

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

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

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

I would not purchase a dog from a pet shop; I would only adopt from rescue organisations.

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

Health issues, good with dogs/cats/children. I understand rescues don't always know their animals backgrounds so I wouldn't need to know about its past, as its future is what I am investing in.

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

Absolutely; rescues are overflowing with animals that need homes, so it make sense to promote them rather than promote the sale of unethically sourced puppies/kittens that are bred purely for profit.

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?

Absolutely excellent idea; I am very passionate about this notion. De-sexing has health benefits for males and females such as reduced chances of certain cancers. De-sexing males will stop their desire to roam from home which decreases strain on the rangers and the stress on the owners as well as the possibility of unwanted pregnancies. Owners who desire to breed their dogs without a permit are often inexperienced and put their female dog through the stress of a pregnancy that can have an array of complications, and bring puppies into the world without understanding the necessities of finding them responsible and forever homes. I think an important thing to remember is that people don't follow the rules as we have seen with the cat laws with hundreds of cats still unsterilized and unregistered. I believe that the dog laws (and cat laws) need to be policed; you can go on a social media website and immediately find hundreds of people who are blatantly selling, breeding or looking for their unsterilized, un-microchipped animals. These people should be offered a choice; pay a hefty fine or take your animal to the vet immediately and get the vet work done.

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?

Only reason I would say they should be exempt is if the vet says it would be hazardous to the dog's health (owner would need proof of this), or if they are a registered breeder; however there should be 'hoops' for breeders to jump through to get their registration to ensure they are responsible and worthy.

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

Ideally it should apply to all dogs; perhaps maybe not dogs over a certain age, ie. if there dog is perhaps over 10 years old. This could definitely cause uproar from dog owners from the lower socio economic sector who say they can't afford to de-sex their dogs; my opinion is that you shouldn't own a dog if you can't afford the medical necessities such as that. However we wouldn't want these people to react by surrendering their dogs to shelters because they 'can't afford' or 'can't be bothered' with the de-sexing.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

Excellent idea; won't affect me in many ways other than give me peace of mind that dogs being bred and sold are accounted for.

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?

Depends on how much the increase is; it doesn't bother me personally but I would worry that if the fee was too high, people would just not do it. We have seen that plenty of people get away with this as hundreds of owners still have unregistered and unsterilized cats despite the laws. The issue needs to be policed.

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?

Definitely; if they want to make a profit (some breeds of puppies sell for thousands) off breeding an animal they should pay to do so.

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

Having them registered means the rangers can check in on them from time to time to ensure they are complying by the rules and that they are not secretly 'puppy farming' or treating their dogs unethically.

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

They should have to go through an extensive list of questioning to ensure their intentions are genuine. Furthermore, perhaps there should be temporary limits on how many people can breed certain breeds; for example WA rescues are currently overflowing with staffy and mastiff breeds because they are bred like crazy. Perhaps breeders of these dogs should not be allowed to register until shelter numbers decrease. They should also have to show extensive health check of their dogs they intend to breed to ensure they are healthy; particularly for breeds with genetic issues such as shar peis, chow chows, French bulldogs, pugs, german shepherds, golden retrievers etc. The breeders should also be financially stable to ensure they can support their dogs and the medical requirements for them and the puppies.

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

Yes; someone has to, and it has to be an authoritative figure people will listen too. I believe the police should be involved as well, as dogs livelihoods needs to be protected just as peoples.

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?

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
No <input type="checkbox"/>	

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

This question was answered above.

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

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
No <input type="checkbox"/>	

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

Definitely; we need to ensure they will breed the dog responsibly and not 'overuse' them just for money sake.

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:

a) yes there should be a defined number of breeding dogs, but its important to ensure those breeding dogs aren't overused(limit number of litters per bitch) and to make sure that once a bitch's limit is reached, she is cared for properly and not thrown aside and replaced with a younger dog.

B) I am not sure on the number they should be limited by; I think a study would be necessary to determine the appropriate number; look into the limits brought in by Victorias Oscar law, look into the average of current responsible breeders around WA etc. C) they should be subject to unscheduled visits from people who will check the treatment of the dogs and ensure the rules are being followed.

* 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:

Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018

Post

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