

SHIRE OF COLLIE
MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, 10 July 2018

13.5 Stop Puppy Farming Consultation Response

Reporting Department:	Development Services
Reporting Officer:	Andrew Dover – Director Development Services
Accountable Manager:	Andrew Dover – Director Development Services
	WA Local Government Act 1995
Legislation	Dog Act 1976
	Cat Act 2011
	Animal Welfare Act 2002
File Number:	N/A
Appendices:	Yes – Appendix 6
Voting Requirement	Simple Majority

Report Purpose:

For Council to provide feedback on the Stop Puppy Farming Local Government Consultation paper from the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries for their information prior to the reviews of the Dog Act.

7857

Officer's Recommendation/Council Decision:

Moved: Cr Hanns

Seconded: Cr Miffing

That Council respond to the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries and WALGA expressing support for the measures outlined in the Stop Puppy Farming Local Government Consultation paper including the following points:

- 1) Emphasise the additional workload and strain upon resources that this will place upon local government as many of the dog owners that currently do not have their dogs de-sexed are unwilling or unable to do so;**
- 2) Recognise that mandatory de-sexing will increase the number of dogs which will be rehomed as some owners will surrender or release their dogs rather than pay the additional fees;**
- 3) Section 3.3 Option 2: Mandatory dog de-sexing by six months of age;**
- 4) Section 3.4 Option 1: Age for registration, microchipping and de-sexing;**
- 5) Section 4.8 Option 1: Transition existing dog registers - with the cost borne by the state government;**

CARRIED 7/0

Background:

In May 2016, the WA Labor Government released its Stop Puppy Farming Policy. The Policy outlines a number of measures to stop the overbreeding of dogs, covering

SHIRE OF COLLIE
MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, 10 July 2018

changes to both the Animal Welfare Act (mandatory standards) and to the Dog Act (other initiatives).

These measures include:

- *the transition of pet shops into adoption centres that will only sell puppies and dogs from approved rescue organisations and animal shelters;*
- *mandatory de-sexing of dogs unless an exemption is requested for breeding purposes or for reasons stated by a registered veterinarian;*
- *a centralised registration system to ensure every dog and puppy can be identified at the point of sale or adoption, including in advertisements for sale; and*
- *mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.*

The first dot point will is not applicable to the Shire of Collie as there is not a pet shop in the Shire at this time. The last 3 dot points will impact upon the community as well as the Shire operationally. The complete Stop Puppy Farming Local Government Consultation paper is attached at Appendix 6.

Statutory and Policy Implications:

The intention of this paper is to inform amendments to the relevant acts.

Budget Implications:

The implementation of the various measures will require substantial Shire resources, however this paper recognises this and proposes:

‘that local governments could recover costs through the following fees:

- *dog registration fees;*
- *dog breeder registration fees;*
- *kennel establishment fees.*

The amount of these fees would be based on recovering costs for local governments.’

Existing ‘cost recovery fees’ e.g. Pool Inspections, Dog Registration Fees, Planning/Building Application Fees etc. only cover a proportion of the cost with the remainder borne by the Local Government. It is anticipated that a proportion of these costs will also be borne by the Local Government.

Communications Requirements: (Policy No. CS 1.7)

Nil

Strategic Community Plan/Corporate Business Plan Implications:

Strategy 1.5.3 Provide animal management services

Relevant Precedents:

Nil

Comment:

Mandatory De-sexing

SHIRE OF COLLIE
MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, 10 July 2018

The mandatory de-sexing of dogs unless an exemption is requested for breeding purposes or for reasons stated by a registered veterinarian is proposed to reduce the number of unwanted dogs being born that are then either euthanised, abandoned, or surrendered to dog rescues or shelters. Dog breeders and dog owners will be required to de-sex any dog transferred to another person unless:

- the new owner is a registered breeder
- the new owner is a member of a recognised association or organisation that is exempt from the mandatory de-sexing requirement
- the dog is exempt by a veterinarian from being de-sexed on health grounds (unless the exemption is because the dog is too young to be de-sexed)
- the dog is too young to be de-sexed and is accompanied by a prepaid de-sexing voucher.

Requiring dog owners and breeders to de-sex a dog before it is transferred will ensure there is compliance with the de-sexing requirements. Local Governments would be responsible for:

- checking a dog's de-sexed status when processing dog registrations;
- enforcing the mandatory dog de-sexing requirement against non-compliant owners.

This is a significant burden on Local Governments with additional inspections and enforcement required. It is considered that many of the dog owners that currently do not have their dogs de-sexed are unwilling or unable to do so. It will therefore require substantial resources to enforce this change. It is proposed that:

'Economic modelling will be undertaken to assess the costs that local governments will incur as a result of enforcing these requirements.'

Section 3.3 Age of mandatory de-sexing.

Option 1: mandatory dog de-sexing by 3 months, or

Option 2: mandatory dog de-sexing by 6 months

Recommended Option 2 as many breeds of dog cannot be de-sexed until 6 months.

Section 3.4 Age for registration, microchipping and de-sexing.

Option 1 – Registration, microchipping and de-sexing by six months

Option 2 – Limited registration at three months; full registration on de-sexing

Option 3 – Registration at three months; onus on owner to advise when dog de-sexed

Recommended Option 1 to align with de-sexing age to reduce the burden on local government. Option 3 does not seem realistic.

Centralised Registration System

Currently all Local Governments keep individual dog registers. A statewide register would be preferable as long as the system is user friendly. There is no breeder category registration as there is no mandatory de-sexing in the Shire of Collie.

Section 4.8 Transition existing dog registers

Option 1: Software

Option 2: Manual entry

SHIRE OF COLLIE
MINUTES - ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
Tuesday, 10 July 2018

Option 3: Owner's responsibility

Recommended Option 1 with the cost borne by the state government as the other options are not considered feasible with option 2 requiring many weeks of data entry from local government officers and option 3 will create additional non-compliance if owners do not register on time.

