

Stop Puppy Farming

Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries

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[REDACTED]

The Bernese Mountain dog originated in Switzerland. BMD were kept by farmers principally for protection of the farm against all intruders alerting the approach of strangers or other animals yet friendly with all people and animals on the farm.

[REDACTED] was founded in 1994 by a small but dedicated group of Bernese Mountain Dog owner/enthusiasts.

As an affiliate body of the Canine Association of W A (Dogs West) and the Australian Kennel Council (ANKC) we are a non-profit organisation that provides a forum for members and the public to exchange information about the breed. Our current membership base numbers 138 families, which include ANKC registered Breeders of the Bernese Mountain dog, breed fanciers, trainers, behaviourists, health care professionals and family pet owners. Club activities are held throughout the year to enable members and interested parties to join together in social activities plus we have a very active face book member's page.

All our breeders are Dogs West members, all breeding stock will have passed the breed specific testing and comply with Dogs West rules and regulations pertaining to registering of puppies, micro chipping , vaccinating plus provide a comprehensive information pack to each puppy buyer for care, welfare, appropriate housing, training and socialisation of every puppy sold.

Rescue

The BMDC of WA runs a breed rescue service that is fully resourced from fundraising through our club members, this service is provided free of charge for any BMD in need.

Our rescue team will travel anywhere in the state to pick up a BMD that has been abandoned or displaced. The rescue team endeavour to contact the breeder, if know, or will provide food and shelter, veterinary care, spay/neutering (if required) micro chipping, temperament assessment and retraining as necessary prior to re homing.

It must be remembered that as an affiliated member club of Dogs West, running a breed specific rescue, we will and must abide by Dogs West's Rules and Regulations not to supply any dog, for any reason, to a pet shop.

[REDACTED] is very proud to say there has never been a BMD in a Rescue Shelter or Pound which is testament to diligence of our Dogs West breeders when selecting puppy buyers and the after sale help and assistance they offer to their puppy buyers and of course our 138 family

members who are always vigilant in response, to a berner in need of help and contacting our rescue officer.

Mandatory desexing

The Bernese Mountain dog is a large breed dog where de-sexing prior to maturity at around 2 to 3 years of age has been shown to have adverse health outcomes for joints? Eg, this results in poor outcomes for hip and elbows leading to dogs suffering prematurely from arthritis and significantly increases the risk of damage and tearing of cruciate ligaments requiring costly surgery and difficult and painful rehabilitation.

There are certain conditions in this breed that only develop or become apparent with age.

Mandatory de-sexing will remove from the already limited gene pool healthy dogs free from such conditions; which in Western Australia is disastrous for our Dogs West registered breeders ongoing pursuit of the eradication of such medical conditions via breeding to dogs free of such conditions and traits.

We strongly agree with the Government's Consultation Paper which states: Your veterinarian is the best person to discuss the pros and cons of de-sexing your dog, the age the procedure is done and determine the best strategy for your pet based on breed, lifestyle, longevity expectations, concurrent diseases, cancer risks and other considerations for intact and de-sexed dogs.

Registering owners of entire dogs as a "Registered Breeder" with their Local Govt

Our concern is that you are lumping all breeders in together, regardless of what they breed and how..... and how are you going to police them?

Our BMD breeders are already meeting the high standards set to be on the Dogs West / ANKC pure bred breed register. They are accountable every time they act or make a breeding decision. We (BMDC) believe all breeders affiliated with an accredited dog breed registered club like Dogs West **should not** have to apply to the local govt for breeding approval; those people who **don't belong** to a recognised organisation should have to apply for breeding approval and should be monitored by Local Government to ensure that all puppies are reared in a suitable environment, vet health checked and micro chipped prior to going to their new homes.

Transition pet shops to adoption centres sourcing dogs only from accredited rescue organizations and shelters

We strongly oppose the proposal to transition pet shops to adoption centres to sell rescue dogs and puppies. They should be legally barred from keeping and selling any puppies and dogs; and from acting as an intermediary in the sale and purchase of puppies and dogs.... this will eradicate impulse buying.

We also vehemently oppose the practice of rescue organisations flying in dogs from the eastern states and Tasmania to fill their shelters. A lot of these imported dogs have temperament issues, that's the reason they have ended up in Perth. This practice gives a false reading of the accurate numbers of genuine West Australia dogs in rescue facilities..

Our BMDC registered Dogs West breeders generally have waiting lists for people wanting to purchase a puppy and contracts that require the return of the puppy to the breeder if no longer wanted to ensure the puppy is not sold or given away by the purchaser.

As stated prior, our members provide puppy information packs that inform and educate purchasers to help ensure that puppies purchased do not end up abandoned or surrendered due to buyer ignorance about being a companion pet owner.

Breed rescue services

The BMDC is an affiliate of Dogs West and complies with all the requirements set out by Dogs West pertaining to rescue services'. Dogs West has rules and regulations that require a certain level of care, responsibility and ethics in relationship to the dogs our members breed. If they wish to "rescue" or rehome the dogs they have bred, or assist other breeders or the breed in general, then they should be exempt from accreditation by the Government.



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