

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 <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs x <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
First name:	Michelle
Surname:	Bryant
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 x
- 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

Member of Dogs West since 1997, qualified Obedience Instructor, Registered ANKC Breeder since 2012

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'. How long it has been in care and the reasons it came into care. What behavioural issues does it have as most dogs in rescue are there for behavioural reasons. Where did the dog originate from? What breeds is it made up of? I would require a DNA profile as a guess judging on a dogs appearance is an unreliable method of determining breed. Does the rescue organisation offer ongoing support and guidance and what is their procedure if the dog has problems? What is the rescue centre method of temperament testing and who is performing these tests? Am I able to return the dog? Is there a cooling off period? Do they have knowledge of the breed? This is extremely important as selling a high energy breed to a sedentary or elderly person is a recipe for disaster.

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

NO! I do not believe Pet Shops are the place for selling dogs under any circumstances. They are the primary cause of this legislation in the first place. Pet Shops are a business run for commercial gain, 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. Buying a dog should never be something done out of a shopfront. It encourages impulse buying and is never going to be best practise. As an ethical Registered Breeder, I interview potential buyers several times and carefully select buyers to match puppies and they are then given free lifetime support from us.

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 Desexing whether breeding stock or not. Mandatory Desexing brings its own set of health and welfare issues and can be seriously detrimental to a dogs health. Many studies have shown the adverse effects in relation to diseases and behaviour caused by Desexing. I also have a rarer breed and mandatory Desexing would significantly reduce the already limited gene pool here in WA. Mandatory Desexing is NOT going to stop puppy farming or stop dogs turning up in rescue.

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?

Again, there should be no mandatory sterilisation. There are studies and scientific evidence showing that Desexing dogs is not beneficial for their health. It can lead to chronic joint conditions, cancers, behavioural issues and many other issues. Members of Dogs West should be exempt from mandatory sterilisation, whether they are a breeder or not.

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

Once again, there should be no mandatory sterilisation, regardless of age. This suggestion is totally unacceptable. There is no precedent for retrospective legislation in WA, and I repeat my total opposition to mandatory desexing of dogs. The skewed nature of the question is unacceptable and demonstrates a poor and cynical approach by the State Government agencies involved to 'consultation'.

Centralised Registration System

8. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

A centralised registration will not benefit me at all. The fact that all puppies bred by ANKC registered Breeders are required to be microchipped BEFORE they leave the breeder's home, is the effective means of owners always being able to locate their pure bred dogs. As around 82% of dogs are already microchipped, then this method of locating dogs is working for 4 out of 5 dogs – the focus should be on getting all dogs microchipped through education and providing incentives. What safeguards will be in place to ensure the information contained in the registry will only be accessed for legitimate and approved activities?

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 It already costs much more to register an undesexed dog. The workload 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?

Cost should be borne by the State Government – it is their initiative. I already pay registration fees through my local council and also my annual Dogs West Membership and Breeder Registration

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?

Cost should be borne by the State Government – it is their initiative. Besides that, the Govt has not released any information on what this 'dog breeder compliance' will entail. 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 and Breeder Registration, they have a strict code of ethics and there are many rules I must follow to maintain my membership.

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

People who are doing the wrong thing are not going to register on any registry. I don't think Dogs West Member breeders should have to be on this register for the reasons I have stated above. 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

Unsure

No WHAT ARE THE MINIMUM STANDARDS PROPOSED? 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

Unsure

No This is something that should be decided upon by a registered breeder in conjunction with their specialist Vet, not controlled arbitrarily by government who have made a blanket rule with no knowledge of the dogs or breed in question

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

If these breeders are already meeting the "mandatory dog breeding standards" then what else can they do? I must make mention however, these 'Mandatory Standards' are yet to be released so it is extremely difficult to give any educated feedback.

19. 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:

As above, if commercial breeders are meeting mandatory standards then what extra standards can they be expected to meet?? What are the proposed Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards? How can you expect feedback when there is not information available?

* 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: Michelle Bryant

Date: 22nd July 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