



Transition of pet shops into adoption centres

Proposed new laws and changes to the *Dog Act 1976 Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020*

Background

The *Dog Amendment (Stop Puppy Farming) Bill 2020* (the Bill) has been introduced into Parliament after overwhelming support was received from Western Australians for the proposed reforms.

The Bill progresses the State Government's commitment to transition pet shops into a model that allows pet shops to work in partnership with interested rescue organisations to offer an adoption service that finds homes for abandoned dogs.

What new changes will the Bill introduce?

Currently, there is no regulation of the sale of dogs from pet shops.

The Bill proposes to transition pet shops that currently sell puppies or dogs sourced from unregulated breeders into adoption centres that work in partnership with rescues to find safe and loving homes for homeless dogs.

The adoption centres can offer dogs for adoption that have been rescued from pounds or saved by government approved rescue organisations who are permitted to partner with them.

The proposed new provisions (laws) mean:

- Pet shops will be required to obtain a 'pet shop approval' from their local government in order to rehome dogs through this new model.
 - Pet shops with a 'pet shop approval' will only be able to find homes for dogs from pounds or rescue organisations that have a 'dog supply approval'.
 - Pet shops will need to provide specified information on a dog to a potential new owner including information on where it was sourced.
- Pet shops that qualify for this new business model will be given a pet shop number that must be provided when a puppy or dog is transferred to a new owner.

What will it mean for pounds and rescue organisations?

Currently, pounds and rescue organisations work tirelessly to find loving and safe homes for thousands of puppies and dogs that are homeless, across WA.

Under the new provisions, pounds and rescue organisations may apply for a 'dog supply approval' that will enable them to work with approved pet shops to identify new homes for these homeless dogs.

It will not be mandatory for pounds and rescue organisations to obtain a 'dog supply approval', unless they intend to partner with pet shops to place dogs in new homes. Pounds and rescue organisations that intend to partner with pet shops will need to apply to the government for a 'dog supply approval'.

These provisions will support rescue organisations and local businesses to develop opportunities for people to adopt and rescue abandoned puppies and dogs.

What about adoption days held at the premises of a pet shop business?

Some rescue organisations already work with pet shop businesses to hold 'adoption days' at the premises of a pet shop business.

The pet shop facilitates the adoption of dogs from a rescue organisation to a new owner.

Rescue organisations with these arrangements already in place will still be able to conduct such activities and this will not require any new approvals.

What information will a pet shop need to provide about a dog to a consumer?

A pet shop will need to provide information about where and from whom they sourced the puppy or dog.

Pet shops will also need to provide their unique pet shop number so that the puppy or dog can be traced back to the pet shop.

A pet shop will also have to display a certificate showing that they have obtained a pet shop approval from their local government and can supply puppies and dogs.

What assistance will be provided to affected pet shops?

The government will provide targeted assistance to affected pet shops to assist them in transitioning into a new business model.

If you operate a pet shop that will be affected by these new provisions, you are encouraged to contact the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries by emailing petshopassist@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Will pet shops be able to sell puppies from registered dog breeders?

The commitment is to transition pet shops into partnerships with rescue organisations to offer adoption services for dogs.

Pet shops will not be able to source puppies from registered dog breeders.

Pet shops and rescue organisations wanting to work together to become adoption centres will need government approval.

How will pet shops be monitored for compliance?

Pet shops will legally be required to obtain a 'pet shop approval' from their local government in order to partner with rescue groups to rehome puppies or dogs. It will be an offence if they do not obtain this approval.

Pet shops will also be required to maintain records of every puppy or dog they source.

These records can be inspected by local governments to ensure they are only sourcing puppies or dogs from pounds and rescue organisations that have a dog supply approval.

How can I remain up to date?

For more information on the Stop Puppy Farming Project, visit the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website
www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/stoppuppyfarming

If you would like to receive regular communications about the Stop Puppy Farming Project, email puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au and request to be put on the Stop Puppy Farming email mailing list.