DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, SPORT AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

STOP PUPPY FARMING COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

SEPTEMBER 2018











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CONTENTS

| 1 | Results at a Glance | 4 |
|------|--|----|
| 2 | Introduction | 8 |
| 2.1 | Stop Puppy Farming Program | 8 |
| 2.2 | Scope of the Study | 9 |
| 2.3 | Data Collection | 9 |
| 2.4 | Report Structure | 10 |
| 3 | About Respondents | 11 |
| 4 | Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres | 13 |
| 4.1 | Overall Sample | 13 |
| 4.2 | Pet Shops / Businesses Specific Questions | 16 |
| 4.3 | Pet Rescue Specific Questions | 17 |
| 5 | Mandatory Dog De-sexing | 18 |
| 5.1 | Overall Sample | 18 |
| 5.2 | Exemptions from Mandatory De-sexing | 20 |
| 5.3 | Dog Owners and Livestock Dog Owners Specific Questions | 22 |
| 6 | Centralised Registration System | 23 |
| 6.1 | Overall Sample | 23 |
| 6.2 | Source of Funding | 32 |
| 6.3 | Dog Breeder Registration Exemptions | 34 |
| 7 | Mandatory Standards | 36 |
| 7.1 | Overall Sample | 36 |
| 7.2 | Additional Standards | 38 |
| 8 | Conclusion | 42 |
| 9 | Appendix 1: Stakeholder Groups | 44 |
| 10 | Appendix 2: Local Government Representation | 45 |
| 11 | Appendix 3: Responses by Demographics | 46 |
| 11.1 | Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres | 46 |
| 11.2 | Mandatory De-sexing for Non-breeding Dogs | 47 |
| 11.3 | Centralised Registration System | 48 |
| 11.4 | Mandatory Standards | 49 |
| 12 | Appendix 4: Survey Ouestions | 50 |



1 RESULTS AT A GLANCE

The Western Australian Government is proposing the introduction of new laws to stop puppy farming in WA. The following initiatives are considered:



Transition of pet shops into adoption centres that will only sell puppies and dogs from approved rescue organisations and animal shelters



Mandatory de-sexing of dogs unless an exemption is requested for breeding purposes or for reasons stated by a registered veterinarian



A centralised registration system to ensure every dog and puppy can be identified at the point of sale or adoption, including in advertisements for sale



Mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale

The community consultation survey was designed to capture feedback on a range of measures needed to implement key elements of the Stop Puppy Farming Policy, outlined in the 'Stop Puppy Farming Consultation Paper'. This survey is part of a broader consultation approach including an open invitation for written submissions to the Consultation Paper and targeted consultation with key stakeholders impacted by the policy.

3,642 | 162

Online Survey Respondents

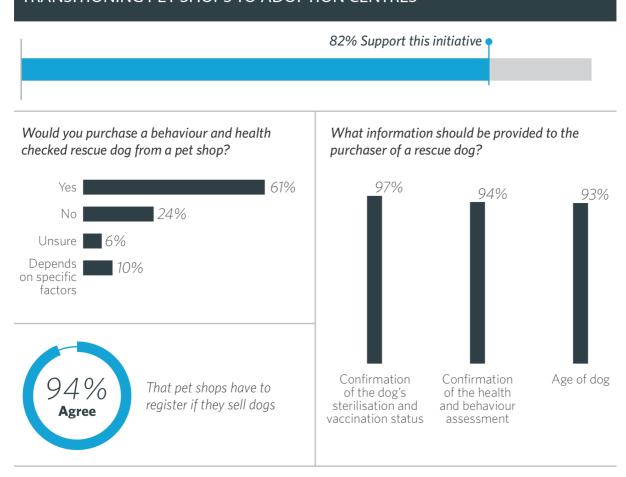
RSPCA Million Paws Walk Survey Respondents | Survey Respondents

WALGA Convention

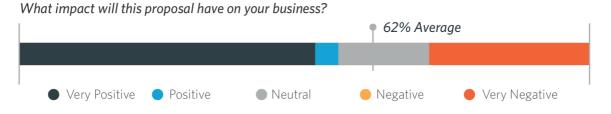


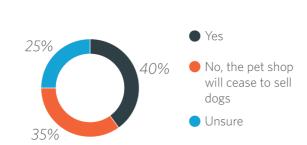


TRANSITIONING PET SHOPS TO ADOPTION CENTRES



IMPACT ON PET SHOPS

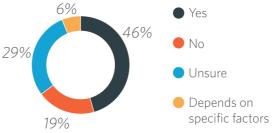




Is your pet shop likely to source dogs from

accredited dog rescue organisations?

