

Stop Puppy Farming Questions

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

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

No, as I prefer to buy a pure breed dog from a reputable breeder, where I know the history and the health of the dog. I do not believe any dog should be in a pet shop – it is not a suitable environment for dogs to be kept, and can be very stressful for them.

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

The circumstances of how it became a rescue dog, and any health or behavioural issues.

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

Absolutely not. I don't think a pet shop is a suitable environment for any animals, but especially for a rescue dog which has probably already been through stressful situations. I am not sure that pet shops would be rigorous in their checking of potential new owners and matching suitable dogs to people and families. I think that pet shops are about profit and not animal welfare.

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

Not applicable.

Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

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

Absolutely against it. There is overwhelming evidence that it is more harmful to health and wellbeing. Early de-sexing deprives a dog of the hormones needed to mature mentally and physically, especially larger dogs; without testosterone, male dogs can develop fear anxiety and behavioural problems. In bitches it can lead to urinary incontinence. Without the hormones to mature the bones in large dogs, they develop unnaturally, leading to hip, elbow and ligament damage, causing unnecessary expense to the owners and pain for the dog. It can also lead to incorrect development in purebred dogs, which then don't conform to the Breed Standard –as breeders of purebred Old English Sheepdogs, adhering to the Breed Standard is something we strive to achieve .

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?

I am a breeder of Old English Sheepdogs, which have just come off the ENDANGERED list and are still on the AT RISK REGISTER. I may only have a litter every couple of years. Puppies we sell take 2 to 3 years to mature; I may want to use them for stud or whelp in the future. If they are neutered, they are removed from the gene pool which is already at a critical low point. The OES then could easily become extinct in Australia. If these rules are applied to all Purebreed breeders, then continuing with an ever decreasing gene pool will restrict breeding, potentially leading to inbreeding and increased potential health problems and inherited disorders.

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

There should be no such thing as mandatory de-sexing of any dog, for the reasons already stated above. If it is enforced on existing dogs, some owners may be faced with having to put their elderly dogs through an unnecessary operation and anaesthetic, at great risk to the dog's health.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

As a member of Dogs West and the ANKC, I am already on a register for breeders of purebred dogs. My dogs are also registered with the local council. I do not believe another registration system would be of any benefit to me, only additional cost; the cost of being a breeder and owner of dogs is already very high, without the addition of another register.

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

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

No. Dog registration fees are already high, and may prevent some lower income families from enjoying dog ownership, which would be at great detriment to dogs and families alike.

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?

Absolutely not. I already pay annual fees to remain on the register of dog breeders at Dogs West and the ANKC. My activities as a dog breeder are already monitored and regulated. By introducing another registration system, it is just doubling up and repeating a system that is already in place, at no benefit to breeders or their dogs whatsoever.

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

Ethical breeders and Dogs West members are already highly regulated. Puppy farmers fall outside this category as they do not register dogs, so you are only harming people who are already doing the right thing and already registered and regulated. The focus should be aiming to target the puppy farmers directly, not penalising purebred breeders.

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

To become a registered breeder with Dogs West, I had to take an exam and I have to adhere to very strict regulations; failure to do so can result in very heavy fines. New breeders should be put through the same, with possibly a police check to ensure they have no previous convictions for animal cruelty or abuse.

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

No, I think it should be controlled by agencies who specialise in animal welfare, such as Dogs West. I do not believe that local government has the resources to manage dog breeder registration, or the expertise.

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

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

Yes

Unsure

No

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

As already answered in question 14 - To become a registered breeder with Dogs West, I had to take an exam and I have to adhere to very strict regulations; failure to do so can result in very heavy fines. New breeders should be put through the same, with possibly a police check to ensure they have no previous convictions for animal cruelty or abuse.

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

Yes

Unsure

No

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

The same level of care should be given to all dogs, but 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:

(a) and (b) No more than 3 breeding bitches to be kept at any one time. (c) No more than 3 litters from any one bitch; the environment the dogs are kept in should be regulated, ie, dogs to be kept in a home, not caged in a commercial environment with little comfort or human contact and socialisation.

* 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: Electronically signed:

Date: 02/08/2018

S A Kay

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