



Dogs West

submission to

**Department of Local Government,
Sport and Cultural Industries**

on

STOP PUPPY FARMING

August 2018



ABN 68 580 241 497

**The Canine Association
of Western Australia (Inc)
t/as Dogs West**

602 Warton Road
Southern River WA 6100



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1 Who are Dogs West?

Our Origins

We believe that all dogs deserve responsible owners.

Our origins trace back to late 1800's with the formation of the WA Kennel Club which was incorporated in 1912 and was the original 'canine association' for Western Australia.

After World War II the association formally adopted the name of Canine Association and came under the auspices of the Royal Agricultural Society, with the WA Kennel Club becoming an affiliated club. The Canine Association became an affiliate of the Australian National Kennel Club.

In 1977 the Canine Association of WA became an independent Association from the Royal Agricultural Society, and four years later purchased our grounds in Southern River. The Canine Association of WA now trades as Dog West.

Our Objectives

The first three Objectives under our Constitution clearly state our purpose:

- To promote and encourage the breeding of pedigreed dogs
- To foster promote and protect the interests of the Association relative to dogs
- To promote foster and encourage the welfare and care of dogs

The protection of the pure breed dog, their welfare, care and future, is at the core of our Association.

The Association has a Constitution, Code of Ethics and Regulations which apply to all Members and which are policed and enforced by a proven governance framework.

The responsibility of breeding good quality dogs that are sound in mind and body is one that breeders take very seriously. Many hours are spent, reviewing pedigrees and assessing dogs for health, structure and temperament before breeding decisions are made, and then over selection of puppies for future potential canine activities and breeding.

Puppies and dogs are placed into companion homes after a selection process to ensure the suitability of the dog for the prospective owners.



Members and Activities

With a Membership of 2,500 our Members enjoy a wide range of activities with their dogs, including conformation breed showing, retrieving and field trials, endurance trials, tracking, herding, agility, lure coursing, dancing with dogs and obedience.

Our membership reflects the broader community, ranging from young dog handlers, families, single members and those in their later years. We are an inclusive community of common interest and many Members have a wide group of family and friends who share their interest.

Dogs West Member Affiliates

There are sixty Clubs affiliated with Dogs West including single breed clubs, groups of breeds club, all breeds clubs, agility, training and obedience clubs, luring coursing, herding and retrieving clubs.

Activities run by Clubs and individual Members attract the general public, who come along to socialise and train their dogs, take part in breed fun days and to meet with friends and acquaintances who share a common interest.

The Dogs West venue is an active centre for most of these events, as well as educational events, learning about responsible dog ownership and their responsibility when breeding to raise a happy and healthy dog.

Events take place at other locations, including country centres like Geraldton, Bunbury and Albany, as well as across the metropolitan area.

Many of our affiliated clubs have an extended base of members. The Northern Suburbs Dog Club, for example, has around 1,000 Members involved in training for Obedience, Agility, Dancing with Dogs and Rally-O.

Track West, an affiliate club dedicated to the sport of Tracking runs tracks in many places, and has a strong, active membership. Tracking dogs assist police and other services from time to time.

Many of our Clubs and individual Members assist with the rehoming of dogs. An example is the Poodle Society of WA who run a rescue/rehoming line. They advise it is uncommon for dogs from Dogs West breeders to need the service. They have a waiting list of approved homes for older poodles. Many Clubs and individual breeders provide their details to Council Pounds to assist with the rehoming of pure bred dogs.

Dogs West has been proactive and ahead of legislation in areas such as positive identification for dogs. Dogs West members were required to microchip ALL dogs many years before it became law in WA. Prior to this many breed clubs such as The German Shepherd Dog Association of WA and the Doberman Club of WA required their members to positively identify all puppies born by means of a tattoo.

From 2019 all puppies that are to be registered onto the ANKC Mains Register, and therefore may be used for breeding, will be required to have DNA proof of parentage before they can be registered. The ANKC has a long established and effective Health and Well Being Committee whose Charter has a primary objective to work towards the reduction of canine hereditary diseases in Australia.

Part of the worldwide pure-bred dog community

Dogs West is a Member Body of the Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC), which provides overarching governance of the pure bred dog register for each of the State and Territory Member Bodies in Australia. The Dogs West President is a Director of the ANKC.



The total membership of all ANKC Affiliates is approximately 33,000. The ANKC is recognised in other countries as the peak body for the pure bred dog in Australia. This includes The Kennel Club (UK), the American Kennel Club, The Canadian Kennel Club, the New Zealand Kennel Club and the Federation Cynologique Internationale (FCI) – the largest canine association in the world with 95 Affiliated Countries and 1.7 million members. Please refer to Appendix A: What it means to be part of the FCI community.

Through these alliances dogs bred in Western Australia are recognised globally through the unique registration number assigned to them by Dogs West.

Dogs bred in Western Australia, and Western Australian Judges, have competed and officiated in many overseas Countries with distinction.

ANKC affiliates contribute financially to research in Australia promoting the health and well-being of all dogs and also targeting breed specific genetic and congenital conditions.

Summary

Dogs West is an important part of the community and provides many services and activities to enable dog owners to better understand and appreciate the enormous potential their best friend has to offer.

Australia has one of the highest rates of pet ownership in the world and this is credited with reducing the cost of health expenditure, by having such a positive influence on our lives.

Our Membership reflects the make-up of the wider community. Dogs West supports friendship and purpose for our Members, including those in later years, and provides opportunities for younger members of the community to take part in many activities. Junior dog handlers can compete in an ANKC dog handler competition, with each State winner competing to represent Australia in the final at Crufts UK each year. Western Australia has had a junior handler Member win through and compete at Crufts on a number of occasions.

Importantly, Dogs West works with the community offering advice and a range of training options on the care and welfare of their dog – we believe all dogs deserve responsible and caring owners.

The RSPCA website clearly outlines the health benefits of pet ownership in the community.

The West Australian community must have access to thoughtfully bred and healthy puppies from our Registered breeders, and our Members deserve to maintain the right to share their lives with their beloved dogs.

During the consultation workshops held at Dogs West, Lisa Baker MLA regularly referred to Dogs West as setting the standard in this area. During the final workshop Lisa Baker MLA stated that Dogs West Members are the Gold Standard.

2 Why the STOP PUPPY FARMING project does not address needs in the community

Dogs West support the outcome of the STOP PUPPY FARMING project however no evidence has been provided which demonstrates that the four elements will be effective and prevent PUPPY FARMING – *'a person or organisation which breed puppies solely for profit with little care or responsibility for the health and well-being of the adults or offspring.'*

The STOP PUPPY FARMING project should not obstruct the rights of the majority of dog owners in an attempt to control a very small minority group of 'PUPPY FARMERS'.

DLGSCI Consultation Paper states "Currently the difficulty in identifying puppy farmers hinders the enforcement of relevant legislation against puppy farmers". To this end this project is aimed at PUPPY FARMERS or people who:

- are driven solely by profit
- keep dogs in substandard conditions
- do not provide veterinary care for dogs
- do not meet the mental health ideals for companion dogs
- leave whelping bitches unsupervised for long periods
- are not members of ANKC
- do not comply with any regulations or laws (please see illustration below)



