

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

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

Dogswest member and registered breeder [REDACTED]

Licensed Australian National Kennel Club dog show judge

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

NO! I AM STRONGLY OPPOSED to transitioning pet shops into adoption centres. I do not believe pet shops are the place for selling dogs under any circumstances and should be banned from the sale of dogs/puppies altogether. Shelter/rescue dogs should not be put in a 'how much is that doggy in the window' situation. No dog should ever be placed in a situation where it can be purchased on impulse especially by an inexperienced person/family.

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

1. Where was the dog sourced? It is well known that many rescue dogs are actually being sourced from interstate puppy farms who are selling their puppies to shelters for profit. 2. The circumstances and issues that made it necessary to place the dog in a shelter/rescue. Behavioural issues? Health issues? What circumstances made it necessary to surrender it to a rescue? 3. How long has it been at the shelter? 4. How has the dog been assessed for re-homing and what are the qualifications of the person doing the assessing?

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

ABSOLUTELY NOT! IT IS COMPLETELY INAPPROPRIATE AND WILL ONLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROBLEM OF UNWANTED DOGS. The sale of puppies/dogs through pet shops is the largest contributor of dogs ending up in shelters and is the primary cause of this legislation! Pet shops rely on people who buy on impulse in order to make a profit and keep turning over their stock. Purchasers are not screened for their appropriateness; nor have they done the research required to know what constitutes responsible dog ownership. Most shelter dogs already have high needs as they usually have been poorly socialised; have had limited training; or have had experiences that have adversely affected them physically/emotionally. Retail outlets do not have the resources to appropriately assess buyer's experience with dogs and then match them with a dog on offer. NO DOGS SHOULD BE SOLD BY PET SHOPS FOR ANY REASON.

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

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

I DO NOT SUPPORT MANDATORY DE-SEXING. I voted to stop puppy farming. I did not vote to have my dog de-sexed, nor anyone else's for that matter. This is a violation of my civil liberties. Mandatory sterilisation has NOT proven effective anywhere in the world where it has been legislated. As a registered Dogswest/ANKC breeder, I own and breed a breed of dog that is recognised as 'vulnerable' world-wide. This means that the breed population is extremely small in numbers globally and its gene pool is very limited. Mandatory de-sexing could essentially wipe out these vulnerable breeds.

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?

As a Dogswest registered breeder, in order to retain my bloodlines and pedigrees, I need to keep my dogs intact (not de-sexed) for future breeding. As I am restricted to the number of dogs I can keep on my property due to local ordinances, I often place dogs in responsible pet homes where I retain the breeding rights to the dog (referred to as breeder's terms). Under this legislation these dogs may have to be sterilised. This will be a great loss to my breeding program and will significantly reduce the available gene pool and affect the genetic diversity of my breed, not just in Australia but worldwide.

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

I DO NOT SUPPORT MANDATORY DE-SEXING. However, if mandatory de-sexing should become law, it should only apply to dogs born from the time it is made law. People should not be forced to put older dogs at risk of surgery just to have them sterilised.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

It won't. My purebred pedigreed dogs are already registered in the Australian National Kennel Club's pedigree database. Every ANKC registered dog (registered through the ANKC state affiliate – Dogswest in WA) is identified by a unique registration number and microchip. This database is recognised world-wide. We are also required to register our dogs with our local council. Local governments already have a record of sterilised and non-sterilised dogs in their jurisdiction. Why is the State government trying to reinvent the wheel?

10. Do you think it is reasonable to increase dog registration fees for dogs that are not de-sexed to encourage de-sexing?

Local councils already charge a higher fee to register unsterilized dogs!

Yes

Unsure

No

11. Do you support increasing dog registration fees to fund a streamlined centralised registration system and to fund enforcement activities?

NO. This is a State Government initiative so they should pay for it. This is just penalising and discriminating against dog owners as we are already paying a fee to our local government to register our dogs.

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?

Dogswest breeder members pay annual membership and breeder license fees to Dogswest. Dogswest has a strict Code of Ethics and extensive rules and regulations that govern the actions and practices of its members that are strictly enforced. Members that do not comply face disciplinary action and significant monetary fines. Dogswest breeders must be made exempt from this breeder registration.

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

I fail to understand how this will put a stop to puppy farming. Illegitimate breeders will still find ways to be non-compliant and continue to find means by which to sell their puppies. I am not convinced that there is any benefit to a government breeder registration other than to impose more fees and onerous regulations on those that are already doing the right thing.

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

I am very concerned that you are lumping all dog breeders together in the same basket – regardless of what they breed and how. As a Dogswest registered breeder, I am held to high standards by the organisation. Dogswest registered breeders breed 'purebred, pedigreed dogs' that are bred to a specific breed standard and can be traced for generations. Dogswest breeders breed for the love, health, and preservation of their breeds. Breeders producing 'designer dogs' such as labradoodles, golden doodles, etc, etc, etc, are breeding solely for profit. Breeders of designer dogs (mongrels) are not guided by any sort of code of ethics or regulations to ensure that they are doing right by the dogs that they produce. Dogswest breeder members should be automatically accepted on this register or be exempted all together.

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

Possibly as they are already registering dogs and have a database. However, not all local governments will accept/allow breeder registrations in their jurisdictions. What happens then? Will hobby breeders be forced to stop or have to move?

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?

What is meant by minimum standards? Until these 'minimum standards' are defined and explained, I cannot comment.

Yes

Unsure

No

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

Dogswest requires all members making application as breeders to pass an examination which tests the applicant's knowledge of breeding code of ethics; hereditary diseases; care and management of the stud dog/brood bitch; conception/pregnancy/whelping; weaning/selection of puppies; litter and puppy registration; and sale of puppies. A similar examination should apply to anyone wanting to register as a dog breeder.

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

Dogswest already has rules and regulations around the minimum and maximum age that a bitch can reproduce, how often she can be bred, and the maximum number of litters she can have.

Yes

Unsure

No

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

There needs to be some minimum standards in place but until 'commercial gain' and 'mandatory breeding standards' are specifically defined/explained, I cannot make comment.

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:

* 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: E Fekete

Date: 30 July 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

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Email

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