

From: Debra Hall
To: [Puppy Farming](#)
Subject: Proposed Puppy Farming legislation
Date: Thursday, 2 August 2018 11:10:26 AM

Below are our views on the proposed legislation designed to stop puppy farming:

1. Make it illegal for pet shops to sell puppies and dogs (they shouldn't sell live animals but that is a different matter to the current legislation). A shop is usually a place to purchase a commodity and we don't believe that dogs and puppies should be sold as commodities like milk and bread. The life of a dog is not something to be purchased and then disposed of like a toy that is no longer of interest. Most purchases from pet shops are an impulse buy and a high number of people don't think about the consequences and impact on the household or the dog.
2. People who purchase from pet shops are not often told anything about hereditary aspects of the health and behaviour of the dog they have just taken home. We have personal experience of a pet shop wrongfully advising prospective purchasers about the background/breeding and source of a puppy. This had an impact on the registered breeder as it is a breach of the Dogs West Code of Ethics to sell puppies or dogs to pet shops.
3. Most pet shops leave the dogs and puppies alone overnight which is cruel. This practice does not provide proper socialisation and could lead to behavioural issues in the future.
4. Pet shops should not be linked with rescue organisations and be allowed to sell rescue dogs. Rescue organisations should be the sole place in which to obtain and rehome dogs (exception being for those Dogs West registered breeders and breed clubs who provide rehoming). Rescue organisations have the ability to undertake proper assessment of the dogs and the people who are willing to provide a forever home. Rescue organisation can arrange for the de-sexing of the dogs prior to rehoming.
5. Breeders that are registered with the current canine controlling bodies, such as Dogs West and the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC), are already subject to stringent regulation. These registered breeders should be exempt from further registration as proposed in the legislation. They are not the problem breeders that have been identified in recent 'puppy farming' stories. Nor should they be the intended targets of the proposed legislation.
6. Anyone who is not a registered breeder with Dogs West and wants to breed dogs should be regulated heavily as suggested in the proposed legislation and we fully support that element of the proposal.
7. Members of the current canine controlling bodies, such as Dogs West and the ANKC should be exempt from the proposed mandatory de-sexing legislation. To ensure the gene pool of pure bred dogs is free of hereditary health issues and to maintain the best behavioural and physical characteristics of the dog breed, Dogs West members need to possess entire dogs and bitches. Otherwise there is no opportunity to assess the dog/bitch potential for further breeding. The opportunity to pass on their ability/characteristics would be lost to the gene pool.
8. We believe that dog owners who are not members of Dogs West or the ANKC should be subject to mandatory de-sexing of their dogs. This would decrease the number of puppies that are bred only to make a quick dollar. These puppies, and the sire and dam, are often not adequately cared for and these are the people that the proposed legislation should be targeting. These people are the 'puppy farmers' not the registered

breeders and members of Dogs West and the ANKC.

9. We strongly support attempts to stop 'puppy farming' by people who subject the dogs to cruelty. We believe that people who are found to have caused cruelty to dogs should be heavily penalised.

We strongly support the initiatives to stop the cruelty of dogs by people who put profit ahead of the welfare of dogs and puppies. We support the intention of the proposed legislation but seek consideration and exemptions for those registered Dogs West/ANKC breeders who are acting with the best interest of the dogs and puppies.

Kind regards

Deb Hall and Kerry Coleman