

# STOP PUPPY FARMING

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### General

#### 1. How can I provide feedback on the stop puppy farming provisions?

Feedback on the provisions can be provided by:

- Completing the online survey at [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/stoppuppyfarming](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/stoppuppyfarming)
- Completing the submission form and emailing it to [puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)
- Attending a workshop. To register visit [www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/stoppuppyfarming](http://www.dlgsc.wa.gov.au/stoppuppyfarming)

#### 2. How long do I have to provide feedback?

Feedback must be provided by Friday, 3 August 2018.

#### 3. When will these provisions come into effect?

This is yet to be determined. It is expected that the Dog Act will be amended in 2019. The provisions will come into effect after this time as set out in the amendments to the Act.

#### 4. Is there a contact person I can contact if I have questions?

For more information, email [puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au](mailto:puppyfarming@dlgsc.wa.gov.au)

# Dog owners

## 1. Do I need to answer all of the questions in the discussion paper?

No. You may answer only the questions you would like to.

## 2. When will these provisions take effect?

The Department is currently consulting on the provisions and how they will be implemented.

Once consultation is complete, a decision will be made by Government as to how the provisions will be implemented and a Bill will be drafted and debated in Parliament. Once the Bill has progressed through Parliament, the legislation can be put into effect.

Specified dates will be identified in the legislation as to when the provisions will come into effect. It is likely the provisions will come into effect at different times.

A public awareness campaign will be launched to inform the community on when the provisions will come into effect and how it will affect dog owners.

## Centralised Registration System

## 3. Will my details be visible on the registration system?

Officers appointed by the local government will have access to your details on the system in order to monitor, input and update information.

If you provide your dog owner number to members of the public, it is proposed that they will be able to search that number on the system and will see a limited amount of information including:

- dog owner name
- dog owner postcode
- verification on whether the dog owner is a registered dog breeder.

Feedback is being sought on whether further information on a dog owner or breeder should be viewed by members of the public.

## 4. If I sell or give my dog away, will I need to update the register?

Yes. You will need to record the transfer of the dog to the new owner. The purchaser will also need to register as the new owner of the dog. You will be able to update this information online on the centralised registration system.

**5. I don't have access to the internet, how will I register my dogs?**

Dog owners will still be able to complete a hard copy registration form and submit it to their local government.

Dog owners will also still be able to register their dog in person at their local government's office.

**6. How much will it cost for me to register in the new system?**

It will not cost any money to access the system; however, dog owners are required to pay dog registration fees. These fees contribute to the cost of enforcing the Dog Act, and returning lost dogs to their owners.

**7. How much will it cost me to register my dog in the new system?**

Owners are currently required to pay dog registration fees. These fees contribute to the cost of enforcing the Dog Act, and returning lost dogs to their owners. The current fees that dog owners pay are:

Dog registration fees	
Unsterilised dog	Sterilised dog
\$50 per year	\$20 per year
\$120 for three years	\$42.50 for three years
\$250 for lifetime registration	\$100 for lifetime registration

During the introduction of the new provisions, dog registration fees will be reviewed to ensure that dog owners are paying the cost of local governments administering the registration system.

Dog breeders will also need to pay a fee to register as a dog breeder. This fee is yet to be determined. Information on costs is being sought as part of this consultation process.

**8. When transferring or advertising a dog, what will I need to do?**

When registered a dog, all owners will be issued with a unique 'dog owner number'. This number will identify them as a dog owner.

Owners will be required to provide this number, along with the dog's microchip details, when transferring a dog. This allows owners to trace and identify where their dog has come from.

If you are transferring a dog that you bred, you will need to ensure you are a registered dog breeder. You will need to record your dog owner number alongside the microchip details of the dog you have bred.

**9. What will be the penalty for sourcing dogs and puppies from unidentified dog breeders and suppliers?**

At this point it will only be an offence to sell, advertise or transfer a dog without providing the required information.

Consumers will be educated about the new requirements and encouraged to only source dogs from dog breeders and suppliers that provide this information.

**10. How do I report unauthorised dog/puppy sale advertisements if I see them?**

It is anticipated that when the provisions come in to effect, members of the public will be able to report non-compliant dog advertisements.

The method for doing this is yet to be determined.

**11. What is a dog owner number?**

Every person that registers a dog will be issued with a unique 'dog owner number' that identifies them as a dog owner.

Dog owners will be required to provide their dog owner number when transferring, selling or advertising a dog.

Additionally, dog breeders will be required to record their 'dog owner number' alongside the microchip details of any dog they have bred. This will ensure the breeder of the dog can always be identified.

**12. Why is it necessary to have a dog owner number?**

It is intended that dog owner numbers will be able to be used to trace the breeder and previous owners of a dog.

Dog owner numbers must be provided every time the dog is transferred. This will allow authorities to identify and trace a dog back to past owners and breeders where an issue with a dog is identified.

This will help to identify puppy farmers and people that are part of the puppy farming supply chain.

**Mandatory dog de-sexing**

**13. My dog is not de-sexed, will I have to de-sex it?**

Feedback is being sought during consultation on whether the mandatory de-sexing requirement should apply to all dogs including existing dogs, or just dogs born after a certain date.

