

STOP PUPPY FARMING


Public Submission Form

Please use this form to provide your feedback on the State Government's proposed methods to stop puppy farming in WA. These questions are taken from the consultation paper released by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on Thursday, 3 May 2018. The paper can be accessed at [the Department's website](#).

The information you provide will be used by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to inform policy decisions regarding stopping puppy farming in WA. If you need help completing this form, please telephone DLGSC on (08) 6551 8700 or toll free for country callers on 1800 620 511, or email puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au.

For a Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) telephone: 13 14 50. To ensure your input is considered, please return your feedback before the consultation period closes at 4pm on **Friday 3 August 2018**.

Your contact details

Title:	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs x Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
	

Stop Puppy Farming Questions

1. Please indicate if you are any of the following:

- Dog Owner
- Dog Breeder
- Pet Shop Owner
- Pet Business – please specify below
- Local Govt. employee
- Local Govt. elected member
- Shelter organisation employee
- Shelter organisation volunteer
- Rescue group employee
- Rescue group volunteer
- Foster Carer
- Veterinarian
- Other – please specify below

Member of Dogswest and ANKC association : Registered Breeder .

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

2. Would you purchase a behaviour and health checked rescue dog from a pet shop?

NO – I would never consider a rescue dog from a pet shop or adoption service ever.

3. What background information would you want on the rescue dog?

N/A

4. Do you think transitioning pet shops to adoption centres is beneficial?

No – Petshops will not want to sell older dogs. Older dogs are not cute like a puppy and therefore the general public will not enter the shop looking for a puppy . The majority of puppies are sold through social media.

Puppy farmers have been using social media for years and the pet shops are a last resort to sell any remaining puppies that don't sell through this method.

I believe that the number of puppy farmers that can not sell any remaining puppies to pet shops will either dump the puppies at the nearest veterinary hospital or dispose of the bodies by other means. As a registered breeder with Dogswest the selling of puppies through petshops is prohibited .

5. If you are a pet shop owner or operator, what impact will this have on your business?

N/A

Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

6. How do you feel about mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs?

I vehemently oppose the mandatory sterilization of any breed, at any age, except where required for medical reasons.

Mandatory sterilisation has not effectively reduced the problem of puppy farmers anywhere in the world where it has been legislated. The AVA is not in favour of mandatory sterilisation for this reason.

This legislation is based on the welfare of dogs, yet the mandatory sterilisation of dogs creates its own set of health and welfare issues. I don't see how passing a law requiring mandatory sterilisation, which can be seriously detrimental to the health of dogs, is justified while trying to fix another health and welfare issue. Replacing one problem for another does not make any sense.

Scientific research shows that male dogs that are permanent desexed at a young age, are likely to develop increased fear aggression and anxiety later in life, increasing the risk that they will become unmanageable as family pets and be dumped in rescues and/or euthanised

Desexing at any age increases the risk of urinary incontinence in both dogs and bitches and the need to medicate dogs for the rest of their lives to manage this problem

Any legislation proposed by government should be on a "no-harm" basis. Many studies show the effect of sterilisation on dogs in relation to diseases, such as cancer, behavioural issues and incorrect growth, such as elongated bones and joint disorders.

How will Mandatory sterilisation lower the numbers in shelters, when dogs are being shipped in from interstate to top up numbers in some Rescues when the numbers run low?

This must stop its not fair on the dogs the transportation alone would put them under a lot of stress.

Why is mandatory sterilisation being considered in WA when the major Australian states do not have it – only the ACT and South Australia have this in place.

Why does WA need compulsory sterilisation when biggest States do not?

7. Exemptions from mandatory de-sexing will apply for health and welfare reasons as assessed by a veterinarian, and if the dog owner is a registered breeder. Are there any other reasons why a dog should be exempt from being de-sexed?

There should be no mandatory sterilisation. All Members of Dogs West should be exempt from mandatory sterilisation IF THIS BILL IS PASSED, whether they are a breeder or not.

I believe that the introduction of Mandatory sterilisation **will NOT** reduce the numbers of dogs in shelters – there are dogs which are being shipped in from interstate to fill shelters and rescues when their numbers are low . My 1st question is – why are they not managed in the State they are coming from where populations are greater?

My 2nd point is

Many dogs live full and happy lives as companion animals in a loving home, and are occasionally used by their breeder in their breeding program, they should be exempt
Some dogs are also shown from that wider community, with the dog living in a companion home, but shown by the breeder of the dog. They must be exempt.

Conformation showing is principally based on exhibiting entire dogs/bitches from young pups through to fully mature adults and veterans. Mandatory desexing will destroy our sport in Western Australia and throughout Australia.

Under the Cat Act members of cat organisations are exempt – so it follows that Dogs West Members should have the same exemption.

8. Should mandatory dog de-sexing apply to all dogs, including existing dogs, or just dogs born after a particular date?

There should be no mandatory sterilisation. If a dog needs to be sterilised it should be at a time and age suitable for the type of dog and the circumstances, with advice from a Vet and a breeder .

