [18] The Expert Advisory Group tasked with reviewing Northern Ireland’s dog breeding regulation recommended the introduction of a ratio of one staff member to every 10 adult dogs. [19]

Improvements to minimum staffing rules for dog breeding premises are needed across the UK and the Republic of Ireland to ensure the welfare needs of adult dogs kept for breeding and their offspring can feasibly be met. We support a minimum staffing ratio of 1:10 adult dogs across all nations. Legal limits on the maximum number of dogs that can be kept for breeding per premises should also be introduced.

England’s star rating system

England remains the only nation in the UK and Republic of Ireland to operate a star-rating system for some licensable animal activities, including dog breeding.



Of the 2,161 dog breeding licences in England:

- 58.1% (1,256) are rated five-stars.
- 11.6% (250) are rated four-stars.
- 21.5% (464) are rated three-stars.
- 5.3% (114) are rated two-stars.
- 1.4% (30) are rated one-star.

Star rating information was not held or withheld in relation to 47 (2.2%) licences in England.

Compared to 2025, the most notable changes are a **decrease in the number of one-star rated premises** from 55 (2.3%) to 30 (1.4%), and a **slight increase in the proportion of businesses rated five stars** from 55.8% in 2025 to 58.1% in 2026.

Almost 70% of licensed dog breeders in England are rated four- or five-stars, which suggests the majority of businesses are deemed to be meeting the required higher standards and at least 50% optional higher standards, as well as required minimum standards. The licence period for four- and five-star rated premises is two and three years, respectively. All operators, regardless of licence duration and star-rating, are supposed to receive one unannounced visit during the licence period in accordance with the statutory guidance. [20]

Similar to the food hygiene rating scheme, animal activity star ratings are intended to help the public identify licence holders who are operating to higher standards and incentivise those with lower ratings to improve.

Excluding puppies, based on information supplied by local authorities, it is estimated that **at least 187 dogs are kept at one-star rated dog breeding businesses in England**. This is a significant and welcome reduction of 484 dogs / 72.1% compared to 2025, when at least 671 dogs were kept at one-star rated premises.

A one-star rated business is one where minor failings in compliance with licence conditions have been identified. The guidance is clear that such failings must not compromise animal welfare and, if welfare is being compromised, the correct response is for the local authority to refuse, suspend, vary or revoke the licence. [21]

One-star rated businesses are subject to at least one unannounced inspection within 12 months of the licence being issued.



Based on the data available, it is not possible to determine whether any of the operators currently rated one-star are the same establishments that received a one-star rating in 2025. It is also unclear whether one-star rated operators in 2025 have stopped operating, had their licence suspended or revoked, or improved their star rating. [22]

Licensed pet sellers of dogs and puppies

In Wales and the Republic of Ireland, commercial dog breeders operating below the licensing thresholds in each jurisdiction's dog breeding regulations may need to adhere to pet selling regulations instead. For the first time in 2026, we also asked local authorities in England and Scotland and the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland whether any of their licensed pet sellers were licensed to sell dogs.

Republic of Ireland

In the Republic of Ireland, breeders who fall below, or otherwise do not meet the requirements of, the dog breeding licensing threshold but sell or supply six or more dogs or puppies in a year should currently register as a seller of pets with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). [\[23\]](#)

In 2026, there are in the region of **556 pet sellers registered to sell dogs and puppies in the Republic of Ireland**, a reduction of 165 sellers / 22.9% compared with 2025 when there were 721.

251 (45.1%) are registered to sell 10 dogs or fewer, 302 (54.3%) are registered to sell 10-50 dogs, two are registered to sell 50-100 dogs, and one is registered to sell over 101+ dogs.

Third party sales of puppies, whereby someone other than the breeder acts as the seller, are not currently prohibited in the Republic of Ireland. However, they could soon be under new proposals [\[24\]](#) announced by the Government of Ireland.

Wales

In Wales, dog breeders who do not meet the requirements for a dog breeding licence but nonetheless sell dogs in the course of a business may need to obtain a pet selling licence in accordance with the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021.

There are **zero pet sellers who are licensed to sell dogs in Wales**. In 2025, there were two (one in the Cardiff Council area and one in the Carmarthenshire County Council area).

It would appear awareness of the potential need to obtain a pet selling licence remains concerningly low amongst dog breeders in Wales who are operating commercially but below the current dog breeding licensing threshold.