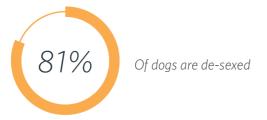
Is your organisation likely to apply to be an accredited rescue organisation or shelter that can povide dogs to pet shops? 6%

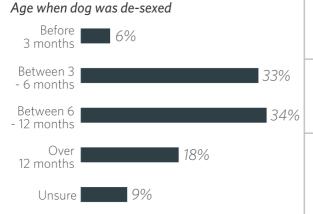




MANDATORY DOG DE-SEXING FOR NON-BREEDING DOGS

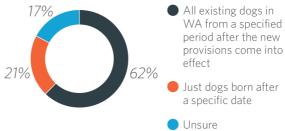
82% Support this Initiative 📍





MANDATORY DE-SEXING EXEMPTIONS

Should mandatory de-sexing apply to all dogs?



44% agree that livestock working dogs be exempt

56% agree that members of recognised breeding associations be exempt

MANDATORY STANDARDS

91% Support this Initiative

ADDITIONAL STANDARDS



That people who breed dogs for commercial gain are required to meet additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards



That additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards should be based on the number of breeding dogs









4 dogs on average





CENTRALISED REGISTRATION SYSTEM

87% Support this Initiative

52% of dogs are registered with a lifetime dog registration

84% are willing to re-enter the details in a new system



agree local government is the best place to enforce dog breeder registration



agree the system be expanded to include cat registration and cat breeder registration



agree veterinarians should update and input dog's microchip and sterilisation details in the system

SOURCE OF FUNDING



support increasing dog registration fees charged to dog owners



support increasing dog registration fees charged to owners of non de-sexed dogs



support the introduction of a dog breeder registration fee

DOG BREEDER REGISTRATION EXEMPTIONS



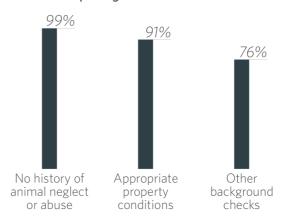


There should be restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder



That the number of litters that a bitch can produce should be restricted by law

Restrictions for dog breeders should include:





2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Stop Puppy Farming Program

2.1.1 The Project

The McGowan Government is committed to stopping puppy farming and the overbreeding of dogs and improving the health and welfare of all dogs in Western Australia (WA). The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (the Department) was tasked with implementing the commitment to 'stop puppy farming' through the introduction of the following initiatives:

- Transition of pet shops into adoption centres that will only sell puppies and dogs from approved rescue organisations and animal shelters
- Mandatory de-sexing of dogs unless an exemption is requested for breeding purposes or for reasons stated by a registered veterinarian
- A centralised registration system to ensure every dog and puppy can be identified at the point of sale or adoption, including in advertisements for sale
- Mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale

The commitment to introduce mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale will be progressed by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development by amending the Animal Welfare Act 2002. The remaining initiatives are being progressed by the Department. To implement the initiatives, the Dog Act 1976 must be amended.

2.1.2 Community Consultation

The Department has prepared a Consultation Paper on the stop puppy farming initiatives. The paper was released on Thursday 3 May 2018. In accordance with the State Local Government Partnership Agreement, the Department has consulted for a 12-week period.

