

STOP PUPPY FARMING SUBMISSION

We are passionate dog lovers and are concerned the proposed changes in the "Stop Puppy Farming" Proposal will affect our hobby.

As Members of Dog West and previously other controlling bodies in Australia (Dogs SA & Dogs QLD) we have been showing and breeding dogs for 40 years. Initially with English Setters and American Cocker Spaniels, then for the past 30 years concentrating on the German Shorthaired Pointer breed.

While we breed the German Shorthaired Pointer to the specific breed standard as set out by the country of origin & the FCI. We aim to keep the correct representation of that standard whilst maintaining sound, healthy dogs, correct temperaments and the natural inherited abilities of the breed. We measure our success by the many Championship titles our dogs have received over the last 40 years and their demonstrated soundness over that time.

The Dogswest code of ethics has been a guiding principle in our conduct. We have consistently abided by the regulations set out by the ANKC in regards to breeding and exhibiting our dogs.

We are active members in the Dogs West community in regards to participation in clubs and activities special to our hobby of showing dogs at confirmation shows. One of us is a licensed dog judge (gundogs, utility breeds aspiring to judge hound breeds).

He is President of both the Gundog Club of WA & the GSP club of WA, George also has a seat on the tribunal board. Sharon is a committee member of both the WAKC and the GSP Club of WA.

We believe that Dogs West is a very professional controlling body and would like to see the continuation of being able to register and transfer our puppies paperwork with Dogs West rather than see a proliferation of registers.

We would like to see Dogs West members exempt from the proposed changes to legislation. Dogs West would be the best regulation organisation to control the breeding of pedigree dogs as it already has rules and regulations in place for the welfare of the animal and the limit of the number of litters. They have a robust process by which compliance of members is assessed and significant penalties apply to breaches of the regulations, which includes suspension of membership.

By mandating in the new legislation that all owners of pedigree dogs need to register with Dogs West in order to breed a litter would be beneficial by:

- Increasing the membership of Dogs West and thus bring breeders under the code of ethics
- reduce administrative load by having one register
- May lead to more people exhibiting their dogs and thus be advised by experienced exhibitors and breeders
- Be expected to abide by the rules, regulation & code of ethics
- Could preserve some of the breeds that are becoming extinct

As member of Dogs West following the regulations we only breed generally when we need to add to our show team, approximately one litter per year. When breeding our girls we choose a sire to suit, ensuring soundness and that we are breeding to the breed standard, often incorporating interstate & imported blood lines to fulfil this criteria.

Our girls are vaccinated, wormed vet checked and ultrasounded during the pregnancy. They have a follow up vet check one week prior to the whelping date. Our puppies are raised in

our home to ensure good socialisation. They are wormed fortnightly, vet checked at 6 weeks when they are also vaccinated & microchipped.

Our puppy buyers are interviewed and we meet them prior to deciding that they will be suitable owners for a puppy. We usually keep 2 pups from each litter and sell the others to good homes. As per the ANKC regulations they go to their new homes at 8 weeks old and not before. The litter is registered with Dogs West and then transferred to their new owners names. Our puppies go on a non-breeding agreement, registered on the limited register and we encourage the de-sexing of the puppy at the appropriate time in consultation with the new owners veterinary surgeon.

We provide the new owners of the puppies we breed with the sample of food we wean the puppies onto which is a very good quality dog food. They are provided with information about the breed, our kennel, how to raise their puppy, and the relevant paperwork eg vaccination card.

As we feel responsible for every puppy we breed, we also provide a life time advisory service for the puppy. We encourage the owners to return the puppy/dog to us for rehoming if there has been a change in their circumstance and they can no longer have the puppy/dog. We also run a Facebook page for our kennel so owners of the dogs we have bred can post photos, tell stories or communicate with others about successes in raising their dogs. Our kennel is approved currently registered with the City of Swan. Annual inspections are carried out to ensure compliance with the rules & regulations. We pay an annual fee of \$375 that covers our kennel licence.

In Summary, DogsWest has robust procedures to promote responsible breeding and dog ownership and thus are best placed to run the register and their members should be exempt from the legislation.

The City of Swan is proactive at ensuring the kennel inspections are carried out on time following the payment of the annual fee. We believe that the shires should continue responsibility with dog registrations/ kennel approvals.