As in 2025, a joint campaign by the Welsh Government, local authorities and other relevant stakeholders is recommended to help increase awareness and compliance unless or until dog breeding regulation is revised in the nation to ensure the activity is regulated consistently.

Rest of UK

There are approximately **13 licensed pet sellers of dogs in the rest of the UK, all of which are based in England**. Data about the number of dogs permitted for sale on each licence was available for nine of these businesses and shows that three are permitted to sell 10 dogs or fewer, five are permitted to sell 11-50 dogs and one is permitted to sell 51-100 dogs.

Further research suggests some of these businesses are selling older, trained dogs, including, in some cases, so-called “protection” dogs. Others are selling puppies bred under the authority of a breeding licence held in another part of the UK and subsequently sold in a different part of the UK under the authority of a pet selling licence.

Protection dog sales

There is concern [25] about the growing popularity of protection dogs, who are often trained to bite and hold a person on command. Concerns include the lack of regulation of dog training in general, the ambiguous legal status of such dogs, the risks associated with members of the general public owning and acquiring dogs who could be used for security or defence purposes, and the methods employed to train these dogs to perform such tasks.



In Britain, commercial sellers of “pets”, defined as any animal who will be kept - or is intended to be kept - mainly or permanently for personal interest, companionship, ornamental purposes or a combination of these purposes, [26] require a pet selling licence in accordance with each nation’s version of the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations.

It is significant that the need to acquire a pet selling licence potentially applies to sellers of protection dogs as one of the general licence conditions that would be applicable to such businesses in England and Wales (although not Scotland) is that “training methods or equipment must not cause pain, suffering or injury.” [27]

The rise in protection dogs warrants further scrutiny and understanding. Where the pet-selling framework applies to such operations, it may provide an opportunity for greater oversight, including of training methods, as required by the licence conditions in England and Wales.

Public licensing registers and transparency

Transparency around dog breeding is needed to deter bad actors, ensure the public can make informed decisions if purchasing a puppy and, ultimately improve dog welfare and compliance with dog breeding regulations.

We believe a central animal activity licensing register would help so that checks can be made by the public quickly and easily. In addition, we think all local authorities should publish animal activity licensing registers on their websites.

In lieu of a central register, the Dog Breeding Map of the UK and Ireland by Naturewatch Foundation [28] signposts members of the public to dog breeding licensing registers that have been published or (if unavailable) contact information for the council so they can make enquiries.

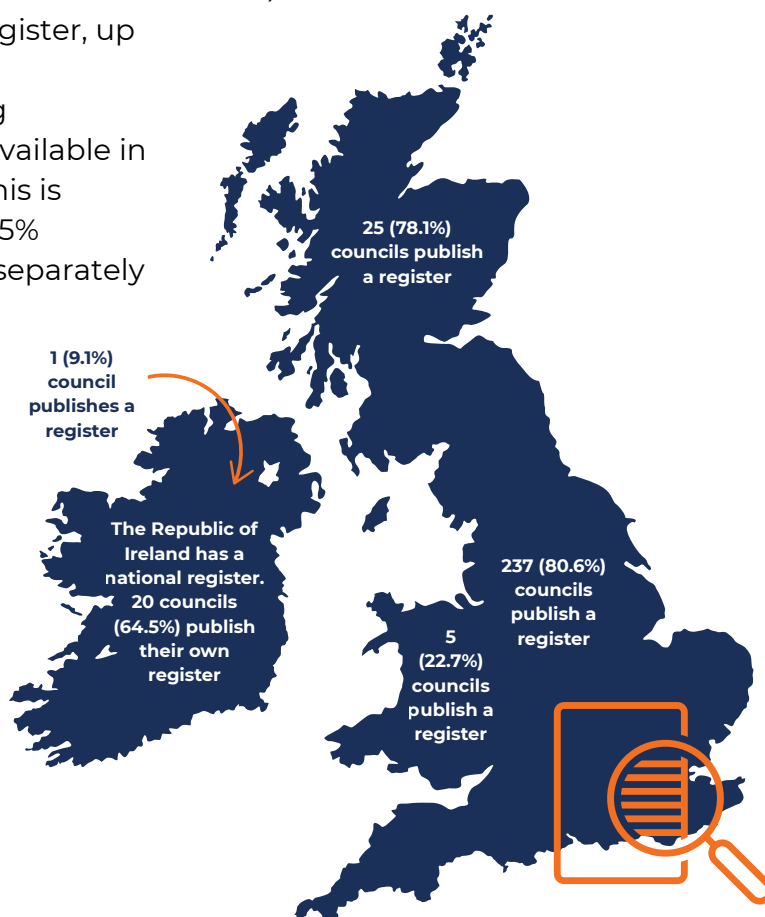
In 2026:

