

# 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 type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
First name:	CAROLINE
Surname:	DENNISON
Street or postal address:	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

## 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

**Well qualified dog Obedience trainer and puppy trainer of 40+ years experience in a multitude of pure breeds, cross breeds. Head trainer of an extremely successful non-affiliated Obedience Club (for in excess of 38 years) as well as a volunteer helper to those who have specific problems but not a lot of money. Have contributed endless time, money and consideration to helping dog owners.**

## 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. There are far too many unknowns – for instance who will carry out the behaviour and health check (assume the latter would be a vet) where is this behaviour check going to be carried out so that “normal” behaviours for this dog are assessed. Will the persons involved do this on a voluntary basis for the good of dogs – I doubt it!

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

Reliable, accurate information about how it came to be a rescue dog. Who can vouch for those circumstances and how long has the dog been in a rescue environment.

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

No – pet shops are about making money. If puppies/dogs are available through pet shops who will ensure that the dog goes to the right home, that the people purchasing the dog haven't previously mistreated a dog, abandoned a dog for any reason. This merely adds another level of people involvement, which in turn will add to the cost of those who are the law abiding, conscientious owners.

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

[Click here to enter text.]

## 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?

Absolutely and categorically averse to the suggestion. It is ludicrous, flawed and doesn't do anything to take the good dog owners who have done nothing wrong ever and yet will be involved in unnecessary expense and potential health harm to an otherwise perfectly healthy dog. It's abhorrent and completely invades everything about individual's privacy assuming that we are all guilty of the crimes of a few – ie puppy farmers, irresponsible owners whose dogs attack and so on. Get to the bottom of the problem, that is the owners! It is also very questionable as to whether “absence or reduction of behaviours associated with sex hormones” is achieved by de-sexing in the majority of cases. The risk of reducing cancers is also extremely contentious as it is also a known fact that it actually can promote or exacerbate cancers in some breeds.

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?

Absolutely – age/breed of dog, previous good character and total compliance of owner with all past and current Dog ownership laws and requirements. It is a proven fact by Veterinarians that some breeds are prone to having their cancer risks increased by sterilisation.

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

Dog de-sexing should not be retrospective. It should be introduced VERY carefully with huge amounts of consideration to repercussions. Age is a critical factor in ensuring proper adherence to many things - such as not requiring this to be carried in dogs which are too young and have not yet reached their full growth, ie platelet completion, specific features associated with specific breeds which can detract from their normal breed characteristics which can cause more harm than good.

## Centralised Registration System

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9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

Not sure it will, however it would assist in finding the owner of a dog which is guilty of misdemeanours.

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 – again it comes back on the reasonable, law abiding dog owner who has never done anything wrong. Those who are conscientious owners register their dogs, keep them on a lead as required and so on..... These people are about to be penalised, and who says that all these measures will work? I appreciate “something” needs to be done, but get it right so you don’t have to keep tinkering with it and messing with the decent owners enjoyment of dogs. Keeping a dog is expensive enough without all these cost adding measures for the sake of – what??!!

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?

Absolutely, yes. If they are serious about their breed or ensuring good quality/temperament representatives of their breed, they will pay because they are going to pass it on to the Purchaser anyway.

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?

Absolutely yes! Those who can provide proof of previously unblemished dog ownership, healthy and adequate provision for the breeding of puppies, such as enclosed warm/cool areas with fresh water etc. A commitment, recorded in writing, to breed only to the highest quality of the breed they propose to follow.

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

No LG is not best placed to enforce dog breeder registration, as they would need to employ another layer of employee, train them to a high degree of competency, and again this will all add to the costs of normal dog registrations and ownership. In each Shire a recognised and suitably qualified (and proven track record available) person should be allocated on a Consultancy basis – on an employee's wage basis, not an inflated Consulting fee. Previously the dog breeders associations were brought in to the equation and they should be responsible for providing a list to Shires of those of their members who would be qualified/available and suitable for this role.

## 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?

Proven record of knowledge of the breed they wish to breed. Absolute maximum number of dogs/bitches to be adhered to and checked. No person with any prior hint of cruelty or abuse towards any animal, not just dogs, be allowed to register.

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?

Who decides what constitutes commercial gain? I find that a pretty astounding description for a Govt. trying to eliminate Puppy Farms. And, yes – whatever “commercial gain” means should carry the absolute highest Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards with the highest inspection requirements, thoroughly policed and enforced – a 2 strikes and you’re out policy should also apply.

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:

There should be very, very strict requirements which are enforced, it's no good just having the words if the actions are not followed. (a) yes, a very defined number of breeding dogs; (b) number can not be easily defined other than the number should comply with (i) the intent of breeding (ii) the premises and ability of individuals to keep those premises clean, healthy and conducive towards breeding good healthy puppies with the welfare of the breeding bitch being a major consideration (iii) the locality of the place where the puppies are to be bred, ie suburban small block is not a good location.

\* 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:

## Please return this form to:

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**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

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