

From: Pet Magic
To: [Puppy Farming](#)
Subject: Reply to Stop Puppy Farming Consultation Paper
Date: Wednesday, 1 August 2018 5:00:19 PM

To whom it may concern

I am writing in response to the Puppy Farming Consultation Paper and proposed laws for discontinuing the sale of dogs in pet stores.

I have owned and operated Pet Magic in Cannington for 25 years and was the Western Australian representative for PIAA (Pet Industry Association of Australia) for many years where I helped draft industry standards for the conditions animals are to be kept in store, requirements for selling and record keeping of all companion animals.

From being in the industry for many years, we have homed many puppies to families, and even had families return again and again come in store to find their perfect family companion. I strongly believe in families having a pet dog is a rite of passage and helps to teach children lifelong responsibilities and builds caring characteristics.

I have never had to go out and source puppies from anywhere as we have always purchased from the local community. Many of the litters purchased are from families who have such well natured dogs that they breed one litter from their female before de-sexing, or accident litters. When all of our puppies come in to store, we have them taken to our local Veterinary Clinic that do a full health check, vaccinate, microchip and parasite treatment. We also feed all our puppies on premium dog food and provide a bag with new families and offer a 7 day health guarantee and cover the veterinary bills in the time period were there to be any problems. Before purchasing the dogs we also require photos of the parents which we give a copy to the new owners to see.

The problem I see with banning the sale of puppies in pet stores is for those who have had a litter at home, may not be able to pay for the required veterinary treatment the puppies need, leaving new owners buying unvaccinated dogs and not having any health checks completed. We cover all of this and more. I have always had a registered Vet Nurse employed that oversees the puppies while they are in store to continually check on their health while in our care.

We have worked tirelessly with Cat Haven for 10 years and helped in implementing the sale of kittens already vaccinated, sterilised and micro-chipped and had great success in doing so. With this success we have wanted to see what we could do with the dog refuge homes in Perth and try work with them on introducing similar protocols for puppies. We have tried to make contact many times to multiple organisations over the years and have always been brushed aside and ignored. From my experience, dog refuge shelters in Perth do not want to work with Pet stores.

We have had customers who have wanted to rescue older dogs however they have been disallowed by shelters purely because they work more than 4 hours a day. So they have come to us and bought a puppy, and continued to keep us updated years later on their family pet.

Reading the Consultation letter I read about shelters having to apply for a licence to sell dogs to pet stores. We would love to work with the dog shelters as we do Cat Haven, however from past experience I don't see them applying for these licences and willing to be associated with us purely because we are a pet store.

Due to the vast amount of Pet stores around that do not carry animals, having puppies, kittens, rabbits and other pets to sell is a point of difference for our store and contributes a good portion of profits for our business selling them with the desired products needed for their care. Not having animals in store will force us to shut as we cannot compete with larger chain stores or online businesses that undercut small businesses. Not only will the ban of selling puppies in pet stores affect us financially but it will result in more puppies being abandoned as people will not be able to care for them, or dogs being sold without health checks or treatment, leaving new families potentially buying unhealthy dogs.

I completely agree that there is no need for puppy farms to be in existence and that pet shops should not purchase from them. I do however believe that it is not a bad thing for puppies to be sold in stores. I have seen the joy in many families that a puppy from my store has brought them and their children and to take that away would be a terrible thing. I also agree that there should be more legislation in the record keeping for puppies. I keep records of details from everyone I buy a litter from, who we sell them too and all their micro-chipping details.

I am more than happy to be contacted if you require any further information from me regarding this issue. I do hope when the decisions are made that small business doing the right thing for the animals will be heard and common sense to prevail.

Regards
Sue Chipchase

