



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



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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>	I absolutely do not agree with pet shops selling dogs from rescues. Will there be a period between potential purchase and collection to ensure this is not a “spur of the moment” purchase. Will the dogs be assessed and by whom for suitability for rehoming and what controls will be in place to ensure dogs are not sold to incorrect environments – ie large dogs on cottage blocks etc.
<i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Introduce mandatory dog de-sexing.</b>	This initiative is fraught with issues. There are many modern studies that prove that early sterilisation is not recommended. What age for what size of dog? Will dogs involved in dog sports eg agility, tracking, show dogs be exempt? Why are we pushing for this when in countries like Denmark it is actually illegal to sterilise a dog without good reason. Sterilisation in the medium to large sized breeds often results in incontinence of the bladder. Early sterilisation stops correct hormonal development. In my opinion no dog should be sterilised until it has reached maturity for its breed. Will DogsWest members be exempt from this proposed legislation?
<i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Introduce a centralised registration system to identify every dog and puppy.</b>	Who will control the register? Where will the register be maintained and be held? Who will have access to it? Will this incur further costs? My dogs are already microchipped and registered with the ANKC as they are purebred. Dogs and backyard breeders that already are not registered will not be caught by this legislation – they will remain underground.
<i>My thoughts on:</i> <b>Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.</b>	As a DogsWest register breeder I am already subject to rules, regulations and breeding standards which I abide by. I am also a resident of the Southern River Kennel Zone – our kennels are of standard and approved by the health department. Will I be exempt from changes to these proposed regulations? Again, backyard breeders and the underground puppy market will not be caught up in a change of legislation – why penalise the good breeders. Will they DNA test for diseases and health test their stock?