



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

RECEIVED

Name	[REDACTED]
Email address	[REDACTED]
Prefix or Member #	[REDACTED]
Breed(s)	Alaskan Malamutes
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Years involved	20+
Family involved?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
My thoughts on: Transition pet shops to adoption centres (can only sell dogs sourced from rescues).	<p>In theory this sounds like a good idea; however the practical side and reality is going to provide a very different picture.</p> <p>It is my belief that If pet shops are not the place for a puppy, then what makes it agreeable for a dog with potential anxiety or reactivity and why would a dog with these conditions be set up to fail in a such a high risk situation.</p> <p>Having been involved in rescue for many years I understand and can quickly asses both dogs and potential owners as to suitability. I take time to interact and determine what the dogs needs are and what training, handling and skill set will be mandated for new pet owners. I struggle to see how a teenager and unskilled individual in a pet shop will be able to assess a potential family and the suitability for a particular animal based on a quick meeting in a high stress and emotive 'OMG lets buy the doggy' situation.</p> <p>A dog that is surrendered or rescued into the care of a dedicated rescue organisation is given every opportunity to be placed in an appropriate and suitable home that meets the needs of the dog itself.</p> <p>Most rescues offer 24/7 assistance to any dogs that are in their care and extended care after adoption, the dogs all have a return to rescue clause attached to them in case of circumstantial changes.</p> <p>Pet shops are a 'business' and as such will be required to 'source' puppies and dogs that are purported to be 'rescues' to fill supply and demand.</p> <p>In short I do not agree with the transition of pet shops to adoption centres, I feel that the responsibility of rehoming a rescue should in itself stay with the people that are adept of this and have the breed knowledge, experience and understanding.</p>
My thoughts on: Introduce mandatory dog de-sexing.	<p>Desexing of dogs does have a place within society; however to introduce mandatory desexing of 'all' dogs at the proposed age of between 3 to 6 months is ethically and morally wrong and will in fact increase the number of dogs that are surrendered to shelters or dumped at the council / shire pounds.</p> <p>A recent publication from U.C. Davis (de la Riva, Hart et al, 2013) looked at two joint disorders and three cancers– hip dysplasia, cranial cruciate ligament tear, lymphosarcoma, hemangiosarcoma and mast cell tumor– and showed that, for all five diseases analysed, the disease rates were significantly higher in both males and females that were neutered either early or late compared with intact (non-neutered) dogs.</p> <p>As an ANKC registered breeder, I am only too well aware of that early desexing by Spey or neuter increases a dogs risk to injury, illness and life threatening disease. I also see and assess a large number of dogs that have been spayed or neutered in the hope of curtailing puppy exuberance at the insistence of some vets only to see nothing change and infact in 90% of cases the dogs behaviour becomes</p>

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Department of Local
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Cultural Industries



Dogs West Member Submission on STOP PUPPY FARMING

	<p>unmanageable and the dog is euthanatized or surrendered as unmanageable.</p> <p>I am however a firm advocate of alternative methods for control of the birth population such as Ovary Sparing Spey, Vasectomy and non surgical options which all allow the dog to retain the required hormones for proper growth and development without reproduction being of concern.</p> <p>In these cases there is significant scientific evidence to demonstrate that dogs live longer and have less health concerns and issues.</p> <p>As an ANKC registered breeder however I want to be able to make a choice for myself on what happens to my dogs and the potential health risks rather than needing to comply with a mandated process that does not address a 'do no harm' ethos.</p> <p>As an ANKC registered breeder, I want to be able to enjoy my hobby of confirmation showing, I want to enjoy the public displays that my dogs are all used in at the Perth Royal Agricultural Show and regional shows.</p> <p>As an ANKC registered breeder I want to be able to preserve my breed and preserve the years of study and research that are undertaken prior to any breeding to ensure that I / we are not doing harm but rather breeding dogs that are sound in structure, stable in temperament and capable of representing the breed as good canine citizens.</p> <p>As an ANKC registered breeder I already ensure that puppies that do not meet the required needs of my breed preservation program are unable to reproduce by using modern techniques such as OSS and Vasectomy, but also still ensuring these puppies grow healthy and strong.</p> <p>As an ANKC Breeder that is already bound by multiple Codes of Ethics, health testing regimes, I vote that my breeding program that works to protect my breed and ensure that it does not become the next animal heading for extinction be granted an exemption from mandatory desexing.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce a centralised registration system to identify every dog and puppy.</p>	<p>I am struggling to see how a centralised register will assist in identification of every dog and puppy when there are currently any number of dogs and puppies that still do not have microchips, are born in small communities or isolated communities and shipped to Perth for sale, are in multiple dog homes and not registered with local council / shires .</p> <p>We are already required to register our dogs with local shire and data is collected there.</p> <p>A central register will only identify and penalise puppies and dogs of owners that are already doing the right thing with registration.</p> <p>Our state controlling body and the ANKC already have significant databases that require me to register every dog, every puppy and every straw of semen that I have stored. My puppy owner's details are all recorded and stored against a pedigree database and certified.</p> <p>Puppy Mills, Puppy Farms and Back Yard breeders will not be impacted and captured on this register, but rather ANKC breeders will become targets of certain organisations that intend harm to the purebred dog. (greyhound industry, Crufts, Horse Jumping)</p>