Before I was born

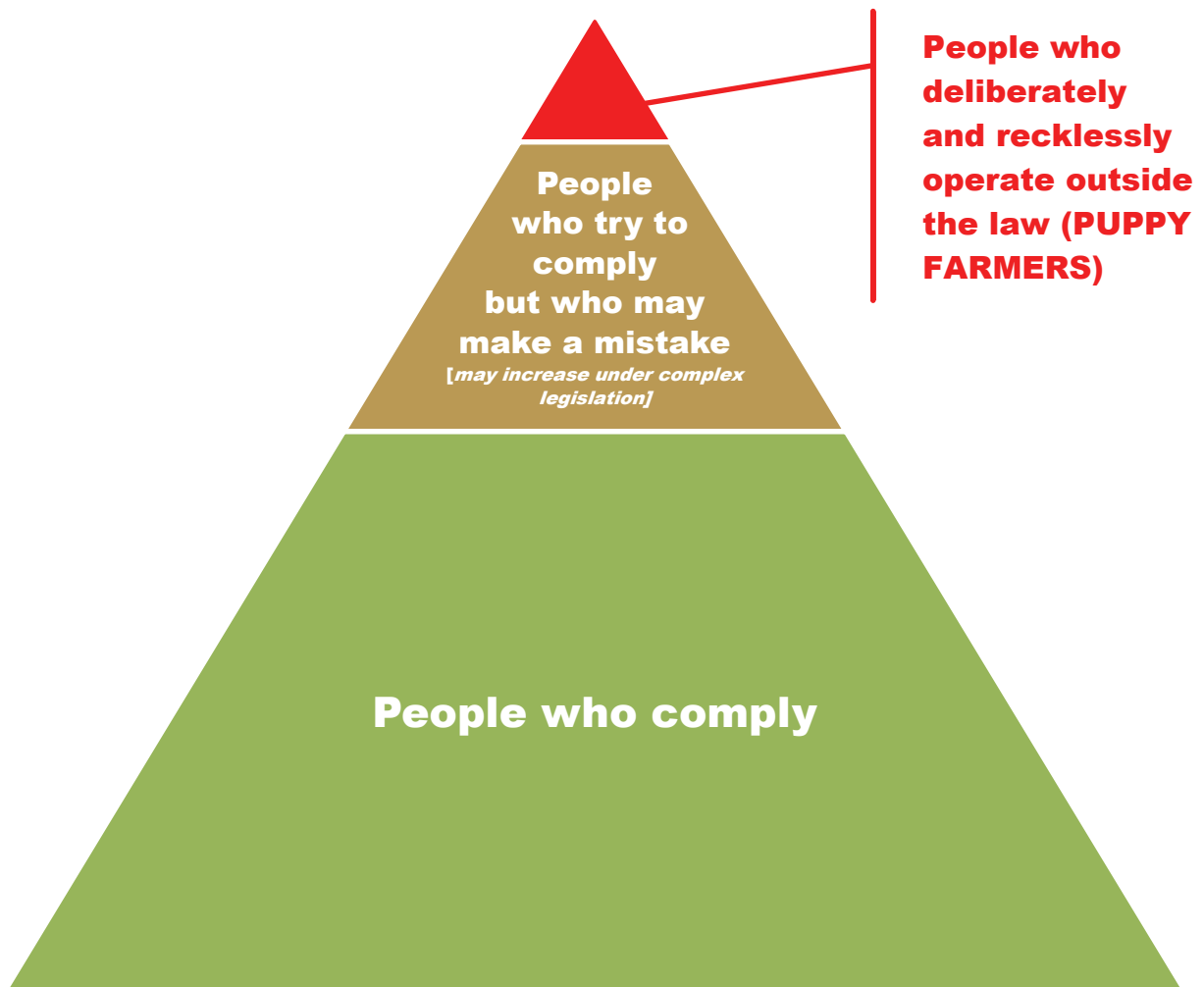
my ANKC breeder studied my pedigree for a very long time and carefully chose my mum and dad
 my parents and their parents were health checked or tested
 my whole family have proven at the shows that they conform to the ANKC breed standard
 someone had me in their thoughts and loved me

After I was born

my breeder took great care of me, so I grew up well
 my breeder put a lot of effort to socialise me
 my breeder chose my new family carefully

**Responsible breeders - they protect, preserve and better the breed
 be a responsible dog owner - choose wisely**

The target market of "PUPPY FARMERS"



The above illustration depicts the current situation where the majority of Dog Owners comply with current rules, regulations and legislation [Dog Act 1976 and Animal Welfare Act 2002].

The target group of indiscriminate PUPPY FARMERS are a minority group who operate outside the law now.

There is NO data regarding the number of PUPPY FARMS operating in WA, therefore no way of knowing how many dogs are bred by them. To legislate in this broad scattershot way to try to stop something that is actually an unknown quantity is not logical.

The success of new proposed legislation is premised on compliance with microchipping, and registration with Local Government and State Government.

PUPPY FARMERS do not microchip now, despite facing a fine of \$5000 per dog under the Dog Act 1976. Such legislation has not discouraged their behaviour, so why does Government propose to introduce a new set of even more complex laws where there is no evidence concluding PUPPY FARMERS will change what they do.

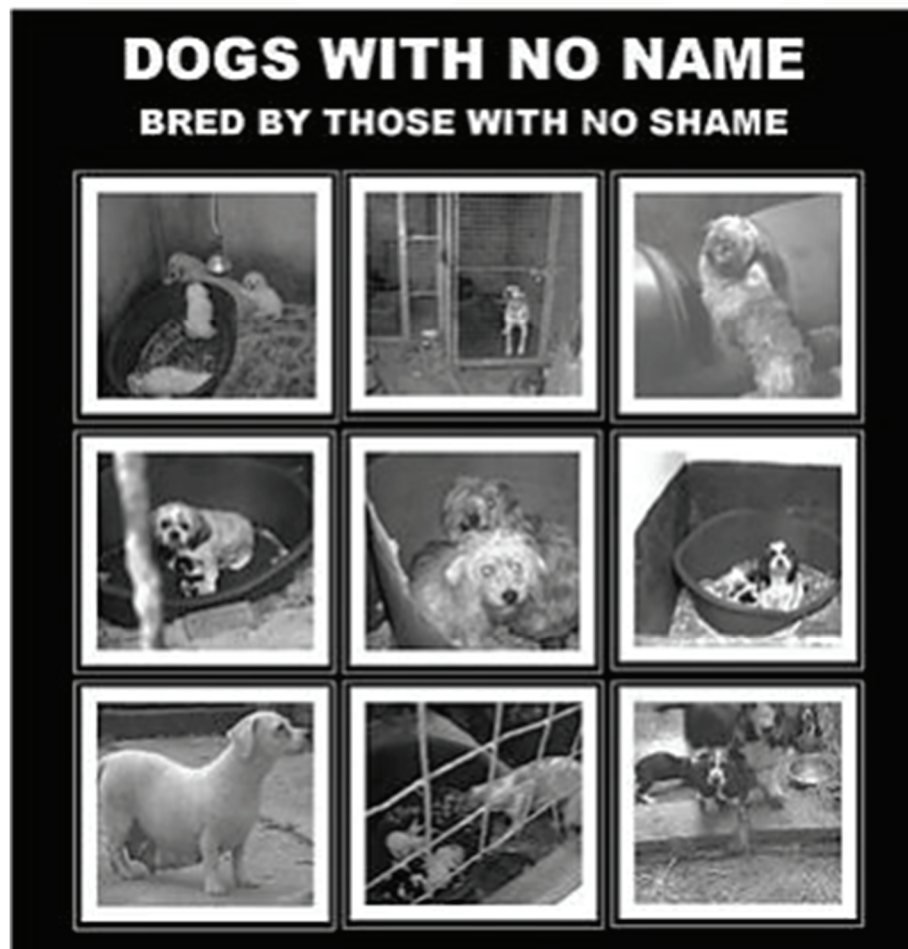
There has been no study to determine the numbers of PUPPY FARMERS in Western Australia, and our research shows that only two PUPPY FARMERS have been convicted in recent times. There is no data to support the proposed legislation with mandatory sterilisation being regarded as a failure worldwide in the attempt to stop puppy farming.

The Australian Veterinary Association state in their Desexing of Companion Animals policy document that ***"Compulsory desexing of privately owned animals has not been shown to substantially reduce the unwanted dog and cat population."***

The proposed legislation places the onus on complying dog owners, who have nothing to do with PUPPY FARMING and there is no direct evidence such proposed legislation will catch and penalise PUPPY FARMERS. Furthermore, the proposed legislation will place a further burden on Government resources to administer and police this onerous legislation.

The more complex and burdensome legislation becomes, there will likely be growth in the numbers of people trying to comply, but no real reduction in those who operate as PUPPY FARMERS.

Government has adequate or close to adequate laws in place which would be able to deal with PUPPY FARMING if they were properly policed. This current raft of proposals will not make it easier to detect let alone control or prevent them, because there is no way of knowing where they are or what they are doing.



3 Transition pet shops to adoption centres (can only sell dogs sourced from rescues)

Dogs West Position

- Dogs West is strongly opposed the sale of ANY dogs from Pet Shops
- Dogs West Members are prohibited to sell or have for sale any dogs at any Pet Shops
- Dogs West does not believe that the Pet Shop environment is appropriate for the sale of any dog

Recommendations

- That Pet Shops be prohibited from selling dogs of any age.
- That Pet Shops have information available to disseminate to those enquiring about rescue dogs available from shelters, and their location.
- That Shelters run by Dogs West Clubs and Members for specific breeds of dogs be recognised and accredited.
- That buyer education should form a critical part of any project to reduce the number of unwanted dogs in shelters and puppies sourced from PUPPY FARMERS.
- Education programs should be targeted at the wider community to ensure dogs are well matched to their new homes and to ensure responsible pet ownership.

3.1 Allowing pet shops to sell rescue dogs is flawed logic

While we accept that the main driver behind the proposed legislative change is to improve animal welfare by inhibiting the operations of poorly run and inhumane PUPPY FARMS, we feel that the amendments allowing shelter dogs to be sold through pet shops is based upon flawed logic.

