

From: Paul  
To: [Puppy Farming](#)  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: Stop puppy farming submission  
Date: Saturday, 21 July 2018 10:05:48 PM

---

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
Gordon Stephenson House  
140 Williams Street, Perth, 6000

Midland Dog Training Club  
[REDACTED]

Dear Sir/Madam

As the President of the Midland Dog Training and Obedience Club, affiliated with Dogswest, I am writing on behalf of members of our club, to strongly protest against the proposed draconian laws including mandatory de-sexing of dogs – with the exception being if a owner is registered as a Breeder.

We are passionate members of a club who actively promote various breeds of pedigree, sporting registered and non-pedigree dogs and each of us admire our chosen breed type, in which we compete in various competitions ranging from Conformation, Obedience, Rally-O, Agility, Tracking and Dances with Dogs.

Mandatory de-sexing of all dogs unless you are a registered breeder has infuriated club members, as about 25% of our 150 members are currently registered with Dogswest, and their dogs are registered on the national ANKC (Australian National Kennel Council). As active members of Dogswest, we are held to account by their regulations and code of ethics, and while a small number of our members are listed as registered breeders, the majority are not.

**As members of Dogswest we require nothing more than an exception from having to register as a breeder as we are already obliged under the regulations to adhere to a comprehensive and transparent code of ethics.**

It is the opinion of the members that the proposed legislation will encourage proliferation of puppy farming, by allowing them to become “registered breeders.” Additionally, it will negatively impact on already registered pedigree dog breeders by adding even more regulations. Longer term, this could have a negative impact on the registered pedigree breeding community.

On the issue of pet-shops selling rescue dogs, our club members believe this could create more problems than anticipated. Pet-shops selling rescue dogs risk potential lack of education to assess the behavioural and/or training ability of dogs. And without a proper assessment of compatibility and suitability with the new owner/s, this could result in a poor outcome for the dog. Furthermore, the overall impact on an animal being housed in a retail environment could have lasting detrimental effects.

Finally, the subject of de-sexing is an emotionally charged topic for many pet

owners. Sterilisation at 6-9 months is touted as the “responsible thing” to do - but is not always in the best interest of the dog. There is increasing evidence that dogs de-sexed prior to 6 months are at higher risk of joint disease and cancer.

Many registered breeders are now advocating for spaying after 12 months to promote bone growth and strength. As members of a regulated council, we believe young dogs should be allowed to mature naturally, and that the age of de-sexing should be at the discretion of the owner in partnership with their vet.

Thankyou for considering our opinions.

Regards

Paul Skewes

President - Midland Dog Training Club (inc).