



Department of Primary Industries &
Regional Development (DPIRD)
Health and Welfare of Dogs

Draft Standards & Guidelines

How does this fit with Puppy Farming?

- There are 3 things happening:
 - Puppy Farming legislation
 - No more feedback to date
 - Waiting for proposals to be released
 - Review of the Dog Act
 - This has yet to begin
 - Addition to Animal Welfare Act
 - This is where this DPIRD paper sits
 - It is about having dog specific laws and penalties

What has Dogs West been doing?

- DW had input – Dr Koutsantonis gave valuable input to the drafting group
 - DPIRD did research on other States
- The Executive met with DPIRD to provide comment on the draft
- Exec then had a week to provide written feedback on the draft before it was released

The document – what are these?

- **Standards**

- Will be written into legislation
- Will be enforceable
- Will have penalties

- **Guidelines**

- Suggestions for dog management
- Are in the draft as guidelines – could become standards if feedback suggests it
- Do not ignore the Guidelines– **they are important**

Important points in the Draft paper

- On the whole, the paper is reasonable and much is common sense
- Many standards have been taken from Dogs West Regulations
- But there are points that you need to address as Dogs West Members in your response

DW first response

- Get a copy of our response to the draft
 - Available here tonight
 - Made after we were given a draft of the consultation paper
 - Followed up by meeting at DPIRD to discuss the paper
 - This was our written response to confirm matters discussed at that meeting

Matters in DW response

- Domestic dog operation - sought clarification – no recognition of a hobby breeder
- Number of fertile bitches – this is lower than other States – why we asked
- Surgical alteration procedure – we noted that dewclaws got no mention – neither allowed or disallowed
- Ear tattooing – cannot be done to identify a dog & must be done under general anaesthetic by a vet – we confirmed it should continue to be used – microchips do fail – **changed – now allowed for an established identification scheme – need to find if Dogs West can have one**
- Transfer of ownership – pointed out not all puppies are rehomed by 12 weeks
- Food & water – no ages given on dogs being fed separately – should there be, eg puppies
- Restraint – guideline suggesting use of choke collars only for behavioural change – not used only for that purpose
- Electronic collars – pointed out bark collars are used to moderate barking behaviour when owners are absent
- Euthanasia – 2 clauses conflicted – **removed since our feedback**

DW response cont'd

- Breeding
 - Age of male dogs – initially dogs over 7 limited – **removed since our feedback**
 - Age of male dogs – cannot be mated under 12 months - where is the scientific proof of this? – suggested it be 9 months
 - Breeding stand – pointed out this is often to protect both dog and bitch
 - 2nd degree relative – this is in guidelines – **response to this is important**
 - Terminology – “birthing” –changed to whelping – **our feedback**
 - Additional requirements re Domestic Dog Business
 - **Number of fertile bitches – THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT**
 - Monitoring of animals outside business hours – had this changed
 - Housing Requirements
 - Had “barking” removed as an excessive noise when keeping dogs

DW response cont'd

- Fire fighting equipment – our comment saw requirement for fire fighting training of a small breeder removed
- Enclosure design – voiced concern over comments re concrete – has been reworded
- Feeding dogs – offal was not recommended – had changed to may pose a health risk etc.

What you need to do now

- RESPOND
- Dogs West will put in a formal submission
- Your submission needs to cover YOUR circumstances
 - Home hobby breeder
 - Preservation breeder – yes
 - WE ARE BREED PRESERVATIONISTS!
 - Commercial business, eg boarding, transport, trainer, shelter etc
 - Note: free Boarding is still a business in this paper

You **MUST** respond to these

- Ask if being classed as a ***domestic dog operation*** will be related to the Stop Puppy Farming Legislation

Number of Fertile Bitches

- Ask for Dogs West breeders to be allowed more
- Many of our standards are in the paper
- Ask why the number is so low – other States are higher
- Say how it will affect you as a **preservation breeder**
 - Genetic diversity
 - More than one breed
 - Do not wish to sterilise old dogs
- Ask if the fertile bitches counted are only those within the breeding range ie younger/older bitches should not be included in the number
- No recognition or differentiation of a hobby breeder vs a large commercial breeder – why not?

Breeding

- Standards for Bitches are basically the same as DW Regulations for age and litters
- If you want to use a male dog **under 12 months old** you need to respond to say why it should be lower
- Ask what science is behind the 12 month limit
- We asked for it to be **9 months**

Ear Tattoo

- If you do this/have it done – **you need to speak up that it be allowed to continue to identify dogs**
 - Foolproof identification of a dog
 - Microchips fail
 - Owners do not maintain microchip record – tattoo permanently identifies the breeder
 - Clubs should put in submissions about this – if you want to continuing doing it
 - Ear tatooing should be able to be done by recognised persons, like microchippers

Crating of Dogs

- *S4.1 A dog may not be confined in a crate with the crate door closed for a period of time that is detrimental to the health of the dog.*
- We need to say we crate dogs and why as positive reinforcement to the document which does not speak against it.
- There could be push back on this from public consultation

Part 3: dog based operation

- Read the document carefully – there is a lot in this section that applies many DW Members
- It is not just about boarding kennels, trainers and transporters etc.
- **This will apply to anyone with more than 5 fertile bitches**
- There are many requirements from handling dogs to records and health management plans

How do I respond?

- One of the important messages that came out of the Stop Puppy Farming Legislation survey, was **comments count**.
- **Do not just say Yes or No, or Agree or Disagree – there is room for comment – USE IT**.
- You can complete the online consultation, or use the form on the DPIRD website.

When – closes 7 June

- You have time to carefully consider and put in your response
- Do not leave it to others
- Assist others and encourage them to respond
- You only get one opportunity to do this – don't waste it



Questions?