If pet shops are deemed as not a suitable place for puppy sales, then it certainly follows that neither are they a suitable place for the sale of rescue or shelter dogs and puppies. The trade of live animals through shop front sales is inappropriate, outdated and does not reflect current community standards. We should not continue to permit pet shops sales of dogs and puppies, regardless of where they are sourced.

Most pet shops have already successfully transitioned to better business models that support the pet industry in other ways such as grooming; the sale of toys, food and crates; and adding services such as doggy day care and dog wash/bath facilities to their retail offering. Only a few pet shops still sell puppies and dogs in Western Australia.

The potential implications of the proposed legislative changes are significant. For example, how can it be guaranteed that the new system will not create a loophole that allows pet shops to exploit shelters, who will be relying on the income they generate from their dog sales. This poses a potential conflict of interest which will advantage pet shops and rescues to the detriment of the rescued dogs.

We feel that the appetite for changes to the Dog Act 1976 has come about, in part, due to the behaviour of those retail pet shops who have failed to recognise and keep up with shifts in public expectation. We should not continue to support the outdated practices of these organisations at the expense of the welfare of shelter dogs and puppies.

3.2 Pet shops are not a suitable environment for dogs and puppies

Being placed in a shelter is a very difficult, distressing time for many dogs and moving them again, from a shelter to a pet shop, will only add to that stress.

A representative from Dogs West visited both the RSPCA and Shenton Park Dogs Home in June 2018 and observed that a number of enclosures displayed signs advising 'don't judge me by my behaviour in the kennel, ask to meet me outside'. If a kennel environment is recognised as being too stressful for some dogs, then placing them in a pet shop is not ideal either.

Furthermore, puppies need to be raised in safe and nurturing environments, where they are carefully exposed to a variety of experiences. Ensuring puppies come out of this process with the desired temperament takes time, skill and considerable knowledge. We do not believe that the proposed changes to the legislation offer suitable controls over the practices of pet shops and this puts puppies at risk.

Pet shops are also ill equipped to handle adult dogs. Most have been set up for small stock, not adult dogs, and lack the required infrastructure and experience to appropriately handle these animals. Shelters and rescue organisations on the other hand are purpose built to safely and humanely house dogs of all sizes.

Pet shops could promote the responsible purchase of rescue dogs from shelters and their location. Pet shops are not a good fit for already stressed dogs in a rescue situation. Please don't put dogs and puppies into a pet shop environment.



3.3 Contributing to the problem of impulse buying

Other than our concerns about where pups are sourced from, one of our main objections to pet shop sales of puppies is the opportunity for impulse buying of dogs not suited to the circumstances of the purchaser, and the consequent likelihood of these dogs being surrendered again.

The decision to buy a dog should be a well thought out process. It can't be treated in the same way as other retail purchases. Placing dogs and puppies in a retail environment, treating them as a commodity, sends the wrong message to the community and bypasses the important screening processes and after sale support that reputable breeders undertake.

Our responsible Dog breeders will spend time with the potential owners before committing to the sale of a puppy. Most breeders process buyer expressions of interest using due diligence and assessing suitability which preclude impulse buyers.

Similarly, many potential buyers prefer to research appropriate dog breeds, contact local breeders and take the time to visit puppies to meet the parents and get to know the breeder.

Responsible shelters also spend time with potential owners, watching them interact with the dogs to ensure an appropriate match is achieved. Shelters require people to lodge applications for purchase, and many also provide 'cooling off periods' should there be any issues with the dog once it is placed in the new home.

The Dogs West Code of Ethics provides for penalties and sanctions against Members who supply dogs to Pet Shops or pet wholesalers, providing them as a prize or a donation, or from surrendering dogs to a shelter. This also applies to a Member's dogs being advertised, displayed or sold on commission by a commercial dog wholesaler or retail pet dealer.

3.4 Reducing dog numbers in shelters

We understand and agree with the objective to reduce the number of dogs moving through shelters.

However, it must be acknowledged that there will always be dogs that accidentally stray, and the majority of them find their way home thanks to microchipping and the work of Local Government Rangers. Dogs are social animals. Dogs will escape by accident, due to inadequate maintenance on gates or fencing, during fireworks and storms, for example. Local Government deals with serial offenders in this regard.

However, there are other reasons that dogs find themselves needing to be rehomed. People's lives and circumstances change for a myriad of reasons.

Sometimes the dog has to be rehomed because the owner has made a poor choice on the type of dog they have taken in as companion animal, which proves to be unsuitable and/or unmanageable.

Buyer education should form a critical part of any strategy to reduce the number of unwanted dogs and dogs sourced from PUPPY FARMERS.

For example, most purebred dogs come with fairly accurate data around behaviours, trainability, suitability for certain activities, size, coat management, personality and life expectancy. With cross bred dogs it is more difficult but a matrix on possibilities should be provided.

3.5 Need for accountability

Appropriately managing and rehoming rescue animals can be a complex process and we feel that applying a 'one size fits all' approach to the accreditation process for shelters will not achieve the improvements to animal welfare that the legislation is aiming to achieve.

For example, rescue organisations that operate under a 'no kill' policy may sound noble, but in reality, they may be risking the safety of people and other animals.

While it is understandable that some people do not like the idea of shelters euthanising animals, it is a sad fact that some dogs are not well (including mental illness), having been permanently damaged by their prior experiences and it is both kinder and safer to euthanise these animals.

The Western Australian woman mauled to death by a dog loved the animal despite knowing it could be aggressive, a shocked friend says.

Sue Lopicich was killed on Tuesday afternoon at the boarding kennels she ran in suburban Perth.

Ms Lopicich had spent years rescuing and caring for unwanted dogs.



A representative from Dogs West recently visited two major shelters in Perth and found most dogs were large mixed breeds who were stressed, nervous and aggressive.

Some of these dogs have the capacity to adversely react to certain situations and if triggered, could cause considerable injury to a person or another animal.

For dogs such as these to be successfully rehomed, they need to go to owners who have a high level of expertise and patience.

Far too many end up in hands of people who are well-meaning but uneducated in animal behaviour.

Many of the dogs in rescue shelters need to be handled by people with considerable knowledge and experience of managing difficult behaviour.

It therefore follows that shelters need to exercise a high degree of discretion and accountability, rather than operate under a single set of prescribed policies and procedures.



The health and welfare of dogs in rescue should always be the first consideration and we believe that many shelters have their welfare foremost.

Rescues and shelters should never be breeding enterprises, and the quality of life of the dog must remain the most important consideration.



The health and welfare of animals in rescue must be paramount. This example is of a Female Mixed breed contracting canine parvovirus.

Parvovirus is a particularly deadly disease among young puppies, about 80% fatal, causing gastrointestinal tract damage and dehydration, as well as a cardiac syndrome in very young animals. It is spread by contact with an infected dog's faeces.

Extract from

3.6 Accreditation requirements may disadvantage smaller shelters

In addition to the animal welfare concerns raised above, introducing an accreditation requirement will put undue pressure on smaller shelters who will not have the necessary resources to participate in an accreditation process.

Smaller shelters, while providing a vital animal welfare service to the community, will not be able to compete with larger organisations, and will potentially see a decrease in the revenue sourced from their re-homing programs, potentially making it difficult to continue operating.

Many smaller shelters are breed specific and are run and/or supported by Dogs West Clubs and individuals who use their specific breed knowledge and skill to ensure that rescue dogs and puppies are cared for and are appropriately rehomed.

These breed rescues offer services and advice that other shelters can often not provide for specific breeds. Their knowledge and skill is invaluable and it would be to the detriment of many breeds if they were would not able to continue this work.