If the provision relates to all existing dogs, you will be required to have your dog de-sexed, unless your dog is otherwise exempt.

#### **14. What is the penalty for not de-sexing my dog and not having an exemption?**

It will be an offence to not de-sex your dog by a certain age, unless the dog is exempt.

The penalty for not complying with this requirement is yet to be determined.

The penalty for not de-sexing a cat is a maximum fine of \$5,000.

#### **15. What are possible exemptions to the mandatory de-sexing of dogs?**

A dog will be exempt from the requirement to be de-sexed if:

- A veterinarian issues a certificate stating that de-sexing the dog may adversely affect the health, welfare or development of the dog;
- The dog's owner is a registered dog breeder; or
- The dog is a greyhound registered with Racing and Wagering Western Australia.

Feedback is being sought during consultation on other possible exemptions to the mandatory dog de-sexing requirement.

#### **16. What if there are no veterinarians close to me? How will I get my dog de-sexed?**

The State Government is aware that access to veterinary services may be limited or difficult to access in some parts of Western Australia. This will be factored into the implementation of the provisions.

#### **17. As a dog owner, how much is it going to cost me to have my dog de-sexed?**

The cost of de-sexing a dog is dependent on a range of factors including the dog's weight, age, sex and breed. The location of veterinary services will also impact on the cost of de-sexing a dog.

#### **18. How will mandatory de-sexing be enforced?**

Dog owners will be required to provide details on whether their dog is de-sexed when registering or renewing the registration of their dog. Dog owners will be required to provide a sterilisation certificate from their vet confirming their dog is de-sexed.

If a dog is not de-sexed, then a dog owner will need to provide one of the following pieces of information:

- A certificate from a veterinarian stating that de-sexing the dog may adversely affect the health, welfare or development of the dog;
- A certificate confirming the dog owner is a registered dog breeder; or
- An application to be a dog breeder is included with the registration. If the application is accepted, the dog will be exempt from the requirement to be de-sexed. If the application is refused, then the owner will need to have their dog de-sexed, or be exempted by a veterinarian on health and welfare grounds.

Local governments will continue to be responsible for processing dog registrations and will be able to identify non-compliant owners when they register dogs.

Local governments can then follow up with non-compliant dog owners

### **Mandatory dog standards**

#### **19. Who will be enforcing the ‘Mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale’?**

The Standards are being developed by the Animal Welfare branch of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and will be enforceable under the Animal Welfare Act.

#### **20. What will be included in the ‘Mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale’?**

The Standards are being developed by the Animal Welfare branch of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. That agency will be consulting on those standards when they are in draft form.

## **Dog Breeders**

### **1. I am a dog breeder, will I be exempt from these provisions?**

At this point:

- all dogs will be required to be de-sexed by a certain age unless they are exempt or owned by a registered dog breeder; and
- all owners of dogs that are not de-sexed will be required to register as a dog breeder.

Feedback is being sought during consultation on whether certain classes of dogs should be exempt from the requirement to be de-sexed by a specific age.

### **2. Will my details be available for anyone to see on the register?**

Only certain information will be available in certain circumstances.

Officers appointed by the local government will have access to the system to monitor compliance, and input and update information.

Members of the public who search a dog breeder's 'dog owner number' on the system will see a limited amount of information including:

- the dog owner's name
- the dog owner's postcode
- verification on whether the dog owner is a registered dog breeder.

Feedback is being sought on whether further information on a dog owner or breeder can be viewed by members of the public.

### **3. What changes will there be to my dog registration?**

Owners of dogs that are not de-sexed will only be able to register their dog for an annual period.

Owners will be required to renew their dog's registration every year. If an owner or breeder gets their dog de-sexed, owners will have the option to register their dog for an annual period, three year period, or lifetime.

### **4. Will my dog(s) be assessed when I register them as a breeding dog?**

No, local governments will not assess the suitability of dogs to be used for breeding purposes when processing dog breeder applications.

### **5. Will I be assessed before I can become a registered dog breeder? If so, how?**

When registering to be a dog breeder, owners will need to provide certain information.

Feedback is being sought during consultation on what information dog breeders should have to provide when registering as a dog breeder.

A dog breeder will have to give undertakings that they will abide by the Dog Act and the Animal Welfare Act, as well as any standards covering dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale.

### **6. What about dogs that are sold on 'breeder's terms' – will they have to be de-sexed or will the new owner have to register as a dog breeder?**

Breeder's terms are when a dog is sold or transferred to another person on the provision that the person selling the dog can use the dog for breeding purposes at another time.

The owner of the dog will not be breeding the dog themselves, but will be allowing their dog to be used for breeding purposes by another person.

In such cases, the new owner will still be required to register as a dog breeder, as their animal will be used for breeding purposes and will not be de-sexed.

### **Mandatory Dog Standards**

**7. Will there be a cap on the number of dogs I am allowed to breed?**

This is being considered under the standards for dog breeding. Consultation on the standards for dog breeding will be undertaken in a separate process by the Animal Welfare Unit within the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development.

**8. Will I be restricted on how many times I can breed one dog?**

This is being considered under the standards for dog breeding. Consultation on the standards for dog breeding will be undertaken in a separate process by the Animal Welfare Unit within the Department of Primary Industry and Regional Development.