



# 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](mailto: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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> Enter title here.
First name:	Allan
Surname:	Hansen
Street or postal address:	██
Telephone (business):	████████████████
Mobile telephone:	████████████████
Email address:	██

## Stop Puppy Farming Questions

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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

We are owners of registered pedigree German Shepherds which may at some point be used to produce Pedigree registered puppies under the control of the Breed Council and the breeder of the bitch on which a litter would be produced. This would be to further the quality of the breed, due to great German bloodlines present in our dogs, imported into Australia at great expense.

## Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

Probably not as we would want to choose the background, type and breed of any dog(s) we own.

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

As a minimum, parentage, previous social experience and possible trauma events, as these can impact a dog for life. Pets surrendered from a previous good social environment are obviously more easily successfully transitioned to a new home.

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

Yes, quite likely

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

N/A

## Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

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

I am opposed to it as a general statement, and I think it is rather sneaky by the Government to attempt to include a blanket mandatory requirement under the guise of 'stopping puppy farming'. Those of us behaving responsibly already, are not contributing to the problem of unwanted puppies. Further, as it is a requirement for show work, dogs must be unsterilised if they are to participate, and restriction in the number of animals able to participate in showing and breeding could lead to inbreeding, especially in more specialised breeds with an already narrow genetic diversity. The proposal should focus on proper registration of breeding dogs and their background, which can include valuable pedigree dogs bred in a private environment in collaboration with a breeder. Any puppies which result from this activity, would and should be registered as Pedigree dogs, but the home cannot strictly be classified as a 'dog breeder' as this may be only one or two of occurrences over a given dogs lifetime, and done only in collaboration with the original registered breeder. In my opinion, a major problem in Australia is the practice of the 'outside dog' and all too frequently in inadequately fenced backyards, leading to unwanted mating, dog attacks and other accidents involving stray dogs. Just look at the vast majority of dogs surrendered from unwanted breeding; I don't see many purebred dogs in the mix! In Scandinavia where we originate, we had very limited problems of the type experienced in Australia, and dogs were as a general statement, better behaved and accepted in all walks of life.

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, if the owner applies and complies with regulations for keeping an unsterilised dog. A further grave concern of mine would be, to put veterinarians in control of such exemptions or policies in general! I view it a bit like having the fox guard the chickens, as it should be obvious that the Veterinary profession would stand to directly benefit financially from the significant increase in unnecessary major surgeries required if the proposal is adopted, and as such, I would question the independence of any advice provided by the veterinary profession. Australia is already somewhat unusual among countries of the developed world, in that the practice of sterilising dogs in our nation is 'normalised', but as the problem of unwanted puppies persist, I would question if this approach is the right one.

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

Absolutely NOT, again Registered pedigree dogs that have never been a problem, have never been in contact with a Ranger and have not ever produced any unwanted puppies, should not be required to undergo the unnecessary surgery and associated risk for absolutely no good reason what so ever. Further, with increasing age the risk of surgery increases, so this is would be an absolutely unacceptable approach for a mature dog. If the proposal is ultimately partially accepted, it should only apply to dogs born after a certain date.

## Centralised Registration System

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9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

I'm not sure it will – Our dogs are already micro-chipped, centrally registered nationally and registered with our local Council. If I were to look for a benefit, it would be an easy ready reference to find the owner, should an animal be lost or injured in a different area to where it is registered.

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?

Yes, but with the expected reduction in unwanted breeding, my expectation would be that the fees should **DRASTICALLY** reduce within a short period of time, as Rangers and Dog Pounds are largely phased out.

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?

Not if already members of relevant pedigree clubs and compliant with relevant State and National Breed Clubs rules and regulations. These are already quite onerous for responsible breeders and impose significant costs for the breeding activity, not to mention the requirement for quality breeders to participate in national and state breed exhibitions to have dogs assessed and judged.

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

For dogs not captured under recognised National or State dog breed organisations, then absolutely yes, as uncontrolled breeding and keep of dogs are no doubt leading to some pretty disgusting breeding practices.

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

For Pedigree dogs, this should not involve Government, the relevant pedigree organisations should be allowed to manage the breeding process, Standards and who is approved as a breeder. For non-pedigree dogs (which is probably where the whole 'puppy farm' problem arose, then yes as some level of control is required to ensure compliance and the welfare of animals bred.

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

For all non Pedigree dogs not registered and checked by a recognised State or National Pedigree organisation, yes. For clubs and breeders complying with the above, no, Local Government has little idea or business about dog breeding, and should not be interfering in responsible properly registered Pedigree breeders activities.

## **Mandatory Standards for Dog Breeding, Housing, Husbandry, Transport and Sale**

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16. Should people who breed dogs have to comply with minimum standards for the health and welfare of their dogs?

Yes

Unsure

No

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

As previously stated, for National and State recognised clubs and organisations, this is best managed by the relevant branch of that organisation. Where no such recognised organisation exists to manage what is approved to be bred and by whom, absolutely yes.

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

Yes

Unsure

No

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

As previously stated, where dog breeding is not under the management and control of a recognised National or State breed organisation, then yes. Details should be reviewed and drafted by appropriate organisations or an independent committee

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:

- a) Yes
- b) To be determined, but probably around a maximum of 10
- c) Premises where breeding takes place must comply with animal welfare standards and be open to inspection by relevant inspectors.


\* 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:

24 MAY, 2018

## Please return this form to:

**Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018**

### Post

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
GPO Box 8349  
Perth Business Centre WA 6849

### Email

[puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)