

Stop Puppy Farming Project Additional Thoughts

One issue that was not addressed in the consultation paper was the importation of dogs from other states.

The government may wish to consider making it mandatory that dogs that come from other states comply with our laws. In essence, importing dogs into WA could become a customs/quarantine issue, with restrictions and conditions. Thus, dogs would have to be microchipped, they would have to be de-sexed unless they were going to be used for breeding. Only registered breeders would be able to import dogs that are not de-sexed into the state. Dogs coming from other states would need to have a vet certificate. Moreover, if WA decides to limit the number of dogs that breeders can have (e.g. 20), any breeder/seller exporting to WA would need to provide evidence that they do not have more animals than WA laws permit. Clearly, if this were to be implemented, we would need to have officers in place to check the documentation of dogs being transported via air/land/rail. Alternatively, companies which transport animals into WA (e.g. airlines, truck companies, rail) could be required to ensure that all animals are compliant with WA laws. In a sense, we already have a similar system in place for other animals that are illegal in this state and which can only be brought in after a lot of paper work. We could just add dogs bred by puppy farms to that list.

Question 16 in the submission form asked whether **“...people who breed dogs [should] have to comply with minimum standards for the health and welfare of their dogs?”**

I would argue that we should not aim only for *minimum* standards, but that we can do better than this. Lets set standards that will ensure the physical and emotional well-being of breeding dogs.