

From: Hilary Swain
To: [Puppy Farming](#)
Subject: Proposals to stop puppy farming
Date: Monday, 18 June 2018 11:42:15 AM

I am a registered breeder with Dogs West and have been for over 30 years. I attended a meeting at Dogs West last week. I have responded to your survey.

Issues:

- SURVEY. This survey I found to be superficial and rigid. It was not possible to expand on answers and choices were limited. I do not see the results of this survey as being of any statistical relevance.

- MANDATORY DE-SEXING. It was acknowledged that the proposals in the document were unacceptable. No dog should be sterilised at 3 months of age. Age of sterilisation should be dependant on breed, the larger breeds breeding to wait until 12 - 24 months of age as best practice.

- ENTIRE DOGS ONLY ALLOWED TO BE OWNED BY REGISTERED BREEDERS. This strategy does not make sense to me.

Currently dog registration for entire dogs with the LGA is more costly and an efficient way of recognising entire dogs in the community. The owners do not have to be "Registered Breeders" and should not have to be. It is unethical breeders that this document should be targeting not people who have entire dogs for ethical reasons such as as being a member of Dogs West and wish to show their dog.

Back Yard Breeders often do not have all their dogs registered and would not do so with new regulation. They would continue to sell from car boots and mobile phone numbers that are inactivated once the puppies have been sold. That is if they are allowed to advertise and too worried to sell from home.

To be a Registered Breeder with Dogs West there is a process and an exam to pass. These breeders have to abide by a 'Code of Ethics' from Dogs West and most ethical breeders are also members of breed clubs which also have 'Codes of Ethics' pertaining to the breed. This is the best that can be done currently. BUT THERE ARE ALSO ROGUE REGISTERED BREEDERS WHICH IS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT THAT ALL BREEDERS MUST BE POLICED IN SOME WAY. This is done to some degree through Dogs West in relation to registered litters but some times more needs to be done.

There needs to be another level and another name if none Dogs West breeders are to be registered.

COMMERCIAL BREEDING. ISN'T THIS PUPPY FARMING?????????

We do not need commercial set ups. Puppies should be reared in homes or in a home like area, not in sheds and cages. You mention having 50 or 100 entire dogs for breeding. To me this is horrific puppy farming whether you are a registered breeder or not. This is not how dogs and puppies should be reared.

Dogs West promotes ethical breeding practices where breeders know their dogs, know what is behind them on their pedigrees and is breeding to maintain or improve the quality in the breed. This does not require 50 or 100 entire dogs. We work with other ethical

breeders in order to have access to other dogs and lines. Even if you have 2 different breeds, where you will need more dogs, having 50 dogs is rather excessive. If you have the practice of keeping your retired from breeding/showing dogs you may have extra dogs though they may not be entire.

WE DO NOT NEED OR WANT FACTORY PUPPIES.

PET SHOPS. Do we really need puppies and kittens in pet shops where people impulse buy and then the animal is at risk of either being neglected or dumped or ends up at the pound? I believe that the rescue organisations do a wonderful job in rescuing, rehabilitating, fostering and finding suitable homes for abandoned and unwanted pets. Every assistance could be given to them. Certainly pet shops could advertise and promote rescue organisations and particular dogs or cats. PLEASE do not encourage the practice of puppies in pet shops.

HUSBANDRY ETC. The big problem with this is 'minimum standards' for housing, husbandry, transport etc. **YOU CANNOT LUMP ALL THE BREEDS INTO ONE PACKAGE.**

I have bred Griffon Bruxellois for over 30 years. There is a high mortality rate in puppies especially without human intervention. There is always the possibility of Caesarian sections being required. For the at least the first 3-7 days it is necessary to check puppies every 2 hours to ensure that they are accessing the mother's milk effectively. Assistance or tube feeding top ups may be required. The mother and puppies for the first week would usually be kept in my bedroom. They would then be moved to our family area where they would be exposed to every day activity, noise, other dogs, grandchildren and have humans around. This is where the puppies would live until they were ready to their approved home. I would generally have 1 or 2 litters a year. Litter sizes are small, usually 3 or 4 puppies.

Some of the larger breeds do not require the intensive care of the toy breeds but they do need the regular human contact and bonding. You do not get this in a factory or puppy farming environment.

Not sure how you will set minimum standards????

VETERINARY CARE. Again this is a hard area. I will not engage a vet who will not listen to me. I know my dogs and I know when there is something wrong. If I have a trusting relationship with a vet where there is mutual respect then I am happy. I consult a vet when I am aware that there is a problem, or for preventative care such as vaccination or teeth clean. I know when to consult a vet and do not need to be told when and how. I believe that most experienced registered breeders would feel this way and be supported by their vets.

Others in the community may need some guidelines but new registered breeders with Dogs West would have access to experienced breeders of their breed.

RECOMMENDATION. PLEASE CONSIDER HAVING A REPRESENTATIVE FROM DOGS WEST ON ANY FURTHER COMMITTEES OR WORKING PARTIES WHEN DEVELOPING NEW LEGISLATION IN THIS AREA. THERE IS A LIFETIME OF VALUABLE EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE THAT SEEMS NOT TO HAVE BEEN CONSULTED OR USED EFFECTIVELY.

Thank you for the opportunity to have a say. This is an important piece of legislation and I appreciate the efforts that you are making to get it right. If I can help in any way I am happy to be contacted.

Kind regards
Hilary Swain

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