

STOP PUPPY FARMING

Public Submission Form

Please use this form to provide your feedback on the State Government's proposed methods to stop puppy farming in WA. These questions are taken from the consultation paper released by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries on Thursday, 3 May 2018. The paper can be accessed at [the Department's website](#).

The information you provide will be used by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) to inform policy decisions regarding stopping puppy farming in WA. If you need help completing this form, please telephone DLGSC on (08) 6551 8700 or toll free for country callers on 1800 620 511, or email puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au.

For a Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) telephone: 13 14 50. To ensure your input is considered, please return your feedback before the consultation period closes at 4pm on **Friday 3 August 2018**.

Your contact details

Title:	Mr X Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
First name:	Alan
Surname:	Bell
Street or postal address:	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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

Owner/Operator of dog walking service

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

Under no circumstances should Pet Shops be allowed to sell rescued animals. The animals have already been through a traumatic experience and should not be placed in a position where they become the subject of an impulse buy.

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

Full disclosure of dog's background, temperament check by qualified behaviourist, full health check by non-RSPCA veterinarian, length of time in shelter, circumstances leading to impound/surrender, has the dog been in shelter more than once, vaccination record, proof of sterilisation, proof of origin of dog

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

Under no circumstances should pet shops be allowed to sell puppies or adult dogs. This is perpetuating traumatisation of vulnerable animals. It is morally reprehensible for any government to be seen to advocating the use of commercial entities to exploit animals in distress.

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

This should not be a consideration. The Pet Industry owners and advocates should simply not be allowed to sell puppies or adult dogs regardless of their source.

Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

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

This is ill-thought out, poorly researched and entirely unnecessary. The government has by its own admission only referenced academic sources within WA who have publicly stated their own bias on this issue. Many other countries, particularly in Scandinavia take the opposite approach where it is in fact illegal to desex an animal without medical reason.

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?

- Yes. Exemption for desexing should be given to all DogsWest members. This is necessary to ensure the continuity of pedigree dogs and in many cases the survival and development of rare breeds. DogsWest members are the acknowledged experts with regards to best practice, removing their right to have entire dogs will jeopardise pure bred dogs in Western Australia. Mandatory desexing is direct assault on my civil liberties and is simply an attempt by the government to impose a one sided political agenda on citizens who are simply pursuing their love of dogs.
- I did not vote to have my dogs forcibly desexed
- Mandatory desexing will reduce the number of healthy, pure bred available to the public and will, in many cases, result in the loss of some breeds in their entirety
- The government is assuming I am irresponsible which is an unacceptable assumption
- Mandatory sterilisation will have no measureable impact on puppy farming and outwith the original remit of this proposed legislation
- Not all states have mandatory sterilisation - why must WA follow?
- Mandatory sterilisation has been shown to have serious detrimental effects and is absolutely opposed by many respected veterinarians in WA. Why has the government not consulted those veterinarians opposed to it?
- The proposed age for sterilisation is ludicrous and will result in foreshortened lives and a vast increase in health issues such as cancers and cruciate ligament failures. Research in the UK has shown this to be the case. Why has the government not consulted or taken notice of this?
- Dogs should *never* be sterilised until they have reached full maturity, to do otherwise risks serious injury and life shortening conditions
- The government was elected on a "Stop Puppy Farming" mandate. It was NOT elected with a mandate to impose mandatory sterilisation.
- Mandatory Sterilisation for aged dogs is dangerous and entirely unnecessary. No retired show dog should be subjected to a general anaesthetic that might result in its death, or unnecessary operations that will have no measurable benefit and will definitely result in unnecessary suffering to the animal.

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

- Desexing of dogs should not be mandatory. There is NO justification for this barbaric and medically unnecessary procedure.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

A centralised registration will be of no measurable benefit to society. This will be an unnecessary duplication of existing registries, an invasion of privacy, and a costly, tax wasting exercise that previous experience has shown local governments incapable of administering without losing control of both costs and security. At a time of financial prudence this should be considered an inherently bad idea.

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?

Under no conceivable circumstances should the financial burden of a fundamentally flawed concept be imposed upon already stretched tax payers

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?

No. There s more than enough monitoring of breeders. The issue, which the government is failing to see, is one of inefficiency and failure to properly implement existing legislation.

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

There are NO benefits to breeder registration. This will do NOTHING so stop back yard breeders

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

ONLY members of DogsWest should be able to register as breeders. DogsWest breeders have to pass examinations, observe waiting periods and are bound by DogsWest Code of Ethincs. Only DogsWest members complete the obligatory health checks required of pure bred dogs.

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

Under no circumstances should local government be involved in this legislation. They have neither the experience, resources or expertise to effectively manage and coordinate such matters.

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 X

Unsure

No

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

Only DogsWest members should be able to register as a dog breeder. Dogs West members are subject to a code of ethics, have to endure waiting periods, undertake examinations and are subject to infringement penalties far more harsh and punitive than anything ever handed down in a court of law.

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

Yes X

Unsure

No

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

Only those standards as set down by Dogswest.

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:

Dogswest are clearly best positioned to regulate, supervise and implement standards for its own registered breeders. The number of breeding bitches should be determined by DogsWest.

* 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:

Date:17/07/2018

Please return this form to:

Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018

Post

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