3.7 Interstate transfer of dogs into shelters

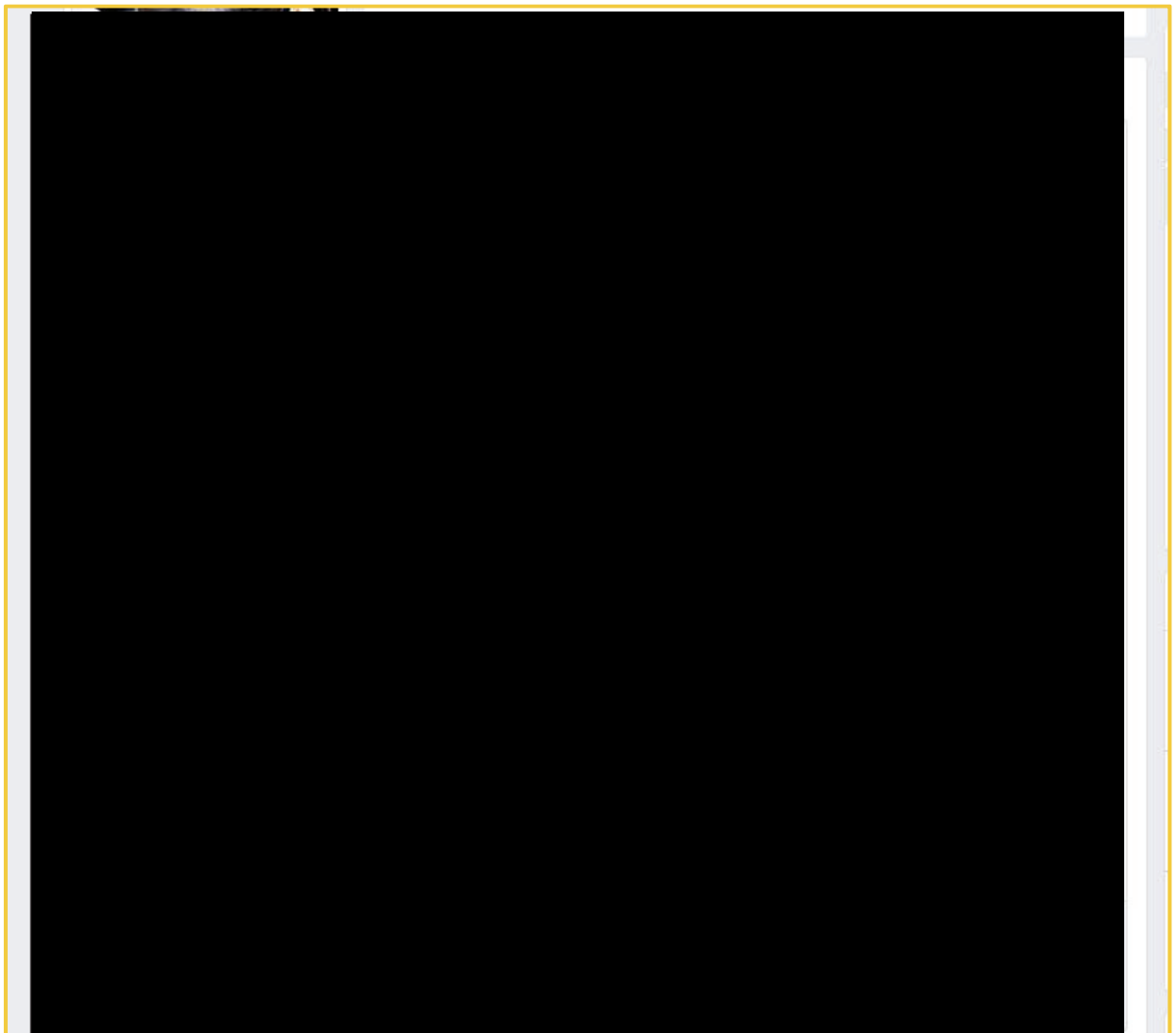
The proposal to transition pet shops to sell only rescue dogs is aimed at reducing the number of unwanted dogs in shelters in Western Australia.

It is of concern to Dogs West that some rescues are actively sourcing dogs from pounds and shelters in other States to come into shelters in Western Australia or are advertising for rescue dogs. This highly questionable practice perpetuates the commercial exploitation of stressed rescue dogs and in our view is unacceptable.

If there are too many dogs in shelters – why is this happening?

We are not opposed to the transportation of individual shelter dogs between states – provided that the dog has a designated companion home to go to.

The Chair of the Working Group, Ms Lisa Baker MLA has been quoted as saying that no dogs should be bred until shelters are empty – how can that happen if some Western Australian shelters are bringing in dogs from interstate to be sold, or advertising for dogs to be rehomed.



4 Introduce mandatory dog desexing

Dogs West Position

Dogs West strongly opposes mandatory sterilisation legislation.

- there is no evidence to suggest that it is effective in achieving the STOP PUPPY FARMING objective
- it causes well-documented health and developmental problems in dogs, especially when performed before physical, behavioural and/or sexual maturity
- there is no such thing as a one size fits all 'fixed time' for sterilisation
- it will undermine responsible ANKC Breeders (Dogs West Breeders)
- it will reduce the availability of well-bred healthy, companion dogs, which will likely further drive illegal puppy farming operators, as reduced supply from reputable breeders will drive up prices paid for puppies
- laws that force owners to have surgery performed on their pets without a rational, scientific basis for doing so may be undemocratic
- Dogs West does not support sterilisation vouchers

Recommendations

- The timing of any sterilisation be determined by the dog owners veterinarian and the dogs breeder (if applicable) and the growth patterns and future health of the dog be the primary factors.
- Dogs owned by Dogs West Members and those sold on 'Breeders Terms' by Dogs West Members be exempted from any sterilisation for the lifetime of the dog.
- Dogs West Members must have exemption from mandatory sterilisation for dogs partaking in Association activities; to maintain their breeding programs and a healthy genetic pool for their breed.
- Consumer education should be the foremost strategy to STOP PUPPY FARMING.

4.1 When to sterilise – do no harm!

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries STOP PUPPY FARMING Consultation Paper dated May 2018 states:

“Your veterinarian is the best person to discuss the pros and cons of desexing your dog, the age the procedure is done, and determine the best strategy for your pet based on breed, lifestyle, longevity expectations, concurrent diseases, cancer risks, and other considerations for intact and de-sexed dogs”.

The proposal in the public consultation paper promotes compulsory sterilisation as early as three months which is contrary to the above statement.

The most populous states in Australia have chosen not to implement compulsory sterilisation. Only South Australia and the ACT have mandatory desexing

Dogs West does not support compulsory sterilisation of dogs. Early sterilisation is an animal welfare issue.

4.2 Meeting your objective

The proposal is to STOP PUPPY FARMING.

There is no evidence from Government or industry bodies worldwide to prove mandatory sterilisation will STOP PUPPY FARMING.

We understand Government is attempting to improve on the current situation, however mandatory sterilisation affects all dog owners and not the targeted minority of PUPPY FARMERS.

There is little data to show PUPPY FARMING is advancing in Western Australia however National media sites detail convictions from other states. It is of concern that PUPPY FARMERS from others state may transport 'puppy-milled' dogs into Western Australia. Please stop or manage these puppies entering Western Australia.

Mandatory sterilisation of companion animals will only affect family pets and the interests of recognised associations. PUPPY FARMERS will still keep unsterilised dogs and, if none are available in this state, will transport them in from other states.

PUPPY FARMERS do not abide by any current animal welfare legislation now – how will proposed legislation change their operations?

While there is a market, PUPPY FARMERS will continue to operate – buyer education should be the foremost strategy.

Legislation to implement mandatory dog sterilisation takes away people's choice.

4.3 What does sterilisation mean for dogs?

There is a significant body of scientific research which questions the common practice of dog sterilisation.

Dogs that are subjected to sterilisation are at risk of health complications from sterilisation, particularly when done at a young age.

Owners who are forced to sterilise their dogs through this proposed legislation, faced with expensive and painful surgery to correct issues (for example ruptured Cruciate Ligament), may find themselves unable to afford or support a dog and may be forced to euthanise or dump the animal.

The choice to perform surgery on one's companion animal should remain an educated decision between an Owner, Veterinarian and Breeder, not dictated by an arbitrary standard assigned by the state.

We refer to the following scientific articles and studies as a sample of the work demonstrating the issues with sterilisation.

