

# STOP PUPPY FARMING

## Public Submission Form

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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](mailto: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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
First name:	
Surname:	
Street or postal address:	
Telephone (business):	
Mobile telephone:	
Email address:	

## Stop Puppy Farming Questions

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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

**Dogswest Member/ ANKC Number:** XXXXXXXXXX

**Conformation show handler and breeder.**

## Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

No. How can a pet shop ascertain if a dog is fit behaviourally to live with a family. What qualifications do the pet shop hold or what qualifications can we be assured that person has who assesses the dog. Will pet shops be willing to provide life-long support to the new owners like registered breeders do? As for health tests, there are numerous genetic disorders that are related to specific breeds. These tests are expensive. Will the pet shop pay and provide to purchasers for these tests?

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

The reason that the dog was abandoned. DNA tests to specify the breed. Health testing and tests specific to breeds with known genetic disorders which could include hip and elbow, cardiac, ataxia, cataracts etc. As well as this microchip number and photo identification of the dog.

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

No. Pet shops should not be selling dogs at all! Rescue dogs may have already experienced trauma and can be dog aggressive or have other issues from living in another rescue situation. Putting a dog in a pet shop would already cause an animal anxiety but a rescue dog could become unpredictable. Furthermore, pet shops are often subject to people who impulse buy. A rescue dog is not a dog that should be bought on impulse as it requires patience, extensive training and an owner with experience.

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

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

No. Mandatory de-sexing of dogs in W.A will not stop the importing of puppies from other states. There is no evidence that I have read, to say that mandatory de-sexing of dogs will reduce the number of dogs in shelters anywhere in the world.

I am a responsible dog breeder. I follow the rules and regulations set by Dogs West. I should not be forced to have my dog's de-sexed. My they are excellent examples of the breed who have had relevant health checks.

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?

Sterilisation of dogs can seriously detriment a dog's health. Diseases such as cancer and issues associated with incorrect growth (elongated bones and joint issues) have been associated with dogs that have been de-sexed. There are also behaviour issues that are linked to the de-sexing of dogs. This can then lead to another problem of people abandoning dogs because of behaviour/ anxiety issues linked to the early sterilisation of a dog.

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

Neither. Dogs that are on breeders terms with members of Dogs West should not be forced to de-sex their dogs. This would reduce the gene pool and would impact the breeding of healthy dogs. Dogs West is very strict and it's in members best interests to ensure that their dogs which are placed in companion homes follow the same rules.

## Centralised Registration System

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9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

It will not benefit me at all. My dogs and the dogs I place are on the ANKC and Dogs West register. They are also microchipped and registered with the council in which they live.

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

Yes

Unsure

No

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

No not at all. The system is a government initiative and should therefore be funded by the government and not by me. I already pay registration fees.

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. I already pay annual feeds to Dogs West for membership and for my prefix. If I breed a litter of dogs I pay Dogs West \$60 to register the litter and up to \$58 per pup that I register. The new owners then pay their local council fees.

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

What rules and regulations will the government place on breeders? Will they interfere with the rules and regulations at Dogs West? At what ages will the local government allow bitches to breed? How many times will they let the bitch breed? How will they even know if the bitch being bred is the one the breeder claims?

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

Dog breeders should to be registered with Dogs West and the Australian Kennel Council.

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

No. The local government are not experts in the breeding of dogs, nor in educating the public about responsible breeding and dog ownership. To even qualify as a breeder with Dogs West applicants must study and sit an exam with a pass rate of 100% in Section A and 90% in Section B. Paying the government a fee to become a registered breeder does not stop the irresponsible breeding of dogs.

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

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

Yes

Unsure

No

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

Yes, all breeders should be Dogs West Members.

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

Yes

Unsure

No

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

Breeders agree when they apply for a prefix with Dogs West to breed for the betterment of the breed and not for commercial gain.

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:

Dogs West members should be governed by Dogs West and the ANKC, not any other body. They should be exempt from the 'Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards' as they already follow the strict guidelines set by Dog West.

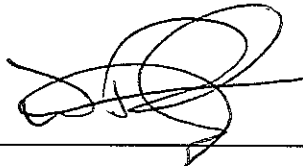
\* Attach further documentation if required.

## 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:

02/08/2018

## 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](mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)