The purpose of consultation was to:

- Gather general views from the public on the measures and how it will impact people/ businesses/ communities/ dogs
- Provide implementation options and seek views on how the measures should be implemented

The Department has collected feedback from key stakeholders and the community through:

- An open invitation for written submissions to the Consultation Paper
- Workshops (held in Stirling, Kwinana, Karratha, Bunbury and Northam)
- An online survey available on the Department's website
- The delivery of interview surveys at events RSPCA Million Paws Walk (20 May 2018) and the WALGA Convention (2 August 2018)
- Targeted meetings and consultation sessions with Dogs West members, rescue and shelter organisations, and pet shops

The consultation findings will assist in informing the WA Government on how to address the issue of puppy farming in WA.



2.2 Scope of the Study

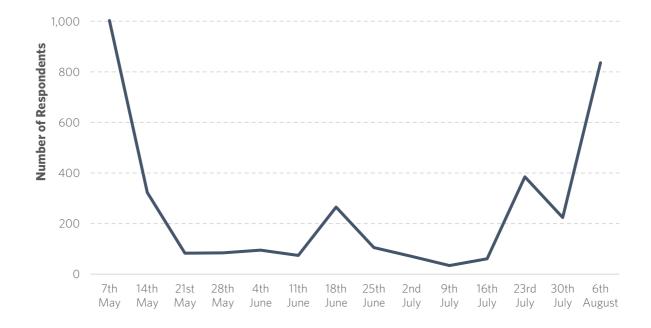
Culture Counts was engaged by the Department to inform and complement the community consultation process. Culture Counts has supported the Department in the online survey design and delivery, the design and administration of survey instruments on-site at events and the integration of surveys into community workshops. The comprehensive analysis of the collected data was conducted, and key results are presented in this report.

2.3 Data Collection

2.3.1 Online Survey

The online survey was part of a broader consultation approach including an open invitation for written submissions to the Consultation Paper and targeted consultation with key stakeholders impacted by the policy. The survey was designed to capture feedback on a range of measures needed to implement key elements of the Government's Stop Puppy Farming Policy, outlined in the 'Stop Puppy Farming Consultation Paper'.

The survey was open for a three month period from 3 May 2018 until 3 August 2018 and attracted a significant sample of 3,642 responses.



2.3.2 On-site Surveys

A more concise stakeholder tailored survey was delivered at the RSPCA Million Paws Walk (20 May 2018) and the WALGA Convention (2 August 2018). A sample of 162 responses was collected during the RSPCA Million Paws Walk and 140 responses during the WALGA Convention.

Online and on-site survey responses were aggregated to enable the overall sample view as well as the breakdown of views by stakeholder groups.



2.4 Report Structure

The report is structured in a way that the results can be read as an overall sample view in relation to key policy measures and perceived impacts and as a comparative analysis of core research questions across stakeholder groups and demographics. The summary of respondents' demographics is presented in Section 3: About Respondents. The following four sections are concerned with the four key policy initiatives:

- Section 4: Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres
- Section 5: Mandatory Dog De-sexing
- Section 6: Centralised Registration System
- Section 7: Mandatory Standards



3 ABOUT RESPONDENTS

The majority of respondents were female (84%), indicating the possible appeal of the cause to the female audience.

Overall, survey respondents were evenly distributed around the 20 to 50 age ranges, with fewer respondents being 60 or older and younger than 20.

Respondents were asked to identify themselves with stakeholder groups listed. Multiple responses were allowed, and the majority of respondents have selected more than one group.

87% of respondents have identified themselves as current, past or future dog owners. 678 people have associated themselves with pet rescue groups that include shelter or rescue organisation employees or volunteers and dog foster carers.

All groups featured over 100 responses, with veterinarians and veterinary nurses having the lowest representation. For the full list of respondents associated with each group, please see Appendix 1: Stakeholder Groups.