- **73.8% (288) councils in the UK and Republic of Ireland publish a register of licensed dog breeders in some form.** In 2025, the figure was 68% (266).
- England leads with 80.6% councils publishing a register (up from 70.8% in 2025). [29]
- Northern Ireland remains the least transparent nation, with just one (9.1%) council publishing a register (the figure in 2025 was zero / 0%).
- 78.1% Scottish councils publish a register, up from 62.5% in 2025. [30]
- A national register of Dog Breeding Establishments (DBEs) is publicly available in the Republic of Ireland, although this is currently updated infrequently. 64.5% councils in the Republic of Ireland separately publish their own register.

It is encouraging that the number of local authorities publishing a register has increased since 2025.

We urge all local authorities that do not already do so to publish animal activities licensing registers and

governments in the UK to support the creation of national animal activities licensing registers to make it easier for the public to verify whether an operator is licensed.



Recording of dogs by local authorities

There remains significant variation across local authorities in their recording of the numbers of dogs kept by breeders they have licensed. **Only 185 (52%) of local authorities across the UK could confirm how many adult female dogs, adult male dogs and other (non-breeding) dogs were kept by dog breeders they had licensed.** The number able to confirm these figures, plus either the number of puppies specified at one time or in a twelve month period, falls to 117 (33%), which is similar to 2025.

In the Republic of Ireland, only three councils (9.7%) could confirm the number of female dogs kept, the number of male dogs kept and the number of non-breeding dogs kept by breeders they had licensed. These councils were also able to confirm either the number of litters permitted at one time or in a 12-month period.

Nine local authorities in England, two local authorities in Scotland and one local council in the Republic of Ireland indicated they did not have a record of any numbers of dogs kept by breeders licensed by their council. One additional local authority in England indicated this information was not held in a retrievable format. Between them, these councils currently license 86 dog breeders.

In England, statutory guidance states that licences should specify the total number of dogs kept on the premises, including breeding bitches, stud dogs, litters on site and other (non-breeding) dogs. [31] In Scotland, local authorities should specify the maximum number of breeding bitches who may be kept when licences are granted or renewed. [32]

For local authorities that supplied this information, there was also significant variation in how litters of puppies are recorded. Like in 2025, some local authorities indicated they record how many litters a licensed breeder can keep on the premises at one time, some indicated how many litters were permitted in a 12-month period, others indicated how many individual puppies were permitted, whilst some indicated they rely on the breeder to tell them how many litters they have bred.

Standardised recording of dogs kept at licensed breeding establishments across local authorities remains essential to improve welfare monitoring and traceability, especially as dogs kept at breeding establishments may be resident there for a number of years or for their entire lives. We think all dogs permitted to be kept on a licensed dog breeding premises should be recorded by the licensing authority during inspections. Microchips of adult dogs should be recorded and checked at inspection also.

All nations that do not already should additionally require licensed dog breeders to keep a record of retirement outcomes for dogs kept for breeding and should introduce an obligation on operators to ensure a dog's breeding history is passed to a new keeper, where applicable. This would ensure dogs who have had the maximum number of litters in a lifetime, or who exceed the maximum age for breeding, can not be used for subsequent breeding. Guidance should encourage the spaying or neutering of dogs who have been retired from breeding, unless advice from a veterinarian recommends otherwise.

Recent legislative and policy developments

England

In December 2025, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) published its *Animal Welfare Strategy for England* [33] and pledged to “end puppy smuggling and puppy farming”. As part of this, Defra has committed to launch a dog breeding consultation. At the time of the release of this report, there has been no confirmation as to when this consultation will be launched.

Wales

A new minority Welsh Government, led by Plaid Cymru, was elected in May 2026. Plaid Cymru’s Manifesto committed to “[p]romote responsible pet ownership and breeding” and to develop a new “science-led Animal Health and Welfare Plan”. [34]

Scotland

A new SNP-led Scottish Government was elected in May 2026. There have been no animal welfare announcements related to the puppy trade to date.

