

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Puppy Farming](#)
Subject: Stop Puppy Farming Submission
Date: Thursday, 2 August 2018 9:21:18 AM

Please find below my submission regarding the proposed Stop Puppy Farming Legislation.

Background

I work as a secondary Science teacher and have tertiary qualifications in Conservation Biology and Management (Honours).

I live in [REDACTED] (Perth WA) and own a 7 month old female Irish Setter. I do not intend to desex my female dog due to the extensive scientific evidence that supports the health benefits of keeping a female dog entire.

I have never bred from dogs I have previously owned and do not intend to breed from my Irish Setter. However, I strongly support the breeders from whom I have purchased my dogs and am making this submission in support of the Irish Setter Club of Western Australia.

Issues with the Government Proposal

Mandatory de-sexing

I strongly oppose the mandatory sterilisation of pure breed dogs, at any age, except where required for medical reasons. My opposition is based on the wealth of scientific evidence that shows the permanent de-sexing has adverse consequences for dogs. Research has demonstrated:

- a) A reduced lifespan in dogs that have been permanently de-sexed. This is contrary to the Government view that states that permanent de-sexing will increase a dog's longevity.
- b) Increased risk of cancer in dogs that have been permanently de-sexed, particularly in bitches. The Government view states that permanent de-sexing will improve the health of dogs.
- c) De-sexing at any age increases the risk of urinary incontinence in both dogs and bitches. To manage this issue, dogs need to be medicated for the rest of their lives.
- d) Scientific research shows that male dogs that are permanently de-sexed at a young age, are likely to develop increased fear aggression and anxiety later in life. This can increase the risk that they will become unmanageable as family pets increasing the possibility of unwanted dogs being placed with rescue organisations and/or euthanised.
- e) For 'large' or 'giant' breeds that are de-sexed prior to maturity (at around the age of 2 to 3 years) there are adverse health outcomes for joints. For example, it can impact on the development of the hips and elbows leading to premature arthritis significantly increasing the risk of damage and tearing of cruciate ligaments requiring costly surgery and a difficult and painful rehabilitation.

f) There is insufficient evidence to support the current proposal that mandatory de-sexing of dogs will decrease the number of unwanted dogs. Most scientific research supports the contrary view.

While some people prefer a cross bred dog, many others love their pure breeds for their consistent temperament, character, working functions, size and conformation. In a small State such as Western Australia, mandatory de-sexing will result in far fewer pure breed dogs being available which we feel is to the detriment of our dog-loving community.

I believe that the members the ANKC and Dogs West should be exempt from mandatory de-sexing of dogs. We also believe that the current Code of Ethics and Constitutional requirements already support the Government's current aims in relation to stopping the 'puppy farms'.

Registering owners of entire dogs as a 'Registered Breeder' with their Local Government

I strongly oppose any requirement for ANKC and Dogs West registered Breeders to also be required to be registered by their Local Government as Breeders.

I urge the State Government to EXEMPT Dogs West Members and ANKC Registered Breeders from the requirement of also being registered by their Local Government as registered breeders.

Giving an exemption to Dogs West Members and ANKC Registered Breeders will provide a clear point of difference between breeders of pure bred dogs that are already subject to the strictest standards of animal welfare and other breeders that may be involved in breeding dogs for monetary gain only. Breeders of pure bred dogs are obligated to breed and raise dogs to the highest standards of welfare and raise pure breed puppies with a pedigree guaranteeing their lineage. We are also subject to Regulations and the Code of Ethics which provide an after sale service strictly enforced by Dogs West. The requirements of breeders under the proposed legislation does nothing to stop the abhorrent puppy farming industry.

Transition pet shops to adoption centres sourcing dogs only from accredited rescue organisations and shelters

I strongly opposes the proposal to transition pet shops to adoption centres to sell rescue dogs and puppies. I *strongly* believe that pet shops should be **legally barred** from keeping and selling any puppies and dogs and from acting as an intermediary in the sale and purchase of puppies and dogs.

Puppies sold in pet shops are sourced from commercial producers and backyard breeders who are focussed on personal financial benefit. These suppliers to pet shops are not accountable for the health, parentage, breeding environment and registration of the puppies they produce.

Pet shops do not undertake any assessment to match the pup/dog to the purchaser.

Outcomes for rescue dogs will not be improved by selling them in pet shops. The rehoming of dogs must be undertaken by competent persons and organisations.

These organisations must undertake a full assessment of the dog and the prospective owner to minimise the risk of future issues.

In summary:

1. Firstly, and the most important action, is to **ban pet shops from selling dogs and puppies, including rescue dogs**. Pet shops should exist for the sole purpose of providing commodities relating to pet-ownership. Animals should not be sold in pet shops.

2. **Exempt ANKC and Dogs West members from the mandatory requirement to sterilise dogs they own**. The current Regulations and Code of Ethics already promote responsible breeding and supports the proposed legislation without having to apply another layer of bureaucracy.

3. **Exempt ANKC and Dogs West registered breeders from the mandatory requirement to register as a breeder with a local council**. To register as a breeder ANKC and Dogs West members must undertake a strict process of registration and a knowledge examination to be issued with a breeding prefix. The Regulations and Code of Ethics are rigorously applied to breeders.

With kindness and gratitude,

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