These are summarised in Appendix B: Studies Into Adverse Effects of Desexing:

REFERENCES:

Probing the perils of dichotomous binning: How categorizing female dogs as spayed or intact can misinform our assumptions about the lifelong health consequences of ovariohysterectomy
D.J. Waters, S.S. Kengeri, A.H. Maras, E.C. Chiang *Theriogenology* 76 (2011) 1496–1500
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Purdue University; West Lafayette, Indiana. Gerald P. Murphy Cancer Foundation, West Lafayette, Indiana

The effect of neutering on the risk of mammary tumours in dogs – a systematic review
W. Beauvais, J. M. Cardwell and D. C. Brodbelt
Journal of Small Animal Practice (2012) 53, 314–322

Neutering of German Shepherd Dogs: associated joint disorders, cancers and urinary incontinence
Benjamin L. Hart, Lynette A. Hart, Abigail P. Thigpen and Neil H. Willits
Veterinary Medicine and Science (2016) DOI: 10.1002/vms3.34

Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers
Benjamin L. Hart, Lynette A. Hart, Abigail P. Thigpen, Neil H. Willits
PLoS ONE 9(7): e102241. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241 July 2014 | Volume 9 | Issue 7

Urinary incontinence in bitches under primary veterinary care in England: prevalence and risk factors
D. G. O'Neill, A. Riddell, D. B. Church, L. Owen, D. C. Brodbelt and J. L. Hall
Journal of Small Animal Practice (2017) 58, 685–693

Behavioural risks in male dogs with minimal lifetime exposure to gonadal hormones may complicate population-control benefits of desexing
Paul D. McGreevy, Bethany Wilson, Melissa J. Starling, James A. Serpell
PLOS ONE | <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0196284> May 2, 2018

Endogenous Gonadal Hormone Exposure and Bone Sarcoma Risk
Cooley DM, Beranek BC, Schittler DL, Glickman NW, Glickman LT, Waters DJ
Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention
Vol. 11, 1434–1440, November 2002

Endogenous Gonadal Hormone Exposure and Bone Sarcoma Risk
Cooley DM, Beranek BC, Schittler DL, Glickman NW, Glickman LT, Waters DJ
Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention
Vol. 11, 1434–1440, November 2002

Life expectancy and causes of death in Bernese mountain dogs in Switzerland
by Michael Klopfenstein^{1†}, Judith Howard^{2†}, Menga Rossetti¹ and Urseissbühler^{3*}
Society for Theriogenology Position on mandatory spay/neuter in the Canine and Feline

4.4 Dog breeds vulnerable to extinction – a shrinking gene pool

In November 13, 2013 a report was produced “Dog Breeds Vulnerable to Extinction in the United States”. 10 dog breeds account for half of American Kennel Club (AKC) registrations while others near extinction. According to calculations the 50 rarest breeds (those that have the lowest registration numbers) in the AKC, account for only 1.2 percent of all of all of the dogs in the American Kennel Club Registry.

To give you an idea of what that means let's suppose that we gathered together 1,000 dogs, all of which were purebred, and all of which were registered in the AKC. In that group of 1,000 dogs just 12 AKC registered dogs would come from any of the 50 breeds listed here.

- Affenpinscher
- American Foxhound
- American Water Spaniel
- Australian Terrier
- Beauceron
- Bedlington Terrier
- Black Russian Terrier
- Bluetick Coonhound
- Boykin Spaniel
- Briard
- Canaan Dog
- Clumber Spaniel
- Curly-Coated Retriever
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier
- English Foxhound
- English Toy Spaniel
- Field Spaniel
- Finnish Spitz
- German Pinscher
- Glen of Imaal Terrier
- Greyhound
- Harrier
- Ibizan Hound
- Irish Red and White Setter
- Irish Terrier
- Lakeland Terrier
- Lowchen
- Manchester Terrier
- Miniature Bull Terrier
- Norwegian Buhund
- Otterhound
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
- Irish Water Spaniel
- Kerry Blue Terrier
- Komondor
- Kuvasz
- Pharaoh Hound
- Plott
- Polish Lowland Sheepdog
- Pulik
- Pyrenean Shepherd
- Redbone Coonhound
- Scottish Deerhound
- Sealyham Terrier
- Skye Terrier
- Spinoni Italiani
- Sussex Spaniel
- Swedish Vallhund
- Tibetan Mastiff
- Welsh Springer Spaniel

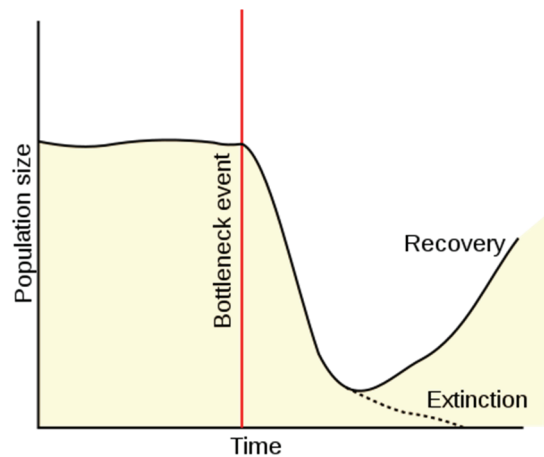


Clumber Spaniel

Similar statistics impact on vulnerable breeds in the United Kingdom.

A population bottleneck is an event that drastically reduces the size of a population. The bottleneck may be caused by various events, in this instance low breeder rates that results in the deaths of certain breeds.

Perth is the most isolated capital city in the world. To be able to maintain a healthy and diverse gene pool Breeders need access to potential breeding stock which may be living in 'companion homes' accessible to Dogs West Breeders.



4.5 Dog ownership in Western Australia

In 2016, Western Australia had 938,097 households, with 38% of those households owning a dog/s.

Assuming an average life span of 10 years and assuming that 1 in 5 households own two dogs, around 43,000 dogs are required each year to maintain the current demand for companion dogs, a demand that clearly cannot be met by Dogs West Members (who produced approximately 13% of the puppies required, see Table 2 below).

Compulsory sterilisation will impact on Dogs West breeders being able to maintain a healthy and genetically diverse breeding pool of dogs to continue their breeding programs.

It is fundamental to the ongoing health of dogs that dogs on breeders terms, living in companion homes, not be impacted by compulsory sterilisation, nor should they have to register as a breeder because they own an entire dog. They are helping breed custodians, they are not breeders themselves.

It is unlikely that there will be a significant increase in the number of puppies bred by Dogs West breeders.

Some puppies will be sourced from ANKC Registered Breeders in other states, when puppies of a particular breed are not available in Western Australia, or when breeders are looking to diversify their bloodlines.

We recognise not all purchasers are looking to buy a pure bred puppy, but rather a mixed breed. This proposal to introduce mandatory sterilisation will impact on the total number of dogs available, pure and cross breeds.

4.6 Availability of well-bred dogs as companion animals

We have ongoing feedback from Members that they cannot meet demand for purebred dogs. This proposal will exacerbate this issue because Members will be forced to reduce numbers in their breeding programs as a result of mandatory sterilisation.

Our own research reveals that dogs and puppies are regularly shipped into Western Australia to meet the demand for companion animals.

This argues against the requirement to have all dogs sterilised, as they will not be covered by this proposed Legislation. It may, in fact, increase the numbers of dogs being shipped in, and 'cleanskin' dogs being moved from state to state for breeding. In addition to increasing the illegal breeding activities of PUPPY FARMERS, reduced supply will inevitably lead to an increase in the price of puppies.

An ANKC study undertaken in 2015 clearly showed that the vast majority of dogs were sourced from other than ANKC registered breeders. Figures on dog registrations from Dogs West and ANKC are:

Table 1 – ANKC National Breeding Statistics

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
66,040	63,465	64,224	66,904	69,274	70,130	71,199	70,524

Table 2 – Dogs West Breeding Statistics

2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
4,840	4,796	3,295	5,099	4,208	5,370	6,046	5,885

Some puppies will be sourced from ANKC Registered Breeders in other states, when puppies of a particular breed are not available in Western Australia, and the reverse occurs when breeds are not available in other states.

4.7 Impacts to Dogs West and the wider community

Not all Dogs West Members breed dogs. Members take part in a wide variety of activities including:

- Agility
- Conformation Show Dogs
- Dancing with Dogs
- Endurance
- Field Trials
- Herding
- Junior Handlers
- Lure Coursing
- Obedience
- Retrieving
- Tracking

Members who participate in these activities should be able to choose to keep their dogs entire to maintain the dogs' ability to perform, support drive and sound physical development to reduce injuries.

These activities provide an important social outlet for the many Members, friends and associates, who take part, and they are an integral part of the social network that supports many people who find themselves living alone, particularly in their later years. We recognise the benefits of choosing to not sterilise dogs.

4.8 Exemptions for recognised organisations

Only organisations that can demonstrate standards and regulations with proven methods of compliance should be considered.

Dogs West, a not for profit affiliate of the ANKC, is the only organisation in Western Australia which meets such criteria.

Our Governing Council consists of a minimum of six members and makes transparent decisions on how the body is managed, its culture, its policies and strategies, and the way it interacts with various stakeholders. Strong and ethical leadership from Governing Councils is essential for Dogs West to uphold their reputation within our community.

Dogs West Constitution, Code of Ethics and Regulations are maintained and instruct Members with information and tools necessary to meet their legislative, policy, accountability, and member responsibilities.

Our structure, governance and physical presence in Western Australia differentiate Dogs West from online registries which are private businesses.

Dogs West Members must be exempted from mandatory sterilisation requirements for their dogs, and dogs on “breeder’s terms” in companion homes, for the lifetime of the dog.

4.9 Sterilisation vouchers

Dogs West does not support sterilisation vouchers and we do not support mandatory sterilisation.

There are many variables which come into play, including the size and breed of the dog, the age of sterilisation, and variation in costs between veterinary clinics.

