

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:	Toni
Surname:	Beaton
Street or postal address:	<div></div>
Telephone (business):	Enter number.
Mobile telephone:	<div></div>
Email address:	<div></div>

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 ☐

Dog training club instructor

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

If it was a type of dog I was looking for.

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

Any info on parents and physical or mental disabilities. Info on any traumas or mistreatment.

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

Yes

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?

Very much in favour

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?

Working dogs in some cases may work better if they are not de-sexed.

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

Dogs born after a particular date. It is unfair to put the cost on people after the fact.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

Easier to find a lost dog, easier to access vet records for a dog, inhibits resale of stolen dogs, tracks genetic problems.

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 but there should be a financial hardship cut off. People who don't have much money should not be unable to own a dog because it is too costly to register. There is already a lot of cost in council registration, vaccination and sterilisation so that owning a dog is becoming a luxury. The benefits dogs give to their owners should not be restricted to the financially well off. Also, if the cost is too high for people on low incomes there will be a black market in dogs which will be worse than the current problems as there can be no oversight on black market dogs and it will give a new income avenue to criminals.

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 think dog breeders should be registered with an organisation such as Dogs West which does exactly that. The registration fees cover the cost. Don't re-invent the wheel.

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

As per question 11. There could perhaps be stricter rules for people registered with Dogs West and the information given to breeders. It sometimes doesn't match up with veterinary advice. Also the breeding of dogs with disabilities such as the squashed face breeds with breathing problems, or dogs such as dachshunds which have such long backs they inevitably develop back problems, needs to be addressed. Again this needs to be done correctly or there will be a black market in these dogs.

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

Breeders registered with Dogs West are required to pass a test on their knowledge. This is why making breeders register with that or similar organisations will enforce restrictions that are necessary. If all breeders were required to register with Dogs West or similar organisations then that would ensure that they were learning correct procedures for breeding and there could be real pressure on that organisation to get it right. Boards on these organisations are currently heavily weighted with breeders which encourages self-interest.

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

Only to ensure that breeders are registered with the appropriate organisation such as Dogs West. Local government are possibly a choice to assist organisations such as Dogs West. Also, there is a very real chance for conflict of interest when in small towns they know people personally. Mayors of small town (and sometimes large town) councils have the power to influence the actions of council staff despite laws, ethics and protestations to the contrary.

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?

As per question 14. Otherwise there should be no registration of someone who has been convicted of animal cruelty.

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. There should be a moratorium on breeding dogs with physical or mental disabilities as per questions 13 and 14. Most people buying dogs like these will not be aware that they could have heavy vet bills in the future and that their dogs might not live as long as other dogs (whether through natural death or having to be put down due to health issues). It should be illegal to breed dogs that are health compromised in this way.

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:

There should be a limited number of breeding dogs per breeder (I don't have an opinion on how many but as a for instance – definitely 10 bitches would be too many for one person). But if a kennel has more than one person involved in breeding and caring for the animals this could be difficult to legislate. As per question 19 breeders should be held to account for breeding dogs with disabilities for the sake of fashion. Why have we not learnt from the era of breeding German Shepherds with a 'sexy walk'?

* 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: 30/6/2018

Please return this form to:

Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018

Post

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Email

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