



Dogs West Member Submission on
STOP PUPPY FARMING



Name	Mark Balenzuela
Email address	[REDACTED]
Prefix or Member #	[REDACTED]
Breed(s)	Alaskan Malamute
Phone Number	
Years involved	10+
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>I do not believe that transitioning pet shops into adoption centres offers a viable solution to the problem of puppy farming. Firstly, pet shops are a commercial enterprise whose primary purpose is profit making. As such I believe they should not be allowed to 'sell' dogs (and cats) even if it is renamed to 'adoption'. Furthermore, a pet shop is not a healthy environment for any dog let alone puppies and/or dogs that may already have issues. It is an unnatural environment that will place additional stress on puppies/dogs and could potentially cause more harm to the puppy/dog and lessen the chances for a successful rehoming.</p> <p>Also, has any consideration been given to what will happen to dogs that do not 'sell' quickly? How long is a dog expected to stay in a pet shop environment? Is there a minimum/maximum time? Do the pet shops surrender the dog back to the shelter they sourced the dog from if they are unable to sell it in a certain timeframe? Will pet shops be able to choose which dogs they will 'sell' and what happens if pet shops do not want certain dogs from shelters or rescues?</p> <p>I also note that the DLGSC Consultation Paper refers to pet shops "sourcing puppies and dogs from 'properly accredited' rescue organisations or shelters" that have been "properly assessed for health and behaviour", however there is no detail on how 'accreditation' will be granted and who will bear the cost of the health and behaviour assessment. Will 'accreditation' only be granted to WA rescue organisations and shelters or are interstate rescues and shelters able to be 'accredited'? I have heard that some 'shelters' are actively bringing rescue dogs in from interstate. Will the legislation address this practice? If not, then I believe the effectiveness of the legislation will be hampered.</p> <p>In short, I do not believe that transitioning pet shops to adoption centres will address the underlying issue of unwanted dogs which is buyers purchasing dogs that are unsuitable for them in the first place. It is in the interest of pet shops to move dogs quickly, so it is highly unlikely they will assess if a buyer is a good match to a dog and that the dog is not an 'impulse purchase'. There is no incentive for a pet shop to ensure the dog is going to a good home and it is likely that a dog adopted through a pet shop may end up back in a rescue/surrender situation. Just because a dog has been assessed for health and behaviour does not mean it is going to be suitable for everyone. A dog should always be properly matched to a potential owner and a pet shop is not the right place to do it. Dogs (and cats) should not be sold through pet shops and owners should have to go on a waiting list to prevent 'impulse purchases'.</p>



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<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce mandatory dog de-sexing.</p>	<p>Desexing of dogs does have a place within society; however to introduce mandatory desexing of 'all' dogs at the proposed age of between 3 to 6 months is ethically and morally wrong and will in fact increase the number of dogs that are surrendered to shelters or abandoned.</p> <p>A recent publication from U.C. Davis (de la Riva, Hart et al, 2013) looked at two joint disorders and three cancers– hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear, lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma and mast cell tumor– and showed that, for all five diseases analyzed, the disease rates were significantly higher in both males and females that were neutered either early or late compared with intact (non-neutered) dogs.</p> <p>Whilst I am not an ANKC registered breeder, I am a member of the Canine Association of WA Inc (Dogswest) that participates in conformation shows. As such, I have had entire dogs for almost 15 years which are also part of my breeder's breeding programme. Forcing me to de-sex my dogs or register as a breeder will not address the puppy farming problem as I have managed to successfully have entire male and female dogs at the same time without any unauthorised matings. In fact, mandatory de-sexing will have the unintended consequence of forcing me to register as a breeder (and pay pointless breeder registration fees) when I have no intention of breeding or I face having to return my entire dogs from a loving home back to a kennel situation.</p> <p>Current Dogswest members should be given an exemption to mandatory de-sexing as we are already bound by</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contractual agreements regulating breeding rights.2. Canine Association of WA Inc regulations on Breeding (Section H, clauses 2.16 to 2.34)
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce a centralised registration system to identify every dog and puppy.</p>	<p>WA has had a legislated requirement to microchip dogs that have reached 3 months of age since 1 November 2013 and dog owners are already supposed to register their dog(s) with their local council. However, in practice I believe there are still many unregistered dogs without microchips. I am unsure how centralising a register will suddenly make people comply with laws they are already ignoring. I also cannot see how central a register can be if it is only for WA. It does not address the issue of dogs coming in from outside of WA and circumventing the aim of the legislation.</p> <p>The ANKC already has an Australia wide register of purebred dogs, owners and breeders. Having a WA register as well seems an unnecessary duplication. ANKC/Dogswest registered breeders already have to provide their membership number in any advertisements and having to provide two different numbers will just confuse the general public.</p>



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<p><i>My thoughts on:</i></p> <p>Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.</p>	<p>Dogswest already has standards for dog breeding - Canine Association of WA Inc regulations on Breeding (Section H, clauses 2.16 to 2.34).</p> <p>Whilst I support this in theory it is not possible for me to give useful commentary without having seen what the proposed standards are. I would like to point out however, that if you are going to limit the number of breeding dogs that can be kept by a registered breeder then it increases the importance of entire dogs housed in companion homes (which you are proposing to mandatorily de-sex) as you are potentially limiting the gene pool of dogs a breeder can retain and breed from.</p>
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