Dogs West Member Submission on STOP PUPPY FARMING

My thoughts on:

Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.

As an ANKC registered breeder, member and exhibitor I am already bound by multiple Codes of Conduct and ethics on standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.

I am required to sit an exam to gain my breeding prefix, I am required to understand genetics and the impact on breeding with recessive genes as well as screening to mitigate or remove hereditary conditions.

Our breeding standards are exemplary with health testing carried out over and above the base breed requirements.

Our puppies are nurtured from the moment they are a stick drawing on a piece of paper in the planning process which could be in excess of 10 years and much heartbreak

Our puppies are either free whelped or assisted by C section with our reproduction vet in order to mitigate any potential risk to mother and babies.

Our puppies spend their first 8 weeks in our home under fulltime supervision, with our family and our other dogs, they learn social graces, and they learn through a mental development program of puppy culture, they are exposed to sounds, surfaces, tastes and sensory development through structured play. The puppies are all well handled and exposed to about 100 people before 8 weeks. The diet is nutritionally balanced for a large breed dog and vet approved.

Puppies are all sold under contract and all potential puppy owners will have already gone through a pre-screening process just to get to meet the puppies. Puppies come with a 12mth guarantee on genetic and hereditary conditions with puppy owners required to follow strict feeding, exercise and training guidelines during the lifetime of the pup. Pups all have a lifetime return to breeder clause written into contracts in cases where circumstances dictate the puppy or adult dog can no longer be maintained.

Our puppies do not travel interstate and they are not sold to small regional areas where access to resources is limited. Travel is either in a vehicle where they are contained in a travel crate, or a seatbelt harness or in a custom berth dog trailer.

These are just some of the requirements as an ANKC registered breeder I am required to undertake.

I do not wish to whelp or grow my puppies in a kennel or a concreted floor that is isolated from family and noises and the daily grind of activities they would be exposed to as good canine citizens. I do not wish to grow anxious or problematic dogs

General Comment:



Dogs West Member Submission on STOP PUPPY FARMING

As an ethical and responsible breeder, dog owner, and active member of breed council and state clubs, I feel saddened that the proposed legislation does little to actually impact the target market of puppy farmers, puppy mills and the back yard breeding situation which is where a majority of dogs in shelters actually come from.

The responsible breeding fraternity that are internationally recognised will bear the brunt of this legislation change as will the responsible mum and dad pet owners that are already doing the right thing with their pets (let's just remember that WE are the pet owners and not the Government)

This step will not see the number of dogs in shelters drop, it will not see the cessation of puppy farms or puppy mills, and it will merely see this practice head underground and see a larger number of dogs suffer at the hand of supposed Animal Welfare Organisations.

It will see the disappearance of the Dog Pavilion at the Perth Royal Show which is an institution and major draw card for many every year. Some days it feels that we are actual zoo exhibits as the general public ooo and ahhh over the dogs they have only ever heard of, but the pats, cuddles and photos just keep going and all of this is supported by the ANKC, the ANKC registered breeders and the breed clubs.

It will see the disappearance of many ethical breeders who simply feel repulsed at the thought of raising puppies in concrete pens

There is no 'one fit legislation' for all and I implore the Government to review what they are planning, speak with the breeders in depth and actively listen to what we have to say, listen to what and how we do things and consider the outcomes of the shotgun and knee jerk that is currently underway to bow to the pressures of these purported Animal Welfare Agencies that have no interest in animal welfare unless there is a dollar to be made or a high profile media story attached that they can use as a platform.

In respect of ANKC registered breeders, there should be an exemption attached to our memberships that identify us as the guardians of our respective breeds, because I for one have worked too hard for so many years to see my breed become simply an image that people may recall.

Our sport of showing dogs will die out a sport that I have been involved in for nearly thirty years. Our Dogs West show ground is one of the best in the world. A safe place for children and young adults to be. At present I have 3 junior handles who love dogs and the sport.

Thank you for your consideration and time.





Dogs West Member Submission on STOP PUPPY FARMING

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