Figure 1: Respondents Gender

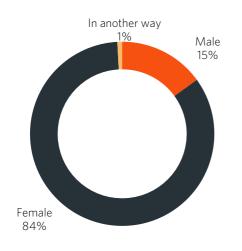
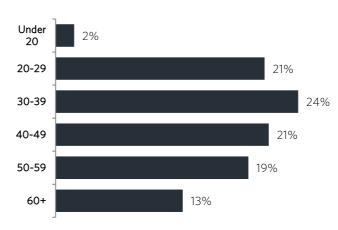


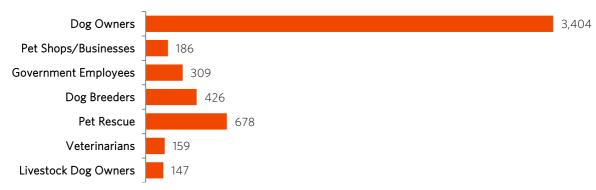
Figure 2: Aggregate Age Breakdown



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,459

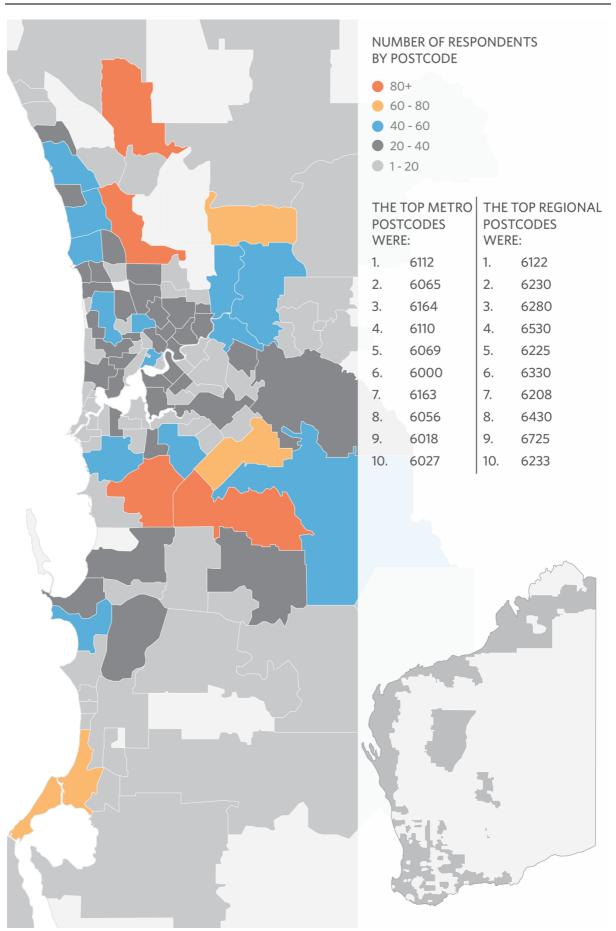
Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,337

Figure 3: Stakeholder Groups



Note that respondents could select multiple categories







4 TRANSITIONING PET SHOPS TO ADOPTION CENTRES

INITIATIVE

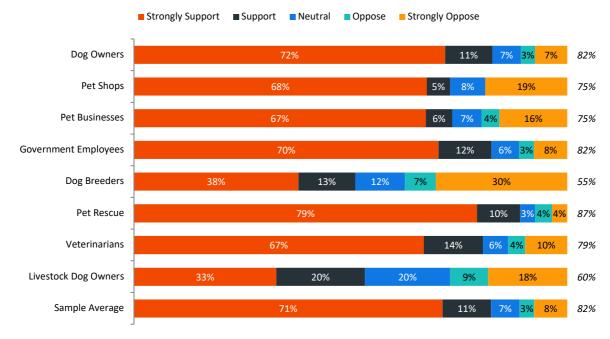
Currently, there are no restrictions on where pet shops can source the dogs they sell. It is intended that pet shops will be transitioned to adoption centres. Pet shops will only be able to source dogs that have been properly assessed for health and behaviour from accredited dog rescues or shelters.

4.1 Overall Sample

Respondents were asked to move a slider to indicate the extent to which they support or oppose the initiatives. The chart contains data for each stakeholder group, showing average scores and the percentage of people that agree or disagree with each of the statements. The advantages of using averages is that they are easier to benchmark against other groups and these take into account negative feedback.

Figure 4: Transition Pet Shops to Adoption Centres





Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,655; average scores are shown to the right

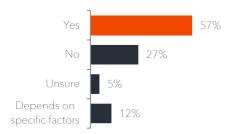
Overall, most stakeholder groups support the initiative with average scores between 77% and 87%. Pet rescue groups had the largest support level with 79% