

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

Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

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

Yes

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

1-Approximate age of dog, 2-relevant health information (please note that I would also buy a dog with a pre-existing medical condition, but I would like to know beforehand so that I can assess the cost and the level of care that the animal would need), 3-behavioural information (e.g. separation anxiety, aggression), 4-whether the dog has been tested with other animals, children, older people, 5-where present, previous history of dog, 6-whether the dog can be left on its own during the day or whether it will need a companion.

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

Yes, it would reduce the number of puppy mill bred animals, while at the same time increasing the chances of rescue animals being given a second chance in life. I also hope that this measure will slowly encourage pet shops to stop selling live animals.

5. If you are a pet shop owner or operator, what impact will this have on your business?

[Click here to enter text.]

Mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs

6. How do you feel about mandatory dog de-sexing for non-breeding dogs?

I believe that all non-breeding dogs should be de-sexed. I am aware that there are concerns about de-sexing dogs at a young age, which means that breeders and pet shops sell entire animals and rely on the new owner to de-sex the animal when they reach the right age/weight. The problem with this is that many owners then do not de-sex their animals. I believe that all non-breeding animals should only be sold once they have been de-sexed to avoid this issue. Yes, this will increase the cost of the animal, but the fact is that dogs are expensive, and if someone cannot afford to pay a higher price for the animal, then perhaps they should not have one.

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?

No, there should not be other reasons.

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

Mandatory de-sexing should apply to ALL existing dogs, unless there are health or animal welfare reasons that would prevent this.

Centralised Registration System

9. How will a centralised registration system benefit you?

It will give me peace of mind that, in the unlikely event that my dog gets lost or gets stolen, it will be returned to me if found. That is my greatest nightmare, that my dog gets lost, that it loses the collar with the dog registration on it, that no-one will check for a chip... This way, all the info sits in one place. In addition, as every animal will be micro-chipped, rescue centres, vets and rangers will have to check for the chip and will hopefully have the equipment to do so.

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

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?

Yes. Breeders who breed dogs commercially would be able to claim the registration fee as a tax deductible business expense. In addition, they will just add the cost of this fee to the price of the animal, so that the one really paying for it will be the end consumer and the taxpayer. Perhaps the annual registration fee could reflect the size of the business (i.e. those with more breeding dogs pay more, those with less pay less).

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

[Click here to enter text.]

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

1- People who have had convictions because of animal abuse or neglect should not be allowed to become breeders. 2- Those who cannot prove that they have the financial resources to adequately care for their animals should also not be allowed to set up as breeders. 3- those who intend to make the production of dogs their main income (i.e. those who consider breeding to be a business).

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

I am not sure. One advantage of local governments enforcing dog breeder registration is that they already have offices and staff across the state. The problem though is funding, as not all local governments have the same financial ability to employ extra staff to do so. Many are already struggling to effectively enforce and police their own existing animal laws.

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 X

Unsure

No

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

1- People who have had convictions because of animal abuse or neglect should not be allowed to become breeders. 2- Those who cannot prove that they have the financial resources to adequately care for their animals should also not be allowed to set up as breeders. 3- People should not be allowed to breed dogs for commercial gains, 4- Those wishing to become dog breeders will need to undertake training in animal husbandry and animal first aid and care (perhaps Cert IV?), 5-those without the adequate facilities should also not be allowed to breed (e.g. a 200m2 backyard is not sufficient to house and breed 30 Mastiffs)

18. Should the number of litters that a bitch can produce be restricted by law?

Yes X

Unsure

No

19. Should people who breed dogs for commercial gain be required to meet additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards?

Yes.

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:

a) Additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards should limit the number of breeding dogs that may be kept by any one breeder. The limit needs to be based on number of dogs rather than number of dogs of each breed, or on the sex of the dog. b) The number of dogs needs to be relatively small to ensure that each dog will receive adequate exercise, social enrichment and have quality human interactions. Larger facilities simply do not provide these, especially socialisation with humans, resulting in breeding dogs with behavioural issues (e.g. shy, fearful or aggressive towards humans). Puppies reared in large facilities also miss out on early human socialisation. I would therefore limit the number of breeding dogs to a maximum of 20 for larger breeders and 10 for small breeders. c) Other criteria include: * competency: breeders need to demonstrate competency in animal care. * Adequate facilities: -facilities should be assessed on a yearly basis, - housing, i.e. kennels need to be large, have a covered area, include area for dogs to hide, bedding, rather than only being concrete. - dogs also need to have access to grassed areas. * dog welfare: number and frequency of litters that a bitch can have needs to be regulated (bitch should not be bred in her first season, bitch should only have 1 litter per year, maximum of 3-4 litters in her lifetime, no litters after the age of 5), - only healthy dogs (verified by vet) should be allowed to breed – All breeding dogs need to be microchipped. The chip number can then be used to track how many litters each dog has had in its lifetime –DNA testing of breeding animals would provide a further safety net for dogs and buyers (it is easy to fake microchip numbers, while DNA testing would establish beyond doubt who the parents of the puppy are) - all breeders should provide (annual) evidence that their dogs have been vet checked, - dogs need to be provided with enrichment, toys, opportunities for social interaction with other animals and humans, This is our opportunity to do what is right for the animal. Breeders should follow HIGHER standards rather than just the minimum requirements for dog welfare.

* 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: Karin Strehlow

Date: 22 June 2018



Department of
**Local Government, Sport
and Cultural Industries**



STOP PUPPY FARMING

Please return this form to:

Please return submissions by 4pm on Friday 3 August 2018

Post

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