Mandatory sterilisation has not effectively reduced the problem of puppy farmers anywhere in the world where it has been legislated

Mandatory sterilisation **will NOT** reduce numbers of dogs in shelters – what about the dogs that are being shipped in from interstate to come into shelters here and then found homes for – why are they not managed in the State they are coming from where populations are greater?

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

It wont . What I see is a another form of control by the state and local government .This is not about the puppy farming issue but more control over the people that already do the right thing. Illegal puppy practices will still happen ,They wont sell puppies with micro chips , they wont get a breeder licence .

Any one purchasing a non mirco chipped puppy through a backyard breeder or puppy farmer will get the puppy mirco chipped and on registration with the council will not provide information of where they got the puppy from for fear of reprisal. Local shire could refuse to register the puppy but that again defeats the purpose.

Under the proposal you say that the vets will not be obliged to report this – would this not defeat the purpose of your centralised registration system.

How do you intend to facilitate this system in monitoring the breeding of dogs?

My suggestion is that the Local Government Shires will infact access the data and anyone that is registered will be inspected . Kennel zones are inspected already. Puppy Farmers are not.

Why hasn't the Local Government been able to have the power to request from Petshops the name and address of any person suppling puppies to the business under a special licence of compliancy – Failure to provide this information would result in the Petshop being held responsible for any health issues that may arise (ie :parvo). With the licence to sell puppies cancelled .

Dogswest Reguations section H:

A member shall not surrender dogs owned, in the care of or bred by the member to a pound or animal refuge.

A member shall breed primarily for the purpose of improving the quality and / or working ability of the breed in accordance with the breed standard, and not specifically for the pet or commercial market. A member retains the right of free trade, to advertise directly to the public to sell or obtain homes for any dog/puppy not kept for line maintenance purposes by that member.

A member shall not:

1. Sell or dispose of a dog to a commercial pet wholesaler or retail pet shop. Nor shall a member's dog/s be advertised, displayed or sold on commission by a commercial dog wholesaler or retail pet dealer.
2. Allow a dog owned by that member to be given as a prize or donation or to be auctioned.
3. A member shall ensure that all dogs sold or disposed of by that member are in the best possible state of health. Where a dog with a health issue or disability is disposed of the member must obtain from the recipient written and signed acknowledgement of the condition of the dog.

10. Do you think it is reasonable to increase dog registration fees for dogs that are not de-sexed to encourage de-sexing?

Question is not relevant. So what you are in fact saying if the Bill for Mandatory de-sexing fails then its highly likely the dog registration fees will be increased . How is this fair ?

11. Do you support increasing dog registration fees to fund a streamlined centralised registration system and to fund enforcement activities?

No - Cost should be borne by the State Government – it is their initiative

12. Do you think it is reasonable for dog breeders to pay an annual registration fee to cover the cost of monitoring and enforcing dog breeder compliance?

NO – THIS IS ABOUT RAISING MONEY AT THE EXPENSE OF THE REGISTERED DOG BREEDER. DOGSWEST MEMBERS ALREADY PAY A ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP WITH A PREFIX FEE IF THEY ARE A DOG BREEDER. THE STATE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO COVER THE COSTS OF MONITORING AND ENFORCING DOG BREEDERS OUTSIDE OF THE DOGSWEST ASSOCIATION AS THESE BREEDERS ARE THE TRUE PROBLEM NOT DOGSWEST MEMBERS.

13. Are there any other benefits, costs and/or issues associated with breeder registration that are not captured in this table? Please detail.

14. Should there be any restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder? If so, what should these be?

Local government shires will not register anyone wishing to breed their dog .

15. Do you think local government is best placed to enforce dog breeder registration? Why, or why not?

Local government shires will not register anyone wishing to breed their dog .

Mandatory Standards for Dog Breeding, Housing, Husbandry, Transport and Sale

16. Should people who breed dogs have to comply with minimum standards for the health and welfare of their dogs?

There is no information on how this will be over seen!

How do you intend to over-see this in the wider community?

17. Should there be any restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder? If so, what should these be?

Local government shires will not register anyone wishing to breed their dog .

18. Should the number of litters that a bitch can produce be restricted by law?

Dogswest already have regulations in place covering minimum breeding age and maximum breeding age for bitches , the number of litters and or puppies the bitch can have whichever comes 1st .

- How do you intend to police this over the wider community?
- What form of registry will be used?
- What department will be given the task of keeping the records?
-

19. Should people who breed dogs for commercial gain be required to meet additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards?

There is no reason for a commercial breeders licence . This is a open door for puppy farmers . A dog is not a commercial product . Allowing a commercial licence will open a avenue for which puppy farmers and backyard breeders on rural properties to legally pump out litter of puppies time after time.

20. If you said 'yes' to question 19, should this be based on:

- a) keeping a defined number of breeding dogs?
- b) if so, what number?
- c) any other criteria?

Please provide reasons:

[Click here to enter text.]

* Attach further documentation if required.

Confidentiality

Your submission will be made public and published in full on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website unless you ask for it to be confidential. Submissions that contain defamatory or offensive material will not be published.

Do you wish this information to remain private and confidential: Yes No

Signature: _____



Date: _____

3/8/18

Please return this form to:

Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018

Post

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

GPO Box 8349

Perth Business Centre WA 6849

Email

puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au