We have concerns over how such a system could work:

- What value will the voucher be?
- Who will pay for the voucher – the breeder or the purchaser?
- What happens to the value of a voucher is never used or lost?
- What happens when a dog is sold interstate?
- If a new owner lives a significant distance from the vet – how will the voucher be used?
- New owner moves interstate before the voucher is used – what happens to the value of the voucher?
- What happens if only a limited number of veterinary practices agree to the voucher system?

5 Introduce a centralised registration system to identify every dog and puppy

Dogs West Position

- PUPPY FARMERS are unregistered Dog Owners who typically breed with 'clean-skin' dogs or dogs where the microchips have not been registered or kept up to date.
- The STOP PUPPY FARMING project aims to target these individuals. There is no evidence to suggest this proposed registry will achieve Government's desired outcome.
- The proposed Centralised Register records compliant dog owners and does not capture PUPPY FARMERS
- The proposal has the capacity to increase costs to dog owners in both the immediate and long term
- Puppy farmers are not going to stop the milling of dogs because local Government registries are relocated to a central Registration System.
- It is unclear who will have access to the central registry, or what additional information may be held there.
- If breeder registration forms part of this strategy, Dogs West Members being ANKC registered breeders must be automatically recognised as complying breeders on any breeder registration system.

Recommendations

- Dogs West breeders be recognised and included on any proposed breeder registration system and that their Dogs West Member number be the breeder registration number.
- Dog owners not bear the cost of running a central registry by increasing registration fees.
- That registration concessions to dog owners be maintained for sterilized dogs, working dogs and assistance dogs.
- That the ability to register a dog for its lifetime remain.
- That the bulk registration discount of dogs on licensed kennel properties be maintained.
- That owners of entire dogs not have to register as breeders when they have no plans to breed dogs.

5.1 Registration as a 'Dog Breeder' for owners of entire dogs

Government proposes that anyone who owns an entire dog will have to apply to be approved as a 'Registered Breeder'. It is hard to understand the rationale behind this concept.

It was stated that this was to identify the owners of unsterilised dogs.

This is a flawed position as this is already known from the present-day dog registration data held by Local Government. Owners of entire dogs pay a premium for their dog registration now.

In 2016, Western Australia had 938,097 households. Canstar stats show that 38% of households have dog/s and that 18% are not sterilised.

Therefore, the number of households that could be impacted by the additional requirement to become a registered breeder if they own an entire dog is around 64,000.

The concept of classing everyone who owns an entire dog as a dog “breeder” is clearly flawed.

People would be on a register as a breeder – but would never breed their dog. If there is to be a useful breeder register – it should only hold the details of persons who do produce puppies from either their stud or whelped bitch.

The term “backyard breeder” has come to be associated with PUPPY FARMING but this blanket terminology should not be used to encompass those who occasionally and responsibly breed companion animals in a home environment in good conditions from animals who are part of the family group. Please refer to Appendix D: Definitions of Types of Dog Breeders.

A severe reduction in the number of people able to breed puppies could see a shortfall in the supply of puppies and young dogs, bred in favorable conditions, available in Western Australia forcing the market to source a companion animal interstate or from undetected PUPPY FARMERS.

5.2 Registration of Breeders from canine associations

Our assertion is that Dogs West Members must be recognised as compliant and registered as Breeders on any breeder register.

The ANKC mandated microchipping for dog identification before it was legislated in many states, including Western Australia. Every State Member Body is able to confirm the breeder of any dog on the ANKC Registry.

Every puppy bred by an ANKC Member must be registered and hence is traceable to the breeder Australia wide – not just Western Australia.

Dogs West breeders must act within the Code of Ethics and Regulations of the ANKC and Dogs West, and a proven governance framework is in place to enforce these requirements. Our governance framework is proven and robust.

Our record of taking action is a testament to our administration of Dogs West regulations. In the past 12 months we have taken disciplinary action in relation to 61 cases, in comparison to the RSPCA, who have reported two convictions in 2017.

Membership of Dogs West does not automatically permit members to breed dogs. Members cannot apply for a breeders prefix until they have been Members for a minimum period of 12 months and they own a Main Registered bitch. Members must also complete, submit and pass a Breeder Education Prefix Exam with a pass mark of 90%.

In the interests of transparency and usability we require the Dogs West Member number be the same number used on any proposed Registration System.

This will enable users of the Dogs West register to efficiently reference detail with the proposed Centralised Registration System. This move has been supported in South Australia where Dogs SA assist to maintain current member detail on the state-based register.

5.3 Central Registration System privacy and access

We support the intent of dogs being registered however have concerns over the development of a registry which may be available to third parties.

Until the scope and use of the proposed central registry is known Dogs West have concerns on access.

The basic principles of privacy and a valid need to know must be applied to any party being considered for access.

We understand the Registry is still under development. There is no guarantee that the maintenance of, and the assurance of the accuracy and consistency of data over its entire life-cycle is safe for Dog Owners.

The Government has not quantified the design, implementation and usage of such a Centralised Registration System and how it intends to store, process, or retrieve data.



*There is a potential for community distrust of centralised information being held by Government and the possibility for misuse
“The number of Australians choosing to opt out of My Health Record could run into the millions, as criticisms of the scheme continue to mount...”*

Sydney Morning Herald – 24 July 2018

5.4 Service costs

Dogs West Members pay registration fees, together with Local Government registration fees, in accordance with the Dog Act 1976.

As a consensus Members do not want to pay increased or additional fees for Government's introduction of a Centralised Registration System.

Such a System should be given an appropriation budget by State Government and not on-costed to consumers.

6 Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale

Dogs West Position

- Dogs West supports appropriate standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.
- Dogs West already has in place robust Regulations covering dog breeding and sale
- Standards need to take into consideration the diversity of dog ownership, such as dogs in companion homes, kennel establishments, boarding kennels, training facilities, working dogs, assistance dogs.
- Standards should also take into consideration size, temperament and phenotype.

Recommendations

- dedicated Department to follow up on complaints on PUPPY FARMERS

With more than one hundred years of experience and expertise in canine husbandry we look forward to being of service to improve on the welfare of dogs.

Table 3 – Response to sections within proposed Mandatory Standard

Standards	Our position
Dog breeding	Dogs West await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
Housing	Dogs West await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
Husbandry	Dogs West await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
Transport	Dogs West await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
Sale	Dogs West await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards

6.1 Dogs West Representative

In July 2018 Dogs West, Dogs West were finally invited to nominate a representative to join the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development Writing Group, who are drafting these standards.

Dogs West nominated George Koutsantonis Professor, BSc PhD Adel., CChem, FRACI, FRSC, Professor, School of Molecular Sciences, University of Western Australia, as our representative.

As the DPIRD writing group is well represented from the veterinary field, we felt it would be of benefit to have a representative well-versed in the care and maintenance of dogs outside the medical arena, that is, the daily management and care of dogs and their environment.

Professor Koutsantonis has had pure bred dogs for many years, is a successful owner and breeder of German Shorthair Pointers, and is also a licenced conformation show judge.

His professional background and analytical strengths will see him well suited to the logical discussion of the matter at hand; able to provide considered and knowledgeable feedback, drawing on his personal experience and knowledge of dog management, together with his skill in the writing of technical documents.

We consider that Professor Koutsantonis will be able to engage in unbiased robust discussion and is well suited to the role, working with the Writing Group towards a successful outcome.

6.2 Dogs West Regulations

Dogs West are regulated by a robust Code of Ethics and Regulations for the breeding and keeping of dogs. Our Governance processes are robust and proven.

Our Code of Ethics regulates the health and welfare of breeding dogs including:

- Breeding ages – both minimum and maximum
- Timing between litters
- Total number of litters
- Close relative breeding
- Microchipping
- Sale of dogs
- Health testing requirements
- Breed specific limitations (for example hip scores)
- Inter variety breeding regulations (for example long and short coat Chihuahua)
- Vaccination
- Breed information and care

Dogs West are considered to be the gold standard due to our Regulations, Code of Conduct and governance to these regulations are investigated and disciplinary action is taken.

We are successful in this area yet we recognise that our Rules and Regulations and our Code of Ethics must remain current and relevant. To that end we have been updating and reviewing them to both strengthen and simplify what we have. We encourage Government to adopt a similar approach.

Government has existing legislation that has not been sufficiently enforced.

6.3 Dedicate Department to follow up complaints for PUPPY FARMERS

In order to successfully bring about change to this industry we recommend a dedicated Department to follow up on complaints and enforce warning, penalties and initiate prosecution action.

Dogs West is a robust self-regulating organization which is serious about the health and wellbeing of the dogs owned by our members. Please refer to Appendix C: ANKC Health and Wellbeing Policy Statement.