Northern Ireland

In 2025, DAERA commissioned an independent Expert Advisory Panel to review dog breeding regulation in Northern Ireland. The panel’s review, [35] to which Naturewatch Foundation contributed evidence, was published in May 2026 and recommends a wide range of improvements to dog breeding regulation and oversight in the nation. In response to a written question from Cara Hunter MLA, DAERA Minister Andrew Muir MLA suggested up to 10 recommendations from the review could be subject to a public consultation in autumn 2026 as a first step. [36] In addition, DAERA confirmed in February 2026 that it would move forward with legislation to introduce a system of registration for all suppliers of puppies and kittens as soon as possible following a public consultation in 2025, to which Naturewatch Foundation also responded. [37]

Republic of Ireland

In May 2026, DAFM announced proposals to amend the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010. Proposed measures include introducing a minimum staffing ratio of one staff member to every 20 dogs, a lifetime litter limit of up to four litters for female dogs, and a ban on third party sales, amongst others. [38] Whilst it is welcome that the Republic of Ireland intends to strengthen its regulation of dog breeding, the lack of a proposed cap on the number of adult dogs kept for breeding per premises is disappointing and we think the proposed minimum staffing ratio is too low.

EU

It is also relevant that the European Union has now agreed and published its new Regulation (EU) 2026/1818 on the welfare of dogs and cats and their traceability, which includes new rules for breeding establishments. These rules will apply to all Member States and be phased in over a number of years. This has relevance to the Republic of Ireland as a Member State and, potentially, Northern Ireland should the Windsor Framework be used to eventually add it to the list of EU laws applicable in Northern Ireland.

Recommendations

Improved transparency

- Local authorities that do not already do so should publish licensing registers to enable the public to verify whether a breeder is licensed.
- Among the majority of councils that already publish a register, there is considerable variation in the information made available. We believe the information published in such registers should be standardised, with guidance from each nation's government about what should be included to ensure registers contain a proportionate amount of information.
- UK nations should support the introduction of national animal activities licensing registers to make it easy for the public to verify whether a breeder is licensed. We consider it most appropriate for such registers to be maintained and published by each nation's government.

Licence conditions must be capable of meaningfully securing/promoting animal welfare

- Realistic staffing ratios of a minimum of one full-time equivalent (FTE) staff member to every 10 adult dogs should be introduced in each nation to ensure the individual welfare needs of dogs and puppies can more feasibly be met.
- A cap on the maximum number of dogs permitted per premises should be considered in each nation.
- All licensing frameworks should promote positive welfare outcomes for dogs when they are retired from breeding and ensure that those outcomes are recorded and assessed during inspections. Where a retired breeding dog is rehomed or otherwise transferred to a new keeper, there should be a legal requirement for licensed operators to disclose the dog's breeding history to help ensure he or she is not used for further breeding. Guidance in all nations should also encourage the spaying or neutering of dogs retired from breeding, unless veterinary advice indicates otherwise.

Standardised recording and monitoring of dogs

- All local authorities should keep a record of the dogs kept on the breeding premises they license, including adult female dogs kept for breeding, adult male dogs kept for breeding and other resident dogs not kept for breeding, such as retired breeding dogs. The microchip numbers of all adult dogs should be recorded and checked during inspections.
- Guidance should require local authorities to specify on dog breeding licences both the maximum number of litters that may be kept on the premises at any one time and the maximum number of litters that may be bred within a 12-month period.
- To ensure inspections are conducted consistently and fairly, a standard inspection pro forma should be approved and made available to local authorities in each nation. [39] Guidance for local authorities should establish a clear expectation that inspection reports will record how, and not simply whether, operators demonstrate compliance with each licence condition set out in the regulations and, where applicable, any additional requirements in the statutory guidance. This will help improve the standard of inspections, increase confidence in the licensing framework, and also assist local authorities in justifying licensing decisions in the event of an appeal.

Tackle the unregulated and illegal trade in puppies and dogs

- With the vast majority of UK dogs and puppies still coming from sources operating outside of the licensing framework, there remains an urgent need for more consistent enforcement of dog breeding regulations and, where applicable, pet selling regulations.
- Existing frameworks can be confusing for the public and we continue to support calls for more fundamental reform by way of a reduction in commercial licensing thresholds to two litters in a 12-month period and accompanying introduction of schemes of registration for those falling below the commercial threshold. This would create a clear public expectation that anyone breeding dogs is either registered or licensed. Systems of registration should require adherence to a proportionate set of registration conditions intended to promote the welfare of dogs kept for breeding and their offspring. As the trade in dogs and puppies can easily cross domestic borders, we think greater alignment across UK nations is desirable for this animal activity, as is promoting consistency and best practice amongst local authorities.
- A statutory dog breeding code of practice, applicable to all dog breeders, should be introduced in each nation using powers available in the Animal Welfare Acts in order to promote responsible decision-making and good welfare standards for dogs kept for breeding and their offspring.
- Defra should urgently fulfill its commitment to launch a consultation on improvements to dog breeding regulation in England and act on the findings of the consultation promptly to ensure legislative and policy improvements can be made during the current Parliament.

