



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**.

RECEIVED

22 MAY 2018

Department of Local
Government, Sport &
Cultural Industries

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:	Kara
Surname:	Hay
Street or postal address:	[REDACTED]
Telephone (business):	Enter number.
Mobile telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email address:	[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

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

Absolutely I would. The only thing that has stopped me from purchasing a dog/puppy from a pet shop is the fact that theres that possibly it could have been sourced from a puppy farm.

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

Background information that I would like to know is how it gets along with other dogs, roughly what age/breed it is (to the best of their knowledge) and if it has been microchipped or vaccinated.

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

I think that if we don't transition pet shops to adoption centres, it will only cause more harm and pain to these poor creatures. I believe that consumers will become a lot more confident in purchasing rescue dogs from pet shops because the possibility it was sourced from a puppy farm would no longer be an issue. As I said before, I would have purchased my dog from a pet shop if I was 100% certain she was not from a puppy farm. But unfortunately, since puppy farms are still in existence in WA, I ended up purchasing my girl from a registered breeder. So I think that by transitioning from pet shops to adoption centres, it will boost the economy by encouraging more ethical spending, free up space in shelters (due to de-sexing) and it will reflect exactly what WA stands for and hopefully other states will do the same thing

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

I am extremely confident that if pet shops were to source rescue dogs, they will generate much higher revenue than what they would if they got them from a puppy farm or backyard breeder. This is because consumers will be more inclined to purchase a pet knowing that it had been ethically sourced and they will also feel like they're giving back to society and doing the world a favour by adopting. Consumers will still get that "pet shop experience" that most kids enjoy, while also doing a whole lot of good by rescuing a dog in need. I do not think at all that this transition will affect pet shop owners in a negative way. It will only boost the economy and encourage local spending with the barrier of puppy farming removed.

Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

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

I think it's going to inconvenience people at first, but after the first 12 months, it will become the norm and consumers will adapt to the new law. Personally, I have no issue with mandatory de-sexing and I'm surprised that it's still not mandatory yet. I see so many posts on Gumtree and Facebook of puppies for sale as a result of unintentional pregnancies and so many of these could have been avoided if mandatory de-sexing was in place. Mandatory de-sexing of non-breeding dogs will benefit registered breeders and also dog shelters. I am all for it.

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?

Health and welfare are sound reasons for de-sexing exemptions, and I cannot think of any other reason why a non-breeding dog should not be de-sexed. I think we should keep the list short and simple, leaving no room for alternative interpretation.

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

I think it will be very hard to get existing dog owners to comply with mandatory de-sexing simply because the amount of time and effort it would take to monitor and police these owners to make sure their pet is de-sexed would be significant. It's one thing to give them a fine for not de-sexing their dog, but what happens after that? Is someone actually going to come around and take the dog away as a last resort even if it's completely healthy and not being abused? I am all for it, but I don't really see a feasible way of enforcing it. Instead, I think that mandatory de-sexing should apply to all dogs born after a specific date. That way, there's a better chance at monitoring and compliance of the new owner. There could even be a sterilisation voucher included in the adoption price so that new owners don't have to fork out money in the future. This will give them some financial stability and they would have no real objection to not sterilising their dog. Another way of enforcing it is possibly having a "6 month probation" where if the pup is not de-sexed within 6 months of adoption, the rescue organisation has the legal right to take the dog back, get it de-sexed, and charge the owner. Having to pay for de-sexing twice will give dog owners the incentive to comply with mandatory sterilisation within a specific time frame.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

A centralised registration system would help me in the event that my pet has gotten out and when found, I am easily contactable to come and get her.

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?

It depends on how much the fee will increase by. But I would most likely support it, as it will help to locate pet owners without the possibility of an old address coming up. A streamlined system (I'm assuming) would automatically update the owners residential address in the event of moving, which will help to locate owners if they don't comply with mandatory desexing or if their lost dog has been found. Too many people these days don't comply with dog registration and vaccination laws simply because theres a lack of enforcement. So if this were to be kicked up a notch, more people will start to take the law seriously and begin complying.

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?

I was already under the assumption that dog breeders had to pay an annual registration in order to continue being listed as a breeder. But if that's not the case, then I completely support it. It only makes sense and it will stop backyard breeders calling themselves "registered breeders"

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

If I had to be picky, then maybe breeders could be subjected to an inspection every year or every five years to make sure the breeding conditions are in an acceptable state.

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

Apart from financial restrictions (such as an annual fee) I don't see how we can restrict others from becoming registered breeders. Perhaps in order to become a registered breeder, the owner must first get council approval and get written consent from their neighbours. They should also have to have an ABN and declare any sale of puppies in their assessable income. Most people probably wouldn't be bothered to go through all that, leaving the few dedicated individuals left worthy of being called registered breeders.

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

I believe so, yes. Anything larger would simply be too hard to monitor, keep track of and enforce. Local governments is the best place to enforce compliance with residents in the local community.

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

Unsure

No

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

Apart from financial restrictions (such as an annual fee) I don't see how we can restrict others from becoming registered breeders. Perhaps in order to become a registered breeder, the owner must first get council approval and get written consent from their neighbours. They should also have to have an ABN and declare any sale of puppies in their assessable income. Most people probably wouldn't be bothered to go through all that, leaving the few dedicated individuals left worthy of being called registered breeders.

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?

People who operate business entities are required to meet minimum standards, such as OHS requirements in order to carrying on a commercial gain, so I don't see why registered breeders don't have to do the same thing. So yes, I think that those who breed with a goal of gaining a profit should meet additional dog breeding standards.

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:

Im not a registered dog breeder, so I don't know what number is acceptable, but if I were to choose a number, then possibly 4 litters? That way the bitch is still able to live a normal life. I think other standards that must meet are health standards, such as making sure the bitch and sire have good hip and elbow scores and are free from genetic diseases such as hip dysplasia.

* 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: 16/5/18

Please return this form to:

Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018

Post

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