



**The West Australian Terrier Club Inc**

**W.A.T.C Inc**

**Established 1947**

***“Absit Invidia” - “Let there be no ill will”***

President

Rita Hayes  
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Vice President

Ida Homer

Secretary

Lee Gray  
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Show Secretary

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Treasurer

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Submission to

Department of Local

Government,

Sport and Cultural

Industries

on

**STOP PUPPY FARMING**

The West Australian Terrier Club is a club of long standing. We are affiliated with Dogs West and therefore the ANKC. The Club was established in 1947, 71 years ago.

We represent a wide cross section of the community. We have long standing members with over 40 years continuous membership and newer, younger members. It is fair to say we cater for a diverse population of terrier enthusiasts.

Not all Terrier exhibitors are members of the WATC but the WATC caters for all Terrier exhibitors. We hold two Specialty Championship shows a year (terriers only), contracting judges from interstate or internationally and three Open shows which support the trainee judges education program. We also run a number of All Breeds shows each year, where we engage judges from all parts of Australia.

The club is run by a small team of volunteers. We know that dog showing plays a big part in some people's social network, we therefore provide lunch or refreshments at most of our shows which provides our members with an opportunity and time to interact. Sometimes dog showing is the only source of contact with others that some of our members have. It is very much an integral part of their lives. Others make it a family affair.

We are a community. We have a common interest and a common passion.

We, as a club agree that Puppy Farming is a dreadful practice and we do not condone it. However, we are not in complete agreement with your suggested methods of dealing with the problem and, in fact, see that many of our breeds are vulnerable at your hands.

The WATC represents 31 breeds of Terriers, many of them being as old as dirt itself. Our breeds are steeped in history, talked about in literature, stars of classic novels, many stood side by side with soldiers during the war, have saved lives in and out of the trenches, provided comfort to dying men in foreign lands, provided food for their poor owners, kept pests at bay, hold Guinness World Records, have been in old movies and some newer movies. In some small way we all have a debt to the brave terrier breeds.

\*Airedale Terrier \*American Hairless Terrier \*American Staffordshire Terrier \*Australian Terrier \*Bedlington Terrier \*Border Terrier \*Bull Terrier \*Bull Terrier Miniature \*Cairn Terrier \*Cesky Terrier \*Dandie Dinmont Terrier \*Fox Terrier Smooth \* Fox Terrier Wire \*German Hunt Terrier \*Glen of Imaal Terrier \*Irish Terrier \*Jack Russell Terrier \* Kerry Blue Terrier \*Lakeland Terrier \*Manchester Terrier \*Norfolk Terrier \* Norwich Terrier \*Parson Russell Terrier \*Scottish Terrier \*Sealyham Terrier \*Skye Terrier \*Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier \*Staffordshire Bull Terrier \*Tenterfield Terrier \*Welsh Terrier \*West Highland White Terrier.

## **Part One Puppies in Pet Shops and Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres**

We are opposed to dogs or puppies being sold in Pet Shops. Our breeders take considerable time to find the right homes for their puppies. Most of us have very lengthy waiting lists and well vetted, good owners patiently hoping that very soon they will get a puppy.

Pet shops do not attract that type of owner, they are likely to be the domain of the impulse buyer, the ill-considered, snap decision maker. People who cannot be patient enough to wait for the right puppy are not going to be patient enough to provide a puppy with a good life. They mostly will have made a rash decision to get a cut puppy without considering the long term needs, years of training, the patience required to effectively negotiate through puppyhood. They will have no idea of what the parentage really is and what possible implications that has in terms of health, longevity, ongoing grooming, training techniques – no, one size does not fit all in terms of training. Pet shops to date have really not contributed to the betterment of dogs.

To suggest placing shelter dogs in Pet Shops is really far from ideal. The same consumers - the impatient, the snap-decision makers, the ill-considered are still going to frequent pet shops. They are still not the ideal owner and now worse, they could be getting their hands on a dog that is emotionally fragile. Pet shops will continue to provide no or incorrect information about the heritage of the animals for sale and their level of after care will be very limited and mostly inappropriate because they are not skilled in dealing with stressed or rescued animals.

Most of our breeders give a lifetime of help to their puppy buyers. Many of them have boarding kennels and/or grooming establishments. They are well equipped to support the puppy buyers with ongoing, specialist care. They have long lists of people who are capable in assisting with special grooming requirements, training etc.

Many of our breeders actively participate in breed rescue. We do not believe these members should have to register as rescues, they are simply providing a specialist service to a breed/s that they know intimately. They are well equipped to find the right home and most of them have waiting lists for older dogs as not everyone wants a puppy. The support network within the terrier community is amazing.

## Part Two – Mandatory de-sexing of all dogs

The concept of this is absolutely terrifying for our breeders.

The following is a list of breeds that are vulnerable to extinction as listed by the American Kennel Club recently.

Eleven of the fifty breeds are from the Terrier group, that is 22%. Eleven out of 31 of the recognised terrier breeds or 35% of our terrier breeds are considered vulnerable to extinction in the USA.

- Affenpinscher
- American Foxhound
- American Water Spaniel
- Australian Terrier
- Beauceron
- Bedlington Terrier
- Black Russian Terrier
- Bluetick Coonhound
- Boykin Spaniel
- Briard
- Canaan Dog
- Clumber Spaniel
- Curly-Coated Retriever
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier
- English Foxhound
- English Toy Spaniel
- Field Spaniel
- Finnish Spitz
- German Pinscher
- Glen of Imaal Terrier
- Greyhound
- Harrier
- Ibizan Hound
- Irish Red and White Setter
- Irish Terrier
- Lakeland Terrier
- Lowchen
- Manchester Terrier
- Miniature Bull Terrier
- Norwegian Buhund
- Otterhound
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen
- Irish Water Spaniel
- Kerry Blue Terrier
- Komondor
- Kuvasz
- Pharaoh Hound
- Plott
- Polish Lowland Sheepdog
- Pulik
- Pyrenean Shepherd
- Redbone Coonhound
- Scottish Deerhound
- Sealyham Terrier
- Skye Terrier
- Spinoni Italiani
- Sussex Spaniel
- Swedish Vallhund
- Tibetan Mastiff
- Welsh Springer Spaniel

In the UK The Kennel Club has focussed on the 'Native breeds' that are at risk. As most Terriers have strong ties to the UK those at risk are listed. The following chart paints a bleak

picture for our wonderful breeds. It shows 15 of our terriers at risk of extinction. As they are only reporting on breeds native to the UK this is 15 out of 24 breeds a whopping 60%.

<b>VULNERABLE NATIVE BREEDS</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Bull Terrier (Miniature)	223	216	192	161	189	183	172	189
Dandie Dinmont Terrier	151	98	120	105	144	88	91	130
Fox Terrier (Smooth)	155	137	94	122	142	148	118	82
Glen of Imaal Terrier	61	67	57	55	74	79	76	48
Kerry Blue Terrier	223	212	210	169	172	131	168	152
Lakeland Terrier	254	247	208	221	176	173	220	196
Manchester Terrier	107	152	124	198	187	192	191	160
Norwich Terrier	172	158	170	194	166	147	145	91
Sealyham Terrier	49	63	76	68	97	113	113	167
Skye Terrier	37	44	42	17	63	43	28	40

  

<b>AT WATCH</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Bedlington Terrier						395	411	
Irish Terrier	357	277	306	362	371		326	362
Parson Russell Terrier						407	377	306
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier					404	423	326	369
Welsh Terrier	432	415	352	447	392	389	401	388

While we do not have data from the ANKC about breed numbers we do have sufficient anecdotal evidence from many of our breeder that they cannot meet the demand for puppy enquiries and that they all have waiting lists.

For breeders of terriers the world is a very small place. We all have contacts globally thanks to social media platforms such as Facebook. The evidence speaks for itself and it is a global trend. Our breeds are now the domain of a select number of buyers. People who have undertaken much research into breeds that best suit their needs, families that have grown up with our breeds, people who have seen one out walking and been impressed by the character, looks and overall ideal virtues for inner city or large property living. Our versatile and adaptable terriers.

We are not in favour of early sterilisation as breeders, responsible breeders, need time to carefully screen and assess their dogs. This cannot be done until dogs are adequately mature and developed. They need to be breeding from the very best and they need to keep diversity in their gene pools. The wholesale de-sexing of dogs will see a rapid and sudden increase in the vulnerability of many breeds with a number of them soon vanishing forever.

Many of our breeders cannot keep more than 2 or 3 dogs at a time. They carefully select homes where promising puppies or retired show dogs can be placed as pets but still contribute to the breeding program. These dogs have the best of both worlds. No breeder would place such valuable bloodlines carelessly, these dogs go to the very best of homes and occasionally get called upon for breeding purposes. The owner wins, the breed wins and the breeder is happy that they can continue to contribute to valuable bloodlines of the future.

