

# STOP PUPPY FARMING

## Public Submission Form

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Please use this form to provide your feedback on the State Government's proposed methods to stop puppy farming in WA. These questions are taken from the consultation paper released by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on Thursday, 3 May 2018. The paper can be accessed at [the Department's website](#).

The information you provide will be used by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to inform policy decisions regarding stopping puppy farming in WA. If you need help completing this form, please telephone DLGSC on (08) 6551 8700 or toll free for country callers on 1800 620 511, or email [puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au).

For a Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) telephone: 13 14 50. To ensure your input is considered, please return your feedback before the consultation period closes at 4pm on **Friday 3 August 2018**.

### Your contact details

Title:	Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
First name:	Lynn
Surname:	Teggerth
Street or postal address:	[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

## Stop Puppy Farming Questions

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1. Please indicate if you are any of the following:

- Dog Owner
- Dog Breeder
- Pet Shop Owner
- Pet Business – please specify below
- Local Govt. employee
- Local Govt. elected member
- Shelter organisation employee
- Shelter organisation volunteer
- Rescue group employee
- Rescue group volunteer
- Foster Carer
- Veterinarian
- Other – please specify below

Volunteer Trainer at Perth Training and Obedience Dog Club.

Member of the Canine Association of WA (DogsWest) since 2003.

## Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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2. Would you purchase a behaviour and health checked rescue dog from a pet shop?

No. Purchasing from a pet shop or rescue you have no idea of the background of the dog, no medical, training or trauma history. I have a family and I would want to know that I have a dog I can trust, one that has been a part of our family from their puppyhood.

3. What background information would you want on the rescue dog?

Previous number of homes – Time in rescue - Reason for surrender - Medical details - Behavioural Issues - Health concerns (allergies and diet) - temperament test by a qualified animal behaviouralist - DNA profile for proof of heritage so ensure that what is advertised is what you are getting.

4. Do you think transitioning pet shops to adoption centres is beneficial?

Not for the pets. No animal should be contained in a window box or small cage all day. It creates it's own set of issues for the animal including but not limited to toilet training issues. Then there is the financial side of business, Rescues want to make money to continue to operate and my fear is that allowing them to “sell” to pet shops will become a business, thus nothing is really changing for the animals.

5. If you are a pet shop owner or operator, what impact will this have on your business?

[Click here to enter text.]

## Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

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6. How do you feel about mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs?

I strongly oppose mandatory de-sexing. There is evidence that early de-sexing is detrimental to the health of the dogs. They need to be allowed to fully develop physically before being de-sexed. As agility trainers and competitors, we do not allow our dogs to start jumping until they are 12 months old and their growth plates are set, so why would we want to de-sex a dog as a puppy, it just doesn't make any sense. I don't believe that mandatory de-sexing will stop commercial "puppy farmers", they will continue to use their animals for money making purposes.

7. Exemptions from mandatory de-sexing will apply for health and welfare reasons as assessed by a veterinarian, and if the dog owner is a registered breeder. Are there any other reasons why a dog should be exempt from being de-sexed?

Again, I don't believe that mandatory de-sexing is in the best interests of the dogs so please see above. I feel this is just a loophole that will be exploited by puppy farmers to continue their breeding.

8. Should mandatory dog de-sexing apply to all dogs, including existing dogs, or just dogs born after a particular date?

If you are going to mandate legislation it needs to be a clear and easy to interpret. So far what I have read is neither clear or easy to interpret. I am against mandatory de-sexing of existing dogs and future dogs.

## Centralised Registration System

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9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

Short answer is it won't. Who oversees running it? Where is the funding coming from? Is this going to fall to local councils to operate? If so are they going to be given extra staff to cope with the already huge workload undertaken by Rangers? There is already a microchip database for all dogs and cats that operates across Australia, are they a part of this system?

10. Do you think it is reasonable to increase dog registration fees for dogs that are not de-sexed to encourage de-sexing?

Yes

Unsure

No

Dog owners are already being charged more to register an entire dog than a de-sexed dog for just this purpose.

11. Do you support increasing dog registration fees to fund a streamlined centralised registration system and to fund enforcement activities?

No. If the Government is pushing for a new registration system and enforcement legislation it should be prepared to pay for it, not charge dogs owners the additional cost.

12. Do you think it is reasonable for dog breeders to pay an annual registration fee to cover the cost of monitoring and enforcing dog breeder compliance?

No. What will the "dog breeder compliance" cover to warrant the annual registration fee? Draft Standards have not been provided and will not be until after the close of the 'consultation' period, thus rendering it impossible to make an informed decision on the matter.

13. Are there any other benefits, costs and/or issues associated with breeder registration that are not captured in this table? Please detail.

If feel that the proposal will generate more problems than it will solve. It will not stop puppy farming, people who do the wrong thing will keep operating outside of the law. Registered breeders with Dogs West are already required to meet strict guidelines and if breached can be fined or banned from breeding and pups can no longer be sold with pedigree anywhere in the world. Will breeders not willing to join Dogs West and opting instead to register with the Government department be subject to the same high standards of care and welfare and the same tough guidelines?

14. Should there be any restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder? If so, what should these be?

People convicted of animal cruelty offences should not be allowed to register as breeders. People who have a history of their dogs causing a nuisance or being involved in attacks should not be allowed to register as breeders. People convicted under the Dogs Act of any offences should not be allowed to register as breeders. Dogs West members should be exempt from registering with the Government Department as they are already registered breeders.

15. Do you think local government is best placed to enforce dog breeder registration? Why, or why not?

Are local government going to be given extra staff and funding to cover the extra work? Will they be given more power to investigate animal welfare? Are they more informed and educated on matters of breeding than Dog West? Again, I have more questions that I cannot find answers for.

## Mandatory Standards for Dog Breeding, Housing, Husbandry, Transport and Sale

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16. Should people who breed dogs have to comply with minimum standards for the health and welfare of their dogs?

Yes

Unsure

No

The health and welfare of the dogs should be of the highest quality, not minimum standards! You only need to look at the minimum requirements to be a so called "free range" chicken. We do not want "free range" dogs.

17. Should there be any restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder? If so, what should these be?

Didn't you ask that in question 14? Please see questions 14.

18. Should the number of litters that a bitch can produce be restricted by law?

Yes

Unsure

No

You would need to set a minimum and maximum mandated legal breeding age as well as a minimum time period between litters.

19. Should people who breed dogs for commercial gain be required to meet additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards?

Yes.

20. If you said 'yes' to question 19, should this be based on:

- a) keeping a defined number of breeding dogs?
- b) if so, what number?
- c) any other criteria?

Please provide reasons:

For businesses with 10 or more breeding dogs there should be a full time vet nurse and a qualified dog trainer to ensure every dog has adequate health care, diet, exercise, grooming, enrichment, and socialisation. There should be a high level of cleanliness and sanitation.. People or businesses who breed commercially must be required to rehome their dogs in suitable homes at the end of their breeding career. Commercial breeders should be required to periodically check on their former dogs to ensure they have not been re-sold and offer to re-home any of their former dogs should the need arise.

\* Attach further documentation if required.

## Confidentiality

Your submission will be made public and published in full on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries website unless you ask for it to be confidential. Submissions that contain defamatory or offensive material will not be published.

Do you wish this information to remain private and confidential: Yes  No

Signature: Lynn Teggerth

Date: 2/8/2018

## Please return this form to:

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**Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018**

### Post

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

GPO Box 8349

Perth Business Centre WA 6849

### Email

[puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)