- DAERA should take forward the full range of recommendations proposed by the Expert Advisory Group that conducted the dog breeding regulation review in Northern Ireland.
- The new Welsh Government should commit to updating Wales' dog breeding regulations as part of its promised Animal Health and Welfare Plan for Wales.
- The new Scottish Government should review whether current Scottish dog breeding regulations are fulfilling their statutory purpose after five years in effect, and seek to improve the standard of administration and enforcement of such regulations.
- Regulations to give effect to the ban on puppy smuggling should be introduced as soon as possible.
- The existing pet selling framework may provide an avenue for greater oversight of sellers of personal protection dogs. This should be explored further by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local authorities.

Endnotes

1. Chesterfield Borough Council, Colchester Council, Cotswold District Council, Derby City Council, London Borough of Newham, Somerset Council, West Lancashire Council
2. It should be noted that not all local authorities record how many dogs are kept by licensed operators (see page 22).
3. Sch 6, para 6(11) Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018 (LAIAR 2018).
4. Welsh Government, 'Dog Breeding Establishments Guidance for Local Authorities', (April 2018) <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2022-07/dog-breeding-establishments-guidance-for-local-authorities_1.pdf>.
5. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has committed to "end puppy farming" and to releasing a dog breeding consultation as part of its Animal Welfare Strategy for England, published December 2025 (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-welfare-strategy-for-england/animal-welfare-strategy-for-england>), and the Northern Ireland Government commissioned an expert review of dog breeding regulation in 2025, which recommended in 2026 significant changes to dog breeding regulation and oversight in the nation (available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-05/Review%20of%20dog%20breeding%20regulations%20in%20Northern%20Ireland%20with%20recommendation%20to%20improve%20animal%20welfare.PDF>).
6. Based on one litter per dog per year of 6 or 8 puppies, we estimate that licensed dog breeders in the UK currently produce between 103,050 and 137,400 puppies annually. According to the PDSA PAW Report 2025, the UK dog population is approximately 11.1 million, and VetCompass research suggests the average life expectancy of dogs in the UK is 11.2 years. This suggests around 991,071 puppies and dogs join the UK dog population annually. Based on these figures, we estimate that licensed breeders are currently responsible for breeding 10.4% to 13.9% of these dogs. It should be noted that dog population estimates vary and some estimates are significantly higher. For instance, UK Pet Food estimate in 2026, the dog population is 15,500,000, which would mean the proportion of puppies bred by licensed operators is much lower.
7. For 2018-2022, see APHA Freedom of Information request ATIC2971 (February 2023) available at <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ccd503ef14e6000d178984/ATIC2971.pdf>; for 2023, see <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/rspca-dogs-imported-uk-warning-b2797140.html>; for 2024, see <https://questions-statements.parliament.uk/written-questions/detail/2025-07-01/64312/>.
8. See s13(5) Animal Welfare Act 2006, s27(3) Animal Health and Welfare (Scotland) Act 2006 and s12(5) Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.
9. As before, this is an underestimate as not all local authorities record how many dogs are kept by licensed breeders.
10. 1). 300 female dogs for breeding, 2). 250 female dogs and 100 male dogs for breeding, and, 3). 250 female dogs for breeding.
11. Expert Advisory Group, 'Review of the Dog Breeding Regulations in Northern Ireland, with recommendations to improve animal welfare' (May 2026) available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/review-dog-breeding-regulations-northern-ireland-recommendations-improve-animal-welfare>.
12. Social Democrats, 'Ask your TD to support our Dog Welfare Bill' (19 August 2026) available at <https://www.socialdemocrats.ie/campaigns/dog-welfare-bill/>.
13. Defra, 'Dog Breeding Licensing: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' (Updated 1 June 2026) available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/dog-breeding-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities#part-b--specific-conditions-breeding-dogs-schedule-6-of-the-regulations>.
14. Reg 8(2)(c) Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014.
15. Defra, 'Dog Breeding Licensing: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' (Updated 1 June 2026) available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/dog-breeding-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities#part-b--specific-conditions-breeding-dogs-schedule-6-of-the-regulations>.
16. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 'General Scheme of the Dog Breeding Establishments (Amendment) Bill 2026' (May 2026) available at https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/9306956d/General_Scheme_of_the_Dog_Breeding_Establishments_Amendment_Bill_2026.pdf.
17. Sch 3, para 4(1) Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021.
18. Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.
19. Expert Advisory Group, 'Review of the Dog Breeding Regulations in Northern Ireland, with recommendations to improve animal welfare' (May 2026) available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/review-dog-breeding-regulations-northern-ireland-recommendations-improve-animal-welfare>.