It needs to be recognised that this is NOT PUPPY FARMING and these wonderful breeds should not suffer because you are trying to shut down operations that bulk produce cross bred dogs that have no history, have not contributed to society in the same way our breeds have, do not have sought after genetics.

Please do not include Dogs West breeders in your proposed reforms.

Please also note that while artificial breeding practices, such as frozen semen, might give some breeders the opportunity to save bloodlines for later dates, it is also well known that some of our terrier breeds are resistant to this technology and have very high failure rates, while others are quite successful. Artificial breeding practices are not to be considered a saviour to our problem or a part of your solution as there are no guarantees in any breeding, let alone complex artificial methods.

### **Part 3 – Central Registration System**

We concur with the sentiments of Dogs West and most of its members in this regard. We are model citizens, we are regulated by Dogs West and they police their Regulations and Code of Ethics with consistency. Our members know that they will be facing disciplinary action if they do not follow the rules.

Our members have been microchipping puppies well before it was legislated to do so. Microchip numbers have been used as identifiers on dogs for generations now. We cannot import, export, transfer, breed, register, show or compete with dogs that are not microchipped.

Our members are REQUIRED to register all of their puppies. They are recorded on the ANKC database and the parentage and breeders will remain on record forever. All breeders have unique breeding prefixes which are proudly attached to the front of every puppies official registered name, there is never any doubt who the breeder is.

To become a registered breeder our members have passed through a rigorous process

including a qualifying period and a two part exam which requires a 100% pass mark on the first part and an overall 90% pass mark on both parts. Breeders must breed in accordance with the code of ethics and Regulations from both Dogs West and the ANKC. Our members who breach these rules face sanctions both from Dogs West and if proven, face possible expulsion from the Club.

We register our dogs with the local Government already. Many of our members live in the recognised Kennel Zones and pay bulk registration fees, they advise Local Governments of all dogs in their ownership.

We do not see how a Central Register will **STOP PUPPY FARMING** Puppy Farmers do not breed in accordance with any codes, they do not register their dogs and most of them do not microchip their dogs.

As recently as this week there was a person advertising X bred pups for sale on Facebook, the pups were not microchipped and he advised he would not be doing it. There is no policing of dogs and pups for sale via electronic media, this needs to be addressed. Facebook is by far the quickest growing source of sites where people can buy puppies. It is by far worse than shop front sales.

There is nowhere for people to report unlawful sales, such as puppies not being microchipped etc. There needs to be an enforcement agency for people to provide information to. This Agency would be able to bring about change in a much more effective manner than a Central Registry that is only going to capture data from complying dog owners.

Penalties raised from non-compliant dog owners should be used for Dog Owner Education, there is nothing done in this space by Government. Education will help resolve the current issues with dogs, not mandatory sterilisation of all dogs.

If you must proceed with this idea then we ask that:

- Dogs West registered breeders be automatically recognised and not have to apply to be breeders
- The term 'registered breeder' should not be applied to people just because they have an intact dog. They are currently registered with Local Government as intact, why can't you do that?
- Bulk registrations for licenced kennel properties should stay in place.
- The Government should fund this initiative. It should not be funded at the expense of complying dog owners.
- There is an Education Program launched to help improve the lives of dogs and stop

unwanted breeding practices

- There should be no extra cost to dog owners
- Life registrations should be honoured
- There is a dedicated enforcement agency established to manage breaches of the Act.

#### **Part 4 – Mandatory standards**

We are pleased to hear that Dogs West finally has a well-regarded representative on the working party but wonder why it was so difficult. It has been said by the Minister that Dogs West is the Gold Standard in relation to dogs in WA. It does not make sense that you would start this process without consultation with a major stakeholder.

We look forward to seeing the proposal in this matter. We ask that you give due consideration to keeping this simple and practical. We are all too familiar with the disastrous suggestions coming out from other states.

Not all dogs are the same, and dogs will have different needs because of their diversity. Please do not be so prescriptive that the unique needs of the variety of breeds cannot be met adequately.

<b>STANDARDS</b>	<b>OUR POSITION</b>
<b>Dog breeding</b>	WATC await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
<b>Housing</b>	WATC await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
<b>Husbandry</b>	WATC await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
<b>Transport</b>	WATC await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards
<b>Sale</b>	WATC await the Exposure Draft for the Mandatory Standards