

Name	Fiona Stewart
Email address	[REDACTED]
Prefix	[REDACTED]
Breed/s	FRENCH BULLDOG
Years involved	20 +
Family involved?	
Your thoughts on Pet shops	Great for accessories/toys/dry food or supplements but not a place to sell live pets - too many are bought on impulse and often end up rehomed or simply dumped.
Your thoughts on mandatory de-sexing	<p>As a Conformation Exhibitor I am required to present my dogs entire. I do encourage pet buyers to de-sex their dogs but would generally suggest they wait until the pup is at least twelve months of age.</p> <p>I DO NOT think it should be mandatory and certainly NOT as a very young age. Three to six months is simply way too young to de-sex any dog unless for medical reasons.</p>
Your thoughts on central registry	<p>As a member of Dogswest and affiliated with ANKC I think Dogswest members should be exempt – we already register with the appropriate recognised state body, our pups are vaccinated and microchipped before they go to their new homes.</p> <p>It is a doubling up of registration and costs.</p>

Your thoughts on minimum standards of care>

I do think there should be some minimum standard of care.

When I place a puppy in a new home I spend time with new owners and discuss where puppy will be housed, fencing and shelter - I prefer not to sell a puppy to someone working full time at time of purchase – no eight week old puppy should be taken from the litter then left on its own. This can cause development of bad habits – barking/chewing/digging – as well as developing separation anxiety.

With my breed in particular I make sure the new owners are aware of the need for French Bulldogs to have shelter and respite from heat and humidity as with all brachycephalic breeds. They can have some breathing issues.

As a breeder I think it is my responsibility to help people understand what is required of owning a dog discussing feeding housing etc in the hope that they get as much joy out of their pet as I have.

I encourage interested people to come to my home and see my dogs and how they are housed and cared for.

This sort of passing on of information and advice should be offered with every puppy regardless - pedigree or cross breeds.