20. Defra, 'Animal activity licensing process: statutory guidance for local authorities' (Updated 1 June 2026) available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/animal-activity-licensing-process-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities#granting-or-renewing-a-licence-risk-based-approach>.
21. Defra, 'Animal activity licensing process: statutory guidance for local authorities' (Updated 1 June 2026) available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/animal-activity-licensing-process-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities#granting-or-renewing-a-licence-assess-welfare-standards>.
22. The statutory guidance states "It should not be standard to issue a one star licence for more than a year, as it is expected that all operators must comply with the minimum standards" (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/animal-activity-licensing-process-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities#granting-or-renewing-a-licence-assess-welfare-standards>).
23. Animal Health and Welfare (Sale or supply of pet animals) Regulations 2019.
24. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 'General Scheme of the Dog Breeding Establishments (Amendment) Bill 2026' (May 2026) available at https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/9306956d/General_Scheme_of_the_Dog_Breeding_Establishments_Amendment_Bill_2026.pdf.
25. Elle Hunt, "'Demand has increased, without a doubt": the shocking rise of personal protection dogs' (The Guardian, 4 February 2026) available at <https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2026/feb/04/demand-has-increased-without-a-doubt-the-shocking-rise-of-personal-protection-dogs>.
26. As defined in reg 2 of each of England, Wales' and Scotland's Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) Regulations.
27. Sch 2, para 7(4) Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018; Sch 2, para 7(4) Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021.
28. Available at <https://naturewatch.org/campaigns/companion-animals/what-were-doing/uk-dog-breeding-map/>.
29. Local authorities in England are expected to maintain a list of licensed businesses and their associated ratings on their websites, in accordance with the statutory guidance (see <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/animal-activity-licensing-process-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities#granting-or-renewing-a-licence-star-ratings-and-licence-conditions>).
30. Local authorities in Scotland have a statutory duty to publish a register of licensed operators under reg 28 Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021.
31. Defra, 'Dog Breeding Licensing: Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities' (Updated 1 June 2026) available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-activities-licensing-guidance-for-local-authorities/dog-breeding-licensing-statutory-guidance-for-local-authorities#part-b--specific-conditions-breeding-dogs-schedule-6-of-the-regulations>.
32. Reg 6 para (6)(b) Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021.
33. Defra, 'Animal welfare strategy for England' (22 December 2025) available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/animal-welfare-strategy-for-england/animal-welfare-strategy-for-england>.
34. Plaid Cymru 'Manifesto: Animal Welfare' (April 2026) available at https://www.partyof.wales/lles_anifeiliad.
35. Expert Advisory Group, 'Review of the Dog Breeding Regulations in Northern Ireland, with recommendations to improve animal welfare' (May 2026) available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/review-dog-breeding-regulations-northern-ireland-recommendations-improve-animal-welfare>.
36. Northern Ireland Assembly, AQW 49006/22-27 (24 June 2026) available at <https://aims.niassembly.gov.uk/questions/printquestionssummary.aspx?docid=491161/>.
37. DAERA, 'Consultation on new rules for selling and supplying puppies and kittens: Summary of Responses and Way Forward' (February 2026) available at https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-02/Summary%20of%20Responses%20and%20Way%20Forward%20-%20Consultation%20on%20new%20rules%20for%20selling%20and%20supplying%20puppies%20and%20kittens_1.pdf.
38. Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 'Minister Heydon announces new legislative changes to improve standards for Dog Breeding Establishments and strengthen welfare protections for dogs and puppies' (19 May 2026) available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-agriculture-food-and-the-marine/press-releases/minister-heydon-announces-new-legislative-changes-to-improve-standards-for-dog-breeding-establishments-and-strengthen-welfare-protections-for-dogs-and-puppies/>.
39. Although not analysed as part of this report, Freedom of Information responses show significant variation in the standard of dog breeding inspection reports across the UK. In England, a standard pro forma was developed by the Local Government Animal Welfare Group and this appears to have had good uptake.

