

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

For over 20 years we have owned unsterilized, pure bred dogs. We have been DogsWest members for 20 years and members of The Old English Sheepdog Club of WA for 20 years. In the last 20 years, our dogs have competed in Conformation shows that stipulate that they are entire. We have been ANKC registered breeders for 5 years. We have had one carefully planned (ANKC registered) litter. We have NEVER had an unplanned litter.

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

NO. Dogs (and cats) do not belong in pet shops!

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

We wouldn't buy a dog (or cat) from a pet shop. Responsible buyers want to know: how was the dog raised (in a family home or in a cage); what the dam and sire are like (carefully selected and well cared for?); and question what size will it get, what sort of temperament will it likely have, what health issues are likely?

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

NO, not at all! Dogs (and cats) do not belong in pet shops! There are rescue organisations in existence already and they are not-for-profit. Pet shops are there to make money i.e. they will put money ahead of qualifying a suitable home for each dog and they will not have the prospective owners' best interest in mind. Pet shops are not likely to be able to afford and provide 24x7 supervision.

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

Pet shops should not be allowed to sell dogs (and cats).

Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

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

Mandatory sterilization will not stop puppy farmers. Firstly, I assume that Puppy farmers don't even register their dogs. Secondly, Puppy farmers are not likely to register as breeders and thirdly, they are not going to abide by the mandatory sterilization rule! Puppy farmers are making money; they are not going to follow the rules and risk their livelihood!

PLUS: Mandatory sterilization is unnecessary, costly, adversely affects the health of the dog and will only stifle the people who are already doing the right thing! AND: We own ANKC registered, pure bred, Old English Sheepdogs, and we shouldn't be forced to sterilize our current or future dogs we own.

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?

We own ANKC registered, pure bred, Old English Sheepdogs, and we shouldn't be forced to sterilize them (or any dogs we may have in the future). We need our dogs to remain intact so that they can compete in DogsWest Conformation shows. DogsWest members with ANKC registered dogs should be exempt from mandatory sterilization.

PLUS: Sterilization of an animal prior to reaching maturity has negative consequences on growth patterns, temperament and long-term health. There should be no mandatory sterilization of healthy, well cared for dogs owned by responsible people.

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

Mandatory sterilization is unnecessary and should not be brought in at all. If owners were forced to sterilize their existing dogs, expect the number of dogs abandoned, surrendered or euthanised to rise significantly as many owners may not be able to afford sterilization.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

Our dogs are registered with DogsWest; and they have full details of our dogs (DoB, microchip and 5 generations of parentage etc). We personally will not benefit from a state central register. In fact, it will create extra paperwork and extra fees for us. I agree that a registration system would be beneficial for those not registered with DogsWest.

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

No, as we already pay more for an unsterilized dog, it doesn't need to increase again. But agree to fee being higher than an unsterilized dog.

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

Yes, for dogs not registered with DogsWest. However, I would question whether puppy farmers would register their dogs.

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?

YES, but only IF prospective breeders are required to pass a breeder's exam like DogsWest breeders are required to. BUT, DogsWest registered breeders should be exempt as we already pay an annual registration fee to be a DogsWest member and an additional annual fee to be a DogsWest registered breeder. The DogsWest regulations and code of ethics that we must comply with are very stringent and strongly policed.

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

Under the proposal, backyard 'registered' breeders (ie not DogsWest registered breeders) will perceive themselves as 'qualified' breeders. This could lead to an increase in poorly selected breeding. DogsWest registered breeders should NEVER be 'compared with' or 'lumped in with' backyard breeders ** DogsWest registered breeders should be exempt from proposed local government breeder fees as we already pay an annual registration fee to be a DogsWest member and an additional annual fee to be a DogsWest registered breeder. In summary, being registered as breeder shouldn't simply be a matter of paying for a registration, there needs to be some kind of qualification process.

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

YES. The aim of the proposal is to reduce puppy farms; however puppy farmers aren't likely to apply for registration. And if they do try to register, they will not be truthful in their application, so as to try to avoid detection. Applicants should, when questioned on their reasoning to breed, be able to provide sound plans, care and attention to which dogs they breed with and not have a focus on making some money.

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

NO. Local governments are not dog experts. Did you know that some local governments are not very good at their core business; dog breeding is a totally different ball game. What training would be given to the staff in the 137 local government offices? How will consistency be maintained across the 137 local governments? If it's an online application, will local government staff undertake property assessments of prospective breeders and assess their dogs for suitability prior to the granting of a breeders registration?

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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
No <input type="checkbox"/>	ANKC breeders already comply with strict regulations

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

Repeat of question 14.

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

Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unsure <input type="checkbox"/>
No <input type="checkbox"/>	ANKC breeders already comply with strict breeding regulations; breeders under this current proposal should also follow similar policies.

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

Yes, but puppy farmers are not going to admit that they breed for commercial gain.
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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:

Please provide reasons:

Perhaps they can be categorized as having a 'commercial gain' status if their dogs are housed in kennels rather than a family home environment? If a dog owner/breeder has so many dogs that he has to keep them in kennels, they should be required to meet additional standards.

* 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: T & H Vaughan

Date: 3/8/18

Please return this form to:

Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018

Post

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