



Dogs West Member Submission on  
**STOP** PUPPY FARMING



Name	Olivia Nankivell
Email address	[REDACTED]
Prefix or Member #	[REDACTED]
Breed(s)	Labradors and previously Maltese
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Years involved	Since 1975
Family involved?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Transition pet shops to adoption centres (can only sell dogs sourced from rescues).</b>	<p>I do not support pet shops selling cats or dogs, kittens or puppies. Many of the shelters dogs are there because they have a pre-existing conditions and are already stressed, this is not a great environment for them.</p> <p>I also believe that many of the 'puppy farmers' have positioned themselves as 'rescues'. Permitting rescues/shelters to sell via pet shops is further legitimising puppy farmers and providing them with a convenient outlet and cover story.</p> <p>No dog should be sold to an impulse buyer. There should be a mandatory cooling off period for both buyer and seller. This would be difficult to introduce in an industry driven by profit.</p> <p>How do you plan to manage shelters and rescues and keep them as a level playing field? Many of the long-time shelters are already feeling pressure competing with the constant pop-up shelters, rescues and foster programs. There is very little accountability in this space. Please don't blend it with pet shops which are already a problem.</p>
<i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Introduce mandatory dog de-sexing.</b>	<p>Your document is very prescriptive about this. It defines de-sexing as removal of all reproductive organs and it is suggesting that this is done at a very early age. Well before growing is completed and mental and physical maturity is at and adequate state. We have read ample research that outlines the risk of undertaking early removal of reproductive organs. Joints and connective tissue injuries are high risk in dogs that are de-sexed early. As a breeder who cares about the long term wellbeing and health of dogs I am not in favour of putting any dog I own or place at this risk.</p> <p>Further as a breeder I need to keep breeding stock. In my experience my breeds cannot have hips and elbows properly assessed prior to two years of age, while Vets will undertake x-rays at 12 months I have experience of those results changing by 2 years. I believe that for my breeds it is better to wait until they have fully developed. Then I make a decision on breeding having a comprehensive review on my dogs.</p> <p>Often I will place breeding dogs into pet homes with experienced owners. Again, these dogs are not assessed until 2 years of age. I would expect some degree of support from the legislation in this space as owning potential breeding stock in pet homes is a wonderful compromise for dogs, breeders and owners. It also gives me a very good guide into temperament as a pet.</p> <p>If my dogs are not to be kept for breeding I would prefer to have an option to de-sex by vasectomy or ovary sparing hysterectomy as I have been researching the scientifically verified outcomes of this vs your option and what I am suggesting is by far more healthy for my dogs.</p>



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<p><i>My thoughts on:</i></p> <p><b>Introduce a centralised registration system and Council registration to be Breeder.</b></p>	<p>The shire already has the details of responsible owners, making us the easy targets for your legislation. What I am opposed to is that you have done very little to capture those outside the current legislation and they will continue to operate outside the legislation.</p> <p>If people are keeping entire dogs and not registering as breeders your proposal gives scope to over-zealous rangers entering properties and seizing those dogs. I believe these dogs will then be put at risk of euthanasia, or ending up in the cycle of shelter/rescue. It causes me great concern that if I have a dog on breeders terms that it could be taken because the owner has failed to register as a breeder because they believe I am the breeder not them. It is very confusing. They are a pet owner, I will retain the breeding rights.</p> <p>Also, why should I have to register as a breeder when I am already a registered breeder with Dogs West. I think all of Dogs West breeders should be exempt as in other states with similar legislation.</p> <p>Please build in exemptions for Dogs West breeders and for out breeding stock that is out on terms with pet owners. If you do not make allowances we will be facing a massive reduction in our gene pools and in our ability to breed on. We already have long waiting lists for well-bred puppies. Restrictions on Dogs West members, who are recognised by your committee to be the Gold Standard, will just open up opportunity for puppy farmers and less caring and less ethical breeders.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i></p> <p><b>Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.</b></p>	<p>Of course there should be but where is your paperwork on this? It is impossible to comment on your thoughts but here are mine. Many of us live on kennel properties and already meet minimum standards and have been subjected to inspections by local government for years, for me since 1978. I have invested vast amounts of money on infrastructure. I do not want to be having to rebuild because, without due consultation, you changed the requirements.</p> <p>I believe any standards need to be practical and not so prescriptive that they are unworkable for a variety of breeds ie working dogs that will grow up to be livestock animals will have a different need to dogs that are companion animals and even within companion animals there will be different practicalities such as some will be better in the home and others will be better in purpose built facilities.</p> <p>There should be early socialisation and careful handling of all dogs. Mothers should be well looked after in low stress environments to ensure puppies have a good outcome.</p> <p>Food and nutrition is vitally important as is water, dry and comfortable places to sleep, clean quarters with adequate pest control in place. All dogs should get adequate interactions, stimulation and exercise during the day and of course should be given medical attention as soon as possible if required.</p>



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	<p>I look forward to commenting on your proposal when it is available.</p>
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