



Dogs West Member Submission on
STOP PUPPY FARMING



Name	Jim Spargo
Email address	[REDACTED]
Prefix or Member #	[REDACTED]
Breed(s)	Welsh Corgi (Cardigan)
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Years involved	20 years
Family involved?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Transition pet shops to adoption centres (can only sell dogs sourced from rescues).</p>	<p>This practice encourages trade in second hand dogs.</p> <p>No transition period as pet shops should sell only dog care accessories.</p> <p>Pet shops are associated with impulse buying and often sell dogs that are bred in unsafe, unsanitary conditions and should not be allowed.</p> <p>Dogs often end up in rescue because they are unsound. These dogs might not be suitable for re-homing and should be assessed in depth so they are not subject to inappropriate sales.</p> <p>Shelters should be required to acknowledge their knowledge of or lack of knowledge of the parentage of the dogs in their care. Fancy names do not make a dog.</p> <p>Pet shops must be willing to provide free follow-up care and/or advice as needed.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce mandatory dog de-sexing.</p>	<p>Some breeds are adversely affected by early sterilisation and many breeds should not be sterilised before the age of 18 months.</p> <p>Mandatory de-sexing will not stop puppy farming or the establishment of puppy mills.</p> <p>Mandatory de-sexing will cause difficulties to those who are already caring for their animals ethically.</p> <p>Mandatory de-sexing would cause problems for those who follow the sport of Conformation showing.</p> <p>Some dogs are placed in pet homes in suburbia so the breeder can maintain blood lines even though they might not be able to keep the dogs themselves. These dogs can be then used for breeding as needed but live happy lives with their owners.</p> <p>Mandatory de-sexing is not supported by the AVA and puts the pure bred gene pool at risk; particularly for breeds whose numbers are not large anyway.</p> <p>There are alternatives to de-sexing such as Tubal Ligation in females and Vasectomy in males. Early de-sexing has been demonstrated to be associated with increased risk of incontinence in females, increased incidence of bone cancer and increased incidence of joint disorders.</p> <p>Dogs West members should not be required to participate in mandatory de-sexing. They are already guardians of their chosen breed and act ethically even if not required to by Dogs West.</p> <p>Puppy farmers will continue to produce unsound dogs in conditions not conducive to good health regardless of this restriction.</p>



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<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce a centralised registration system to identify every dog and puppy.</p>	<p>More information is required on how this register would work; who would have access, how extensive it would be.</p> <p>If pet shops are allowed to sell dogs, they need to provide the name, address and microchip details of the purchaser to the government register.</p> <p>Breed specific testing should be accommodated on any Register; eg, blood tests, DNA tests, X-ray for hip and elbow dysplasia.</p> <p>Dogs West breeders should be automatically accepted to any Dog Breeders' register and their Dogs West number should be the same as on a Central Register.</p> <p>Dogs West members are subject to very strict regulations managed by Dogs West and should not need to be added to another database incurring more cost.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.</p>	<p>Dogs West members should be exempt from proposed changes as it is publicly recognised that Dogs West has set the bar very high in relation to the management of canine affairs.</p> <p>Dogs West provides a framework of regulations which the members are required to adhere to. Breaches of regulations carry significant financial penalties as well as possible suspension of membership.</p> <p>The Dogs West Code of Ethics is transparent and has proven outcomes.</p> <p>Commercial breeding facilities need to be regulated to ensure the conditions are clean and hygienic. Dogs West members are already subject to these requirements and should be exempt from further regulation.</p> <p>Impulse buying should be strongly discouraged. Commercial facilities need people who can assess prospective buyers and ascertain that they can provide appropriate housing for their new dog/puppy.</p>