

STOP PUPPY FARMING

Public Submission Form

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.

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 x <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
First name:	Maurizio
Surname:	Casadio
Street or postal address:	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

Stop Puppy Farming Questions

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

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

Member of Dogs West since before 2005.

Founder member of the United Field Trial Club. (2012-13)

Founder member of Working Gundog Association (2009 - WGAA) of Australia (Western Australia). Currently President.

Trainer and handler - Active participant in Gundog Field trials in both the ANKC and WGAA.

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

No I would only purchase from a registered breeder.

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

I would like to know how they assess their dogs as 'fit for sale'. It's unlikely that the dog would come without at least some negative traits which may never be resolved no matter how nurturing the subsequent home environment is. Given that I have limited space at home to keep an additional dog as a minimum I would expect to be informed as to: Previous owners, The age of the dog; Whether the dog has been rescued before; Whether it is a registered breed that I could train for working dog field trials. ; Observed behavioural (over time) interactions with other dogs, people and situations; Some behavioural traits are difficult to house break, and if already ingrained may never be resolved. whether a return policy applies if any negative interactions and recurring (e.g. allergies) medical conditions are encountered within 6mths<>1 year, cooling off period; Inherent medical conditions;

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

NO! Being commercial set-ups their core business is likely to be or become a core driver of the problem. Animal welfare and placing a rescue dog correctly is not their first priority, profit and turnover is. They are highly unlikely to offer lifetime support and guidance as well as return of the dog if problems arise.

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

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

I am strongly opposed to mandatory de-sexing whether breeding stock or not. Mandatory de-sexing is not going to stop puppy farming. Mandatory de-sexing brings its own set of health and welfare issues and can be seriously detrimental to a dogs health. For instance de-sexed dogs are at an increased risk of being overweight compared to intact dogs. As with humans dogs who are overweight or obese are at increased risk of developing a number of health problems including cancer and joint problems. Many studies have shown the adverse effects in relation to diseases and behaviour caused by de-sexing. De-sexing can also lead to dogs becoming more lethargic and having a reduced urge to be physically active. If the dog is a working dog e.g. active and competitive field trialer, de-sexing is likely to negatively affect the ability of the dog to compete to the best of their natural abilities. This is a decision that should be left up to the individual dog owner as the consequences of de-sexing should remain their responsibility.

6. 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?

I have been an active field trailer for over 20 years, owning and handling several dogs to win and place in Utility and WGAA pointer and Setter field trials here in Western Australia. I wish to continue doing so.

Good field trial dogs usually inherit traits from at least one parent that favours them performing well in field trials e.g the herding instinct. It is usually almost impossible to train this into a dog which does not possess this trait. De-sexed dogs would destroy the chances of an owner being able to utilise their dog to contribute half the genes of future or potential champion field trailers should the handler or owner so desire. It just does not make much sense to deliberately de-sex dogs whose transferable abilities the owner wishes to make use of in the next generation. Mandatory de-sexing is also likely to create a restricted system within which registered breeders are likely to exercise a monopolistic control on breeding for certain abilities thus inevitably increasing the cost of owning a dog.

Mandatory de-sexing would effectively reduce the gene pool of an already limited gene pool of dogs and breeds that possess enhanced or desirable inherited working traits that are beneficial to society. It does not make any sense to legislate for mandatory de-sexing of dogs especially those whose owners do not intend breeding from their dogs for commercial purposes.

Again there should be no mandatory sterilisation. The working dog competition disciplines that I run my dog in have rules that police the participation of female dogs in oestrus during field trials. They are not allowed to compete, thereby eliminating the likelihood of unwanted pregnancies occurring. Members of Dogs West should be exempt from mandatory sterilisation, whether they are a breeder or not especially if they own or handle a working dog actively participating in field trials.

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

No, it is not acceptable. The question begs the question...who is meant to benefit from mandatory de-sexing of dogs? On the one hand, there is no great necessity and benefit for owners, who do not intend to breed from their pets, to de-sex their dog. Should mandatory de-sexing become law it is likely to negatively affect the available gene pool of dogs thus increasing the inbreeding incidence. The chances of dogs inheriting faulty genes from each parent is increased. Making de-sexing mandatory thus legalises a practice that should be avoided. Once again, there should be no mandatory sterilisation, regardless of age. There is no precedent for retrospective legislation in WA, and I repeat my total opposition to mandatory de-sexing of dogs.

Centralised Registration System

8. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

The only reason that I have to register my dog is that it is an effective means to locate him should the dog ever get lost. The focus should then be on getting all dogs microchipped through education and providing incentives such as reduced fees e.g. local council licence fees associated with owning a dog. As a corollary to this it should not be an excuse to increase licence fees to compensate for a loss of revenue

9. 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 X There already is a cost differential to register a dog that is not desexed. In any case the work required for the authority is the same to registered desexed and undesexed dogs so any increase in fees are unjustified.

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

I already pay registration fees through my local council and also my annual Dogs West Membership therefore it is unreasonable for the state to expect me to support paying additional fees for no added benefit. That is, I am not contributing to the problem of puppy farming, therefore why does the government expect me to pay for other people's commercial practices which do not benefit society.

11. 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?

What compliance standards? These are as yet undefined therefore it is an unfair question. When the "Standards" are released then I can offer an informed opinion. Until then, I already pay registration fees through my local council and also my annual Dogs West Membership, they have a strict code of ethics and there are many rules I must follow to maintain my membership. It appears that the State is planning to introduce another set of fees in addition to those that people are already paying,...getting taxed twice is not nice.

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

Dogs West manage their membership well and should be recognised as such. Dogs West breeders are already on a nationally recognised register, we do not need to be on another register. It is just another cost and layer of bureaucracy that will have no benefit to Dogs West breeders at all.

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

Anyone convicted under the Animal Welfare Act should not be able to register as a dog breeder. They are not allowed as members of Dogs West- another reason Dogs West members should be exempt from this register or at least have automatic approval!

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

No. I am a member of Dogs West in WA and through them the Australian National Kennel Club and bound by their rules, regulations and code of ethics. Local Government does not have the experience, knowledge or ability to manage Dog Breeder registration and I object to the proposal.

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

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

Yes x

Unsure

No All breeders, in exactly the same way as ANKC registered breeders, must be required to comply with high standards, not minimum standards for the health, welfare, sale and after sales service of their dogs

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

Repeat of question 14. Anyone convicted under the Animal Welfare Act should not be able to register as a dog breeder.

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

Yes x But in conjunction with the recommendation of a specialist vet. Unsure

No

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

What are the Mandatory Dog Breeding standards this being referred to here? There should be no 'additional' standards.

19. If you said 'yes' to question 18, 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:

As a minimum breeders should be obliged to take back any problem (health, behaviour etc) dogs that have been bred in their kennel

* 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 x

Signature: Maurizio Casadio

Date: 3rd August 2018

Please return this form to:

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