

THE GERMAN SHORTHAIRED POINTER CLUB of WA (INC)

3rd August 2018

Stop Puppy Farming
Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries
PO Box 8349
Perth Business Centre
Western Australia 6849

Submission by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of WA (Inc) Stop Puppy Farming Project

The German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP) Club of WA (inc) was formed in 1976.

The Club provides many services to both its members and the wider community through its various activities such as Conformation Shows, Fun Days and Rescue.

Our members are involved in all dog activities, Showing, Obedience, Agility, Tracking, Sledding, Lure Coursing and Field work to name a few.

Our Club has for many years run a German Shorthaired Pointer Rescue Service. This facet of our Club is available to all those out there who find themselves in difficulties with their dogs. And find for some reason or other they can no longer keep these dogs. Our club gets many calls for assistance from people seeking a puppy or preferably an older dog. We maintain a list of names and contacts from those enquiries, and we are happy to help these persons out if we have the appropriate animal to suit them available. We have a dedicated Rescue Officer to manage this service

We remind people that a Rescue Service is not simply a "dumping ground" for your unwanted "Pets". We offer genuine advice and help to all who may be in need of it. And are happy to give advice on the many ways available of trying to find "the right" new home for their animals.

Our Breeders are registered with the Australian National Kennel Council Ltd (ANKC) through Dogs West. These breeders take pride in producing health, fit, well socialised puppies and they also take care to ensure the puppy and puppy buyer are compatible. Taking on a puppy is a major commitment and our breeders ensure the puppy buyer is aware and prepared for this.

We would like to address the main points of the Government's proposal for our view.

Transition pet shops to adoption centres.

We don't agree with this proposal.

No dogs should be sold through Pet Shops. As an organisation that helps find GSP's new home we can not condone the idea that a pet shop is the place to do this.

If it's not a suitable place for a puppy it most certainly is not a suitable place for a dog that may be traumatised or stressed as many rescue dogs are.

We would suggest that there should be a cooling off period on every dog purchase. This would eliminate impulse buying, which must be a cause of dogs ending up in shelters or rescues.

Breed rescue services

Members and Clubs such as ours, who run breed specific rescues must abide by DogsWest Rules and Regulations, so they cannot supply any dog, for any reason, to a pet shop. Breed specific rescue that is conducted by Dogs West Registered breeders should be exempt as they operate under the Regulations and Code of Ethics of Dogs West who have a proven compliance system in place.

Mandatory desexing

We most strongly object to the proposal of mandatory de-sexing.

De-sexing should be the choice of the owner and the timing should be determined with input from the owner's vet and the dog's breeder.

There is a wealth of scientific evidence refuting the claims made by the Government in the proposal paper.

We are also concerned this would

- reduce the gene pool available.
- Reduced the number of responsibly bred puppies
- As a result of the above increase the market for Puppy Farmed dogs
- Reduced the number of dogs eligible to compete in dog events
- Increase the number of dogs being dumped when they become injured because they have not grown properly
- Increase the traffic of puppies coming from questionable sources in other states

We would request the government rethink this part of the proposal.

Dogs Members and owners dogs used or maybe going to be used by Dogs West members ("breeders Terms") must be exempted.

Central Registry and 'Registered Breeders'

We are worried that Local Government Authorities may refuse to register people who want to keep their dogs entire as breeders. This would have a large impact on our breed as many breeders have both male and female GSP's in the wider community. These dogs live as companion dogs with their families and may at some time in the future be part of the breeders breeding program. If we were to lose access to these dogs through forced de-sexing the breed would probably not survive in WA.

The owners of these dogs are never going to breed from them themselves so it makes little sense to require them to register as breeders. It will fill any proposed 'breeders' registry with incorrect information.

We also have concerns as to whether we will have access to the information in the proposed central registry and how that information may be used in the future

Michelle Matthews
Secretary, on behalf of the members
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of WA (Inc)