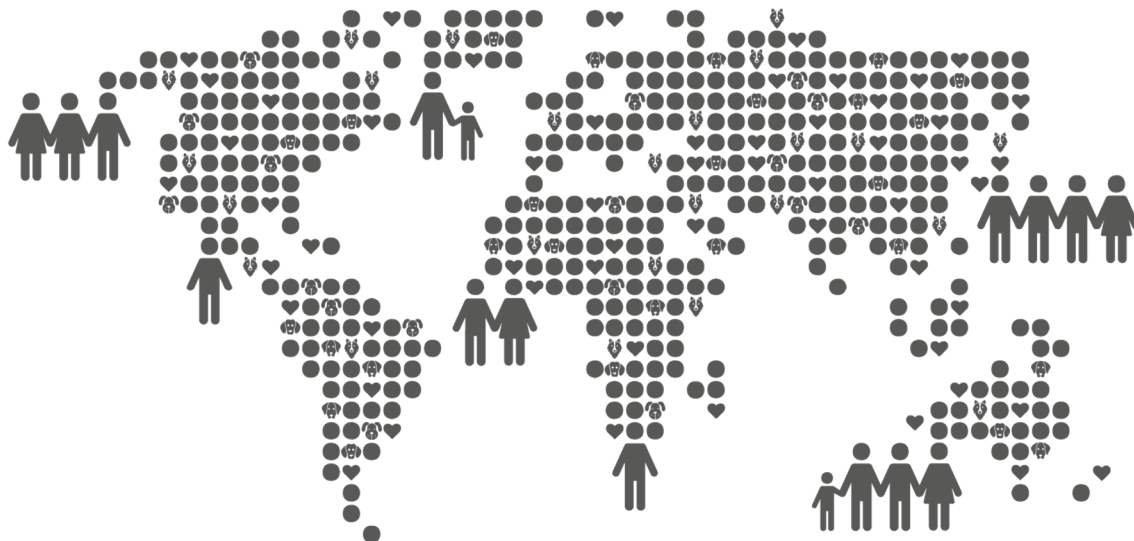
We have a dedicated Investigations committee, which, when there is sufficient evidence, escalates to our Protests and Disputes committee who hear the case. We have provisions for appeal. It is a well-structured approach which works. Our recidivist rate is relatively low as penalties are on a sliding scale and a good deterrent.

Appendix A: What it means to be part of the FCI community



- ✪ I am part of a dog-loving fellowship counting 94 national canine organisations
- ✪ I can take part, yearly, in more than 1,200 international dog shows
- ✪ I can take part, yearly, in more than 2,000 sporting events (working trials, sighthounds races, Obedience and Agility competitions, field trials, dog dancing contest and many more)
- ✪ I can access FCI information resources about dog-related issues of interest to me, such as health, breeding, breed standards, genealogies
- ✪ I have my own and unique kennel name registered with an international organisation
- ✪ My dogs have a chance to be judged by one of the 9,278 judges listed by FCI members
- ✪ Have a look at the following amazing FCI facts and figures:

2,057,228 puppies registered with the studbook and appendix
1,667,336 individual members



FCI: WE BELONG!

Appendix B: Studies Into Adverse Effects of Desexing

Table 4 – Study on Perils of Dichotomous Binning

Article	Probing the perils of dichotomous binning: How categorizing female dogs as spayed or intact can misinform our assumptions about the lifelong health consequences of ovariohysterectomy
Author	D.J. Waters, S.S. Kengeri, A.H. Maras, E.C. Chiang Theriogenology 76 (2011) 1496–1500 Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences, Purdue University; West Lafayette, Indiana. Gerald P. Murphy Cancer Foundation, West Lafayette, Indiana
Summary	In this study population, there was a three-fold increased likelihood of exceptional longevity (living 13 yr) associated with the longest duration of ovary exposure. However, categorizing females in this population as spayed or intact yielded the spurious, contradictory assertion that spayed females (presumed to have the least ovary exposure) are more likely to reach exceptional longevity than those that are intact. Thus, by ignoring the timing of spaying in each bitch, the inference from these data was distorted. It follows from this new understanding that dichotomous binning—naming females as spayed or intact—is inadequate for representing lifetime ovary exposure, introducing misclassification bias that can generate misleading assumptions regarding the lifelong health consequences of ovariohysterectomy.

Table 5 – Study on Risks of Mammary Tumours

Article	The effect of neutering on the risk of mammary tumours in dogs – a systematic review
Author	W. Beauvais, J. M. Cardwell and D. C. Brodbelt Journal of Small Animal Practice (2012) 53, 314–322
Summary	A commonly-stated advantage of neutering bitches is a significant reduction in the risk of mammary tumours, however the evidence for this has not previously been assessed by systematic review. The objectives of this study were to estimate the magnitude and strength of evidence for any effect of neutering, or age of neutering, on the risk of mammary tumours in bitches. A systematic review was conducted based on Cochrane guidelines. Peer-reviewed analytic journal articles in English were eligible and were assessed for risk of bias by two reviewers independently. Of 11,149 search results, 13 reports in English-language peer reviewed journals addressed the association between neutering/ age at neutering and mammary tumours. Nine were judged to have a high risk of bias. The remaining four were classified as having a moderate risk of bias. One study found an association between neutering and a reduced risk of mammary tumours. Two studies found no evidence of an association. One reported “some protective effect” of neutering on the risk of mammary tumours, but no numbers were presented. Due to the limited evidence available and the risk of bias in the published results, the evidence that neutering reduces the risk of mammary neoplasia, and the evidence that age at neutering has an effect, are judged to be weak and are not a sound basis for firm recommendations.

Table 6 – Study – Neutering of German Shepherd Dogs

Article	Neutering of German Shepherd Dogs: associated joint disorders, cancers and urinary incontinence
Author	Benjamin L. Hart, Lynette A. Hart, Abigail P. Thigpen and Neil H. Willits Veterinary Medicine and Science (2016) DOI: 10.1002/vms3.34
Summary	German Shepherd Dogs are important in police and military work, and are a popular family pet. The debilitating joint disorders of hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear (CCL) and elbow dysplasia can shorten a dog's useful working life and impact its role as a family member. For this study, veterinary hospital records were examined over a 14.5-year period on 1170 intact and neutered (including spaying) German Shepherd Dogs for joint disorders and cancers previously associated with neutering. The diseases were followed through 8 years of age, with the exception of mammary cancer (MC) in females that was followed through 11 years. The cancers followed, apart from mammary, were osteosarcoma, lymphoma, hemangiosarcoma and mast cell tumour. In intact males, 7% were diagnosed with one or more joint disorders, while in males neutered prior to a year of age, a significantly higher 21% were diagnosed with one or more joint disorders. In intact females, 5% were diagnosed with one or more joint disorders, while in females neutered prior to a year of age, this measure was significantly increased to 16%. The increased joint disorder incidence mostly associated with early neutering was CCL. MC was diagnosed in 4% of intact females compared with less than 1% in females neutered before 1 year. The occurrence of the other cancers followed through 8 years of age was not higher in the neutered than in the intact dogs. Urinary incontinence, not diagnosed in intact females, was diagnosed in 7% of females neutered before 1 year, a significant difference. These findings, profiling the increase in joint disorders associated with early neutering, should help guide the timing of neutering for this breed.

Table 7 – Study on Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering

Article	Long-Term Health Effects of Neutering Dogs: Comparison of Labrador Retrievers with Golden Retrievers
Author	Benjamin L. Hart, Lynette A. Hart, Abigail P. Thigpen, Neil H. Willits PLoS ONE 9(7): e102241. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0102241 July 2014 Volume 9 Issue 7
Summary	Our recent study on the effects of neutering (including spaying) in Golden Retrievers in markedly increasing the incidence of two joint disorders and three cancers prompted this study and a comparison of Golden and Labrador Retrievers. Veterinary hospital records were examined over a 13-year period for the effects of neutering during specified age ranges: before 6 mo., and during 6–11 mo., year 1 or years 2 through 8. The joint disorders examined were hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear and elbow dysplasia. The cancers examined were lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma, mast cell tumour, and mammary cancer. The results for the Golden Retriever were similar to the previous study, but there were notable differences between breeds. In Labrador Retrievers, where about 5 percent of gonadally intact males and females had one or more joint disorders, neutering at ,6 mo. doubled the incidence of one or more joint disorders in both sexes. In male and female Golden Retrievers, with the same 5 percent rate of joint disorders in intact dogs, neutering at ,6 mo. increased the incidence of a joint disorder to 4–5 times that of intact dogs. The incidence of one or more cancers in female Labrador Retrievers increased slightly above the 3 percent level of intact females with neutering. In contrast, in female Golden Retrievers, with the same 3 percent rate of one or more cancers in intact females, neutering at all periods through 8 years of age increased the rate of at least one of the cancers by 3–4 times. In male Golden and Labrador Retrievers neutering had relatively minor effects in increasing the occurrence of cancers. Comparisons of cancers in the two breeds suggest that the occurrence of cancers in female Golden Retrievers is a reflection of particular vulnerability to gonadal hormone removal.

