

# 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:	Mrs
First name:	Cheryl
Surname:	Cemeljic
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

## 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?

I would be more inclined to go straight to a shelter or rescue group, however just recently since phase 1 of Oscar's Law was implemented in Victoria, I went to a pet store that I knew had a previously shameful history, and found they were conducting an adoption drive. Turned out the old owners sold the store a couple of weeks before OL came in, and the new owners were very quickly paired up with a rescue. The pet store adoption scenario has been in practice for a while, with Pet Stock providing a model for a few years now. I worry about some of the smaller stores though teaming up with bad breeders and faking the rescue scenario.

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

I would want to know the rescue group involved, the circumstances that the dog came into care (mostly for ongoing care purposes as there is a level of psychology in helping these dogs).

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

I think it can be an important step in transitioning the buying public – it's been a shock here in Melbourne for some of the people who "loved seeing the puppies in the window" – but I'm very glad to know those days have gone.

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

Not applicable – although I hope most stores can see value in the Pet Stock model

## 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?

WOOHOO!!! It infuriates me when someone is desperately trying to offload puppies because their dog got out, or a dog got in, or that "I just want her to have one litter and know what that's like".

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?

The exemptions need to be tightly regulated and hard to access. This is very important for controlling how many dogs end up dying daily on steel slabs with a needle in their vein. I think certain animals in rescue, such as the golden oldies in care with groups like Rescued With Love need to be compassionately assessed, as being dumped at 16 and then undergoing an operation could be perilous and definitely traumatic, and they are definitely responsible enough to handle a non-de-sexed dog without hazard.

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

ALL dogs – this is going to be contentious, yes, but make it a condition of registration. Also, I think that in initial phases it would be helpful if the government could help subsidise for low income owners who would risk losing their dog due to the added expense, but this is an important step in animal welfare. Cats too!

## Centralised Registration System

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9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

If it's centralised nationally, it would mean dogs can't be shipped out or shipped in unmonitored. Also, the easier those records are accessed by officials the better, as it would mean quicker reuniting with lost pets, especially if they wander very far

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?

It would need to be a reasonable amount as pet owners doing the right thing already pay out a lot for their pets. Definitely increase for undesexed animals initially, although I would prefer to see the option of owning undesexed animals removed altogether. We pay a lot for registration already, and are completely unsure of where and how that money is used at the moment. The entire system needs to be looked at to ensure already available funds are being properly managed, and then perhaps it can be looked into again whether more is required.

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 – an industry tax. If they truly love the animals they profit from, I would hope they would be as helpful as possible in removing the undesirables from their business

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

[Click here to enter text.]

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

So far as the actual breeder is concerned – anyone with any prior violent convictions should not be allowed to register as a breeder. There needs to be a basic industry test to demonstrate an understanding of animal welfare to gain registration. So far as the breeding goes, the number of animals used for breeding purposes needs to be restricted. There needs to be regular ongoing veterinary care. There needs to be a limit on the age an animal can be used for breeding, both what age they start, and what age they are retired, as well as how many litters an animal can be made to produce in succession and the resting period between. I will admit that I have a prejudice against breeders, but also recognise that good breeders need to be able to operate in the future – but the restrictions around this need to be for the good of the animal, not the health of the profits.

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

To enforce, yes, but perhaps a centralised reporting system that all local governments are required to check in with would also be beneficial. Some local shelters already have woeful reputations as high-kill, fast-kill, non-communicative to the public and therefore not helpful to the animals. I speak on a local level, and of Victorian experiences, but I imagine we are not alone in this. A better model would be more powers to the RSPCA, who are already well-versed in good standards of animal welfare.

## 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?

While I answered yes to compliance with minimum standards, those minimum standards need to be higher than they currently are. Anyone who has prior violent convictions should not be able to register. There needs to be a basic industry test of animal welfare understanding, so that backyard breeders – especially those breeding to fund drug dependence (look at the majority of staffy and pitty breeds in the pounds, and so many started as a backyard profit) cannot hide behind a false registration.

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?

Absolutely – all this show-dog shite has to stop, breeding respiratory issues into dogs, the sloping back of the german shepherds, the merle epidemic leading to so many deaf and blind dogs. An understanding of these issues, and an undertaking to do better for the dogs, is imperative.

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:

Yes to a maximum number of breeding dogs – as well as careful and revised breeding standards to avoid genetic mutations with in-breeding. Returning some breeds to an earlier version, before they became “toy” or were “pudged up” to make them cuter with bigger frames and shorter legs, would be beneficial to quite a few breeds.

\* 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: Cheryl Cemeljic

Date: 22/07/18

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