Annex A: Nations at a glance

England

- 294 local authorities (excluding County Councils) that can issue dog breeding licences.
- 2,161 licensed dog breeders.
- 36 (12.2%) councils have no licensed dog breeders.
- The Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk has the most licensed dog breeders (65). The average number of licensed breeders per local authority is 7.4.
- 1,522 licensed breeders keep 10 adult dogs or fewer. 403 keep 11-25 adult dogs. 58 keep 26-50 adult dogs. Five keep 51-100 adult dogs. Data was not provided about 173 licensed breeders.
- The largest licensed breeder keeps 100 adult dogs for breeding (88 females and 12 males) and is licensed by the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.
- At least 12,917 female dogs are kept for licensed breeding.
- 237 (80.6%) local authorities publish a dog breeding licensing register.
- There are 30 one-star rated businesses, 114 with two stars, 464 with three stars, 250 with four stars, and 1,256 with five stars. Star rating information was not held in relation to 47 licensed breeders.
- A dog breeder in England requires a licence if they are 1. breeding three or more litters of puppies in a 12-month period and/or 2. breeding dogs and advertising a business of selling dogs.
- There are 13 licensed pet sellers that are licensed to sell dogs.

Wales

- 22 local authorities.
- 193 licensed dog breeders.
- One council has no licensed dog breeders.
- Carmarthenshire County Council has the most licensed breeders (51). The average number of licensed breeders per local authority is 8.8.
- 109 licensed breeders keep 10 adult dogs or fewer. 60 keep 11-25 adult dogs. 21 keep 26-50 adult dogs. Three keep 51-100 adult dogs.
- The largest licensed breeder keeps 84 female and 12 male adult dogs for breeding and is licensed by Carmarthenshire County Council.
- At least 1,382 female dogs are kept for licensed breeding, although this is likely to be a significant underestimate as this total does not include the number of dogs kept by breeders licensed by Carmarthenshire County Council.
- Five (22.7%) local authorities publish a dog breeding licensing register.
- A dog breeder in Wales requires a dog breeding licence if they keep three or more breeding bitches and 1. breed three or more litters of puppies in a 12-month period and/or 2. supply or advertise puppies for sale. People who are breeding dogs below this threshold require a pet selling licence if they are selling puppies and/or dogs in the course of a business.
- There are zero licensed pet sellers of dogs/puppies.

Scotland

- 32 local authorities.
- 172 licensed dog breeders.
- 11 (34.4%) councils have no licensed dog breeders.
- Dumfries & Galloway Council has the most licensed dog breeders (30). The average number of licensed breeders per local authority is 5.4.
- 118 licensed breeders keep 10 adult dogs or fewer. 36 keep 11-25 adult dogs. 14 keep 26-50 adult dogs. Data was not provided about four licensed breeders.
- The largest licensed breeder keeps 40 female adult dogs and 10 male adult dogs for breeding, and is licensed by East Ayrshire Council.
- At least 1,740 female dogs are kept for licensed breeding.
- 25 (78.1%) local authorities publish a dog breeding licensing register. Councils in Scotland have a statutory duty to publish this information.
- A dog breeder in Scotland requires a licence if they are breeding three or more litters of puppies in a 12-month period.
- There are zero licensed pet sellers of dogs/puppies.

Northern Ireland

- 11 local authorities.
- 46 licensed dog breeders.
- Two councils have no licensed dog breeders.
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council has the most licensed breeders (9). The average number of licensed breeders per local authority is 4.2.
- Eight licensed breeders keep 10 adult dogs or fewer. 19 keep 11-25 adult dogs. 12 keep 26-50 adult dogs. Four keep 51-100 adult dogs. Three keep 101-200 adult dogs..
- Three licensed breeders keep 200 adult dogs for breeding and are all licensed by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.
- At least 1,356 female dogs are kept for licensed breeding.
- One (9.1%) local authority publishes a dog breeding licensing register.
- A dog breeder in Northern Ireland requires a dog breeding licence if they keep three or more breeding bitches and either 1. breed, supply and/or advertise three or more litters of puppies in a 12-month period, or 2. advertise a business of breeding or selling puppies.
- There are zero licensed pet sellers of dogs/puppies

