



Dogs West Member Submission on
STOP PUPPY FARMING



Name	Dr Lesley Brain
Email address	[REDACTED]
Prefix or Member #	[REDACTED]
Breed(s)	Belgian Shepherd Dogs and Clumber Spaniels
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Years involved	On an off 30 years
Family involved?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Transition pet shops to adoption centres (can only sell dogs sourced from rescues).</p>	<p>I fully support changes to legislation that stops puppies being sold in pet shops based on the idea that these puppies are</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) not being treated well on the premises as this is not the life for a puppy 2) these puppies are being sourced from puppy mills (your assertion seems fair although not well researched) 3) no health checks or basic behavioural training given <p>More importantly it has long been established that pet shops rely on “impulse purchase” dogs should be chosen based on best fit to lifestyle not on the cuteness of a puppy that will most likely be a cross and therefore temperament will be unknown. A cute puppy that grows to big or is too difficult to handle is more likely to end in the hands of rescue organisation.</p> <p>Stopping puppies being sold in Pet shops is gaining a support from the general community with less and less pet Shops selling puppies.</p> <p>Allowing Pet shops to sell rescue dogs should not be allowed, currently many pet shops encourage rescuing, they have relationships with rescue groups, have pictures of rescue dogs on the walls. This is exemplary behaviour. Having a rescue dog on the premise should not be allowed for the same reasons that you would not have a puppy on the premises.</p> <p>The impulse buy for a rescue dog should also be discouraged.</p> <p>Simply stop the live trade of animals, or perhaps just cats and dogs, from Pet shops. Personally, not sure you need to transition this is already taking place.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce mandatory dog de-sexing.</p>	<p>I am not sure of the relationship between this idea and puppy farming. Relatively few puppies are born in puppy mills and very few puppies go on to be problematic (that is based on the proportion that end up in rescue). Why the need for this draconian measure I do not understand. According to your council figures most dogs are de-sexed.</p> <p>Please articulate your logic for this measure prior to implementation.</p> <p>The only way a breeder can ensure a puppy is de-sexed is to undertake the operation at 6 or 7 weeks. Many breeders feel this is abuse, many vets do not support it based on growth and health issues, but once the puppy has left the breeder there is nothing they can do to ensure future sterilisation. When framing your legislation make it clear either 6 weeks or not at the responsibility of the breeder. As breeders of purebred dogs have struggled with non registered breeders using their dogs for unregistered litters.</p> <p>Mandatory de-sexing will have a negative impact purebred dogs, especially rare breeds. When a breeding population is small (as with many of our breeds) every</p>



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	<p>dog should be evaluated as a potential for breeding. Evaluation of the dog can take a number of years, and if the population plummets all dogs may be needed.</p> <p>Here in Perth we are at a disadvantage when trying to support the rare breeds – with so few breeders Australia wide, Western Australian breeders feel the tyranny of distance to obtain breeding stock making it more important to hold everydog ready to enter the breeding pool.</p> <p>Mandatory desexing will see the end of many breeds within AUSTRALIA. Exemptions for breeders will not ensure the success of breeding programs - all dogs within a rare breed need to be available for the gene pool. For example a person with 2 male clumber spaniels would not want to be a breeder, but those males might end up being very important to the breed.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce a centralised registration system and Council registration to be a Breeder.</p>	<p>Centralised registration system – a good idea. Let us get rid of the microchip providers and organisations that register them and have all that in one place. Microchip is not working, look at all the owners that can not be found with the current microchip legislation.</p> <p>My problem is that I do not see the link between this and puppy mills – please change the name of the legislation to dog control.</p> <p>There was very little support for your consultation by the councils – do they support this system? do they want the changes? are they able to support the funding required to register breeders and force compliance?</p> <p>More consultation with key players is needed to clarify this.</p>
<p><i>My thoughts on:</i> Introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.</p>	<p>Mandatory standards for dog breeding is a good idea as long as the ideas are good. Please do not slant your legislation to “commercial kennels” examples of dogs needing to be breed in kennels made of brick of a certain size is not acceptable. The best way to breed puppies are in the house with the family. The small-time breeder with only 2 females should not have to build kennels to provide a detrimental environment for puppy raising.</p> <p>Perhaps some exam for a breeders license along the lines of those undertaken by ANKC members would be beneficial – but again who will fund this, and given the small proportion of puppies affected is the funding required justified. Perhaps a business case to support the benefits of the legislation should be undertaken to show people the benefits of the legislation.</p> <p>Transport, I take by this you mean that puppy mills in the eastern states send by plane. The evidence was not given for this and there is evidence that this has changed recently and trucks are being used for the large scale importation of puppies. Western Australia needs to ensure the safe transportation of animals across state lines legislation should concentrate not on stopping plane transportation but the size and care of animals in transit – these guidelines already exist.</p> <p>Selling pups should include</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) vet check, microchip, information on care 2) see the dam (sire may not be in the country) 3) information on what to expect – size, characteristics



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- 4) impulse purchase clause – 10 day money back
- 5) after care, advice and support

This is the basic requirement for a breeder registered with Dogswest.
I am unsure how you will stop advertising of a legal product –

General Comments

- 1) Dogs provide many positives in our community not least the evidence suggest that they are important to our welfare. I am afraid your legislation looks as if you are against dogs and want to see their numbers substantially reduced. At a time when many mental healthy issues are on the rise it is perhaps time to support responsible dog ownership. No one supports puppy mills, or the indiscriminate breeding of difficult dogs, but so not loose sight of the broader picture, the majority of dogs go to loving homes and have good lives. Do not punish the many for the wrongs of the few. As a community we are transitioning away from purchasing our dogs in pet shops, market forces will close that avenue. The real question and the one not addressed by your legislation is” how can we keep dogs out of rescue institutions?”
- 2) A review of the rescue industry should have been undertaken at the same time as this discussion. what is best practice for rescue dogs? who should provide retraining? rehoming? behavioural testing?
- 3) Please change the name of the legislation as much that is proposed has little to do with puppy mills and more to do with the control of breeding dogs.
- 4) If you have a breeders registration please find a way to make it compatible with other states or the free flow of puppies will be stopped and the rare breeds will become more difficult to save.
- 5) Please ensure your consultation process is substantial when you are informing of change – this affects a large proportion of the state and very few people have been consulted to date. Your information campaign when you draft changes will need to be extensive.
- 6) The lack of evidence provided needs to be rectified. Much of what is discussed has not hard evidence to support it. Careful evaluation of the science is needed before the de-sexing issue can be resolved.
- 7) It was disappointing to see no evaluation of the measures taken by other states included in your discussion.

I am very concerned about this legislation. I have a love of dogs and support rare breeds, this legislation will make it very difficult to have a rare breed, we will see as a result many breeds become extinct. I applaud your desire to stop puppy mills however a possible consequence of your legislation will be the rise of the commercial breeding facilities (puppy mills with cleaner kennels) and the demise of the well-bred, socialised and supported rare breeds.