

Dogs (Amendment) Bill 2011
Second Reading approved

3.1. Mr Gawne to move:

That the Dogs (Amendment) Bill 2011 be read the second time.

The Speaker: Item 3. Bill for Second Reading. I call the Hon. Member for Rushen, Mr Gawne to move.

Mr Gawne: Gura mie eu, Loayreyder.

This Bill makes various minor amendments to the Dogs Act 1990. It simplifies the procedure for granting exemptions from the need for a dog licence. The main objective of this amendment is to enable the Department to specify exemptions by order, instead of them being laid down in primary legislation. This would allow the Department to, firstly, make an order, specifying exemptions based on the current list of exemptions, such as dogs under six months, dogs used by blind persons and police dogs.

Then, at a later date the Department would be able to introduce exemptions for dogs that were, for example, microchipped. Any order would be subject to initial consultation and require Tynwald approval. The amendments in the Bill also provide that the colour of tokens issued for licensed dogs shall be specified by the Department, rather than through regulations.

A further amendment made by the Bill relates to dog fouling and extends the provisions relating to fouling of land by dogs to car parks, cemeteries and churchyards. This will enable local authorities to include such places in any new byelaws that they choose to make and enforce.

The amendments contained in the Bill were subject to extensive consultation, as part of the Local Government Housing Bill consultation in 2009. The restructuring of Government in April 2010 meant that the remit for this particular issue fell to the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture, which resulted in the need to remove the provisions concerned and for a separate Bill to be prepared.

Loayreyder, I beg to move that this Bill be read for a second time.

The Speaker: I call on Mrs Cannell.

Mrs Cannell: Thank you, Mr Speaker.
I beg to second and reserve my remarks.

The Speaker: If no Member wishes to speak, I shall put it to the vote.

Those in favour that the Dogs (Amendment) Bill be read for the second time, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.

Hon. Members, that concludes the business of the House this morning. The House will now stand adjourned until the next sitting, which will take place at 10 o'clock on Tuesday, 6th December in this Chamber.