Republic of Ireland

- 31 local authorities.
- 92 licensed dog breeders.
- 10 councils have no licensed dog breeders.
- Wexford Council has the most licensed breeders (14). The average number of licensed breeders per local authority is three.
- Two licensed breeders keep ten adult dogs or less. 58 keep 11-25 adult dogs. 14 keep 26-50 adult dogs. 12 keep 51-100 adult dogs. One keeps 200+ adult dogs.
- The largest licensed breeder is permitted to keep up to 300 adult females for breeding and is licensed by Cavan County Council.
- Overall, 2,791 female dogs are kept for licensed breeding.
- A national register of dog breeding establishments is available. 20 councils also publish their own register.
- A dog breeder in the Republic of Ireland requires a dog breeding licence if they keep six or more breeding bitches over six months of age who are capable of being used for breeding. A person who breeds dogs below this threshold should register with the Department of Agriculture as a Seller of Pets if they sell or supply six or more puppies and/or dogs in a year.
- There are 556 registered sellers/suppliers of dogs and puppies.

Annex B: FOI questions

England

- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm how many dog breeding businesses your local authority currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018?
- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of 1. breeding female adult dogs, 2. breeding male adult dogs, 3. litters of puppies (please indicate the number permitted at any one time and/or within a twelve-month period) 4. other (non-breeding) dogs specified on each dog breeding licence and, 5. the star rating and 6. expiry date of each dog breeding licence currently in effect.
- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm how many licensed pet sellers your local authority currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018?
- How many licensed pet sellers are currently permitted to sell: Puppies/Dogs?
- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of puppies/dogs specified on each licence, and the star rating and expiry date of each licence currently in effect.

Wales

- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm how many dog breeding businesses your local authority currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Animal Welfare (Breeding of Dogs) (Wales) Regulations 2014?
- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of 1. breeding female adult dogs, 2. breeding male adult dogs, 3. litters of puppies (please indicate the number permitted at any one time and/or within a twelve-month period) 4. other (non-breeding) dogs specified on each dog breeding licence and, 5. expiry date of each dog breeding licence currently in effect.
- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm many licensed pet sellers your local authority currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Wales) Regulations 2021?
- How many licensed pet sellers are permitted to sell: Puppies/Dogs?
- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of puppies/dogs specified on each licence, and the star rating and expiry date of each licence currently in effect.

Scotland

- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm how many dog breeding businesses your local authority currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021?

- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of 1. breeding female adult dogs, 2. breeding male adult dogs, 3. litters of puppies (please indicate the number permitted at any one time and/or within a twelve-month period) 4. other (non-breeding) dogs specified on each licence and, 5. expiry date of each licence currently in effect.
- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm how many licensed pet sellers your local authority currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (Scotland) Regulations 2021?
- How many licensed pet sellers are permitted to sell: Puppies/Dogs?
- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of puppies/dogs specified on each licence and the expiry date of each licence currently in effect.

Northern Ireland

Councils

- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm how many dog breeding businesses your local authority currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Welfare of Animals (Dog Breeding Establishments and Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013?
- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of 1. breeding female adult dogs, 2. breeding male adult dogs, 3. litters of puppies (please indicate the number permitted at any one time and/or within a twelve-month period) 4. other (non-breeding) dogs specified on each licence and, 5. expiry date of each licence currently in effect.

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)

- Please could you confirm how many licensed pet shops DAERA currently licenses (as of today's date) pursuant to the Petshops Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000?
- How many licensed pet shops are permitted to sell: Puppies/Dogs?
- Please provide a breakdown by licence of the number of puppies/dogs and expiry date of each licence currently in effect.

Republic of Ireland

Councils

- If you do not already publish this information publicly and in an up-to-date format, please could you confirm how many commercial dog breeding establishments your council currently registers (as of today's date) pursuant to the Dog Breeding Establishments Act 2010?
- Please provide a breakdown by registrant of the number of 1. breeding female adult dogs, 2. breeding male adult dogs, 3. litters of puppies (please indicate the number permitted at any one time and/or within a twelve-month period), 4. other (non-breeding) dogs specified against each registered commercial dog breeding establishment and, 5. date registration first came into effect.

Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)

- Please provide a breakdown by county of how many sellers or suppliers of dogs are currently registered with the Department pursuant to the Animal Health and Welfare (Sale or Supply of Pet Animals) Regulations 2019?
- In connection with sellers or suppliers of dogs only, please indicate, for each county area, how many are registered to sell or supply:
 - Less than 10 dogs
 - 10-50 dogs
 - 50-100 dogs
 - 100+ dogs

Please interpret "dogs" to include puppies.

Contact us at info@naturewatch.org
for more information about our
campaign to end low-welfare and
illegal dog breeding.

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