



# 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**.

**RECEIVED**  
18 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:	Rebecca
Surname:	Henderson
Street or postal address:	[REDACTED]
Telephone (business):	[REDACTED]
Mobile telephone:	[REDACTED]
Email address:	[REDACTED]

## 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

## 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?

Yes – this would be the only kind of dog I would be interested in purchasing.

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

Any information on parents/breeding if it were available, temperament, any behavioural issues, any previous medical issues.

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

Absolutely. Making it so easy to adopt a dog from a store or shelter rather than buying a farmed puppy from a pet store will drastically increase the rate dogs are adopted, in addition to decreasing the overload on shelters (and thus the euthanasia rates in said shelters).

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 feel this should have long since been made compulsory. There is absolutely no reason (except rare medically necessary cases) why any dog should retain its ability to have puppies unless the dog is going to be used for breeding with a registered breeder. There are too many accidental litters being sold on sites such as Gumtree or dumped when they cannot be sold.

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?

No.

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

I believe it should apply to all dogs although I understand there would be difficulties in implementing and enforcing this.

## Centralised Registration System

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9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

I doubt such a system will benefit individual dog owners – it will, however, aid in stamping out those who haven't registered their dogs as they intend to use them for breeding purposes.

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, although this does depend on how much the government intends to increase them.

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?

Absolutely. In my opinion, monitoring and enforcing the compliance of breeders with the new standards is absolutely imperative to the efficacy of the new system.

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

Not to my knowledge.

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

At a bare minimum, no one with a previous investigation into or conviction for animal cruelty should be able to register as a dog breeder. I also believe that the premises they intend to use for breeding should be assessed and any person who wishes to breed dogs should not be allowed to do so if their premises and facilities are not up to standard.

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

Yes – as I believe enforcing this at a State or Federal level will allow people to slip through the cracks, so to speak. The government at these higher levels simply has too much on its plate to make these issues a priority. If these new standards are to be enforced effectively, it ought to be done at a local government level.

## 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?

At a bare minimum, no one with a previous investigation into or conviction for animal cruelty should be able to register as a dog breeder. I also believe that the premises they intend to use for breeding should be assessed and any person who wishes to breed dogs should not be allowed to do so if their premises and facilities are not up to standard.

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?

Yes.

20. If you said 'yes' to question 19, should this be based on:

- keeping a defined number of breeding dogs?
- if so, what number?
- any other criteria?

Please provide reasons:

There should be a defined number of breeding dogs, however this should be dictated by the capacity of the premises on which the breeder intends to house the dogs. Having a set limit may amount to cruelty in some cases. For example, it would not be reasonable to set a limit of 20 breeding dogs (taking into consideration the amount of puppies they may bear) when some breeders may only have the capacity for 10. These breeders would then be permitted by law to cram double the amount of dogs they actually have the room for into their facilities. There ought to be statutory limits set based on the size and capacity of the breeder's premises.

\* 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: 5<sup>th</sup> May 2017

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## Please return this form to:

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**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)