Table 8 – Study on Urinary incontinence in bitches

Article	Urinary incontinence in bitches under primary veterinary care in England: prevalence and risk factors
Author	D. G. O'Neill, A. Riddell, D. B. Church, L. Owen , D. C. Brodbelt and J. L. Hall Journal of Small Animal Practice (2017) 58, 685–693
Summary	RESULTS : Of 100,397 bitches attending 119 clinics in England, an estimated 3108 were diagnosed with urinary incontinence. The prevalence of urinary incontinence was 3·14% (95% confidence intervals: 2·97 to 3·33). Medical therapy was prescribed to 45·6% cases. Predisposed breeds included the Irish setter (odds ratio: 8·09; 95% confidence intervals : 3·15 to 20·80; P< 0·001) and Dobermann (odds ratio: 7·98; 95% confidence intervals : 4·38 to 14·54; P< 0·001). Increased odds of a diagnosis of urinary incontinence were associated with: (1) weight at or above the mean adult bodyweight for the breed (odds ratio: 1·31; 95% confidence intervals : 1·12 to 1·54; P< 0·001), (2) age 9 to 12 years (odds ratio: 3·86; 95% confidence intervals: 2·86 to 5·20, P< 0·001), (3) neuter status (odds ratio: 2·23; 95% confidence intervals : 1·52 to 3·25, P < 0·001) and (4) being insured (odds ratio: 1·59; 95% confidence intervals: 1·34 to 1·88, P< 0·001). CLINICAL IMPACT: Urinary incontinence affects just over 3% of bitches overall but affects more than 15% of bitches in high-risk breeds including the Irish setter, Dobermann, bearded collie, rough collie and Dalmatian. These results provide an evidence base for clinicians to enhance clinical recommendations on neutering and weight control, especially in high-risk breeds.

Table 9 – Study on Bone Sarcoma Risk

Article	Endogenous Gonadal Hormone Exposure and Bone Sarcoma Risk
Author	Cooley DM, Beranek BC, Schittler DL, Glickman NW, Glickman LT, Waters DJ Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention Vol. 11, 1434–1440, November 2002
Summary	To determine whether there was an association between endogenous sex hormones and risk of bone sarcoma, relative risk (RR) of incidence rates and hazard ratios for bone sarcoma were calculated for dogs subdivided on the basis of lifetime gonadal hormone exposure. Bone sarcoma was diagnosed in 12·6% of dogs in this cohort during 71,004 dog-months follow-up. Risk for bone sarcoma was significantly influenced by age at gonadectomy. Male and female dogs that underwent gonadectomy before 1 year of age had an approximate one in four lifetime risk for bone sarcoma and were significantly more likely to develop bone sarcoma than dogs that were sexually intact [RR 95% CI 3·8 (1·5– 9·2) for males; RR 95% CI 3·1 (1·1– 8·3) for females]. χ^2 test for trend showed a highly significant inverse dose response relationship between duration of lifetime gonadal exposure and incidence rate of bone sarcoma (P 0·008 for males, P 0·006 for females). This association was independent of adult height or body weight. We conclude that the subset of Rottweiler dogs that undergo early gonadectomy represent a unique, highly accessible target population to further study the gene: environment interactions that determine bone sarcoma risk and to test whether interventions can inhibit the spontaneous development of bone sarcoma.

Appendix C: ANKC Health and Wellbeing Policy Statement



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD POLICY STATEMENT

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Adopted
October 2013

The ANKC Ltd Canine Health & Wellbeing Committee (CHWC) promotes the health and welfare of dogs through education, investment in research, breed improvement schemes and responsible breeding practices to ensure that dogs live healthy, happy lives with caring and informed owners.

In accordance with the Policy Statement, the role of the CHWC is to provide policy and guidance to member bodies in relation to the health, wellbeing and protection of dogs and to represent the ANKC Ltd at a national level to Government and other interested agencies.

In achieving its objectives the CHWC will formulate and maintain ANKC Ltd Policy Statements in relation to Canine Health, Wellbeing and Protection in the following areas:

- Education
- Investment in Canine Health Research (Canine Research Foundation)
- Breed Improvement Schemes
- Responsible Breeding
- Caring and Informed Ownership

The CHWC may also provide representation and feedback to Government or non-government agencies in relation to matters impacting the ANKC Ltd or its Member Bodies to ensure that the interests of the ANKC Ltd and its Member Bodies are best represented.

Appendix D: Definitions of Types of Dog Breeders

	Puppy Farmer	Backyard Breeder	Hobby Breeder	Commercial Breeder	ANKC Dogs West Breeder
Motivation for breeding	Purely by profit	Accidental matings, Profit, False belief "a bitch needs a litter to develop) or simply "for the kids to see a new born puppy"	They have a bitch or breeding pair of dogs and want a puppy for themselves or a friend	Purely by profit	Generally because they need a younger dog to go with and for the betterment of the breed
Choice of breeding stock	What ever is available	What ever is in the yard or what they can get hold of at little cost	Dogs of good substance but not always pedigree	Dogs of good substance and of a breed or cross breed that has a ready market	Pedigreed dogs selected for health, temperament, longevity and breed type and/or performance
Activities with breeding dogs	Breeding	Generally a pet for breeding	Possibly conformation showing or performance activities	Breeding	Conformation showing or performance activities
Care of breeding dogs	Whatever is cheap? Dogs do not receive individual exercise or attention. Dogs that can no longer reproduce are euthanized.	Same as a normal backyard pet but with minimal care and attention	Vet care and special diet for bitch. Dogs may be rehomed to good pet homes.	Generally good basic care as a healthy breeding bitch produces more puppies	Best care available for stud dog and bitches. All dogs receive regular exercise and individual attention. Dogs may be rehomed to good homes.
Number of breeding dogs	Many and generally over stocked	Generally only 1 or 2 breeding dogs	Generally only 1 or 2 breeding dogs	Many however are generally well managed	Can have a number however generally enough to continue their chosen activity whilst breeding
Whelping practices	Bitches often whelp unsupervised. Pups generally whelped in sheds	Often unsupervised in back yard or home	Under supervision in home	Under supervision in a whelping area suitable for multiple litters	Under supervision in home with vet on standby if required.
Are puppies socialised before sale	Not at all unless in communal whelping areas	With family dogs and members	With family dogs and members	Not at all unless in communal whelping areas	As extensively as possible with strangers, reliable dogs and family members. Socialisation inside to life in a house is conducted.
Are puppies temperaments assessed before sale	No	Little knowledge of testing	Little knowledge of testing	No	Always with family and friends
Cross breeding	Yes, particularly with designer breeds	Yes	No	Yes, particularly with designer breeds	Most definitely not
Breed association members	Not Generally	No	Yes	Yes to gain sales through breed registries and to add credence	Yes
Health testing of breeding stock	No	No	Sometimes	No	Yes where health issues are identified in a breed

Sells to pet resellers	Yes	Yes	Not Normally	Yes	No
How often are puppies available	Always	Occasionally	Occasionally	Always	Occasionally
Age puppies are sold	7 weeks	7 weeks	8 weeks	7 weeks	Not before 8 weeks but often older
Puppies are registered with ANKC or other recognised body	No	No	Generally	Yes as it adds to the asking price	Yes
Are prospective buyers carefully interviewed	No	No	Usually	No	Yes
Provide a guarantee on the puppies health	No	No	Generally	No	Yes

ANKC | Dogs West Breeder – A person who breeds for the betterment of the breeds and actively participates in organised canine activities. These are generally the custodians of the breed and often are prepared to impart their knowledge to others in the breed or wanting to learn about it.

Commercial Breeder – is an organisation where the primary income is the breeding and selling of dogs. They generally care for the dogs and have well planned and developed facilities. May be a member of a breed organisation but only to give their business credibility.

Hobby Breeder – A person who may be a member of a breed organisation but will generally have a litter as they would like another dog of their own breeding.

Backyard Breeder – Generally a family which has a couple of bitches and breeds them to assist in the family income. Have limited knowledge of breeding and required veterinary care required.

Puppy Farmer – is a person or organisation which breeds puppies solely for profit with little care or responsibility for the health and wellbeing of the adults or offspring.