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My submission for "Stop Puppy Farming" is in regards to entire dogs/bitches which are owned by Dogs West Members.

I feel very strongly that it is up to the discretion of the owners that they remain entire without the owners being forced to become "breeders" I believe Dogs West breeders know their pedigrees and lines well enough and are already being governed by Dogs West rules to be exempt from your proposed legislation. I realise there is a real problem with "other" breeders but by enforcing your proposed rules on everyone is entirely the wrong way to go about solving the problem. There are many other issues which have been discussed by Dogs West members at the recent workshops which I will also back up. My dogs are not necessarily used as Show Dogs but I do compete in Agility, Obedience and Tracking, but first and foremost are my pets. I have an entire male who will be used for breeding later this year with a registered Dogs West member when all her health checks have been completed. I have a sterilised female who, if I had known sooner would not have been sterilised. She is dog reactive but was not before she was sterilised. I have been informed by an animal behaviourist that her attitude changed because she

was sterilised during a time of a 'fear period' which most young dogs through two to three times while they are maturing. Her first season was quite late (15 months) and did not have the operation until she was 18 months old (a fear period time which is between 16 and 20 months).  
I would certainly think twice if and when I have another female.

I hope this meets your criteria of a submission.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

(Member for 20+ years)