



Dogs West Member Submission on  
**STOP PUPPY FARMING**



Name	Jeanette Mitchell
Email address	[REDACTED]
Prefix or Member #	[REDACTED]
Breed(s)	Shetland Sheepdogs
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Years involved	Since 1981
Family involved?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Transition pet shops to adoption centres (can only sell dogs sourced from rescues).</b></p>	<p>I have heard that some rescues are breeding dogs then selling the puppies. Transitioning those 'rescues' to pet shops would be a reward to people who I see as motivated by money and have very little interest in the care, wellbeing or long term health of pups and dogs.</p> <p>I am not in favour of pet shops selling puppies. My experience is that they largely misrepresent what they are selling and do not show due diligence in placing puppies. I have had friends buy pet shop puppies and they have had nothing but health issues, I have even heard of puppies being sold with Parvo virus.</p> <p>I have recently called a number of pet shops and they have openly advised that they are sourcing puppies from 'breeders' in NSW and VIC. These puppy farmers are not in WA so this proposal will not impact on the cause.</p> <p>These pet shops are often advertising second hand dog crates for sale!! Proof that the pups are indeed travelling.</p> <p>Rescues are also looking further afield than WA for shelter dogs. Why are dogs that have been deemed unsuitable by their previous owners considered to be suitable for owners in WA? There are no health requirements for dogs crossing into WA, this is surely an issue that should be worrying to everyone.</p> <p>Also, shops and shelters are loose with the truth in advertising. The RSPCA currently has most of their dogs listed as purebreds but all of them are multi-breeds. This tarnishes the reputation of Pedigree dog breeders who manage the dogs they breed, it also causes wrongful identification of breeds when something goes wrong.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Introduce mandatory dog de-sexing.</b></p>	<p>To an extent I am in favour of de-sexing and people buying my puppies sign an agreement to say they will neuter after 9 months of age, which is when my breed is nearly fully grown. I have had one Vet defer on of the puppies I placed until she was 18 months as the Vet deemed her too immature for de-sexing.</p> <p>This breed can also be sensitive to anaesthesia and giving a GA too early is very dangerous. I am opposed to such strict rules in relation to the age of de-sexing.</p> <p>There is currently a lot of controversy in relation to the best practice regarding the de-sexing of dogs. Some of my dogs have lived long lives after traditional ovary/hysterectomies but I have heard others can live shorter than expected lives. I believe this needs to be assessed case by case in consultation with a Veterinarian and the owner.</p> <p>I personally do not release mature animals unless sterilised but I do not have dogs on breeder's terms either, all of my breeding stock live in my care. I do foresee a problem where breeders need to place breeding stock in pet homes,</p>



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	<p>the legislation needs to be complimentary to those breeders and provide support in their endeavours to maintain healthy bloodlines and keep access to genetic lines.</p> <p>I also like to show dogs and have to keep them entire for the purposes of showing. Dog showing for me is a sport and I gain a lot of enjoyment and a sense of community belonging by showing my dogs. I do not want to be so restricted that bringing on young stock and keeping older dogs for breeding becomes a problem.</p> <p>My dogs are my company, my sense of purpose and they are an integral part of my life, keeping me active and healthy. This proposal is causing me undue stress. I am not your target and it pains me that you are introducing something to 'stop puppy farming' but all it will do is restrict proper dog breeding.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Introduce a centralised registration system and Council registration to be Breeder.</b></p>	<p>All of my dogs are compliant, every dog I breed is compliant, as with all breeders. You have said Dogs West is the standard you want people to meet. I do not want to have to register with you as a breeder. I am a registered breeder with Dogs West and would ask you grant us the exemption you mentioned at the consultation nights with members.</p> <p>I know you have a job to do but you could actually have done something about that already and you have failed to do so. You know that pet shop puppies come from the east coast where you do not have jurisdiction. Do something that will make the current Act enforceable.</p> <p>I do not want to be scrutinized, I have a clean record and I feel like I am being punished when I am not the problem.</p> <p>This is very disappointing and while I support the cause 'to stop puppy farming' I do not support this proposal. I think you have created a document that prays on people's good will and is misleading. It will not deliver what you promise.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.</b></p>	<p>Yes dogs should have a dignified life and there should be mandatory standards but you have not provided us with a paper to comment on.</p> <p>I would encourage you to write something practical and common sense. This is your chance to talk to people who know. I was bitterly disappointed in the fact that you have a 'small writing group' which is relatively secretive and has not included representation from Dogs West etc.</p> <p>I also have come to learn that to date you have not reached out to key stakeholders such as leading Veterinarians at Murdoch Uni, Pet practice Vets, training centres, behaviourists, boarding kennels, breeders. It is a sneaky approach and does not give you a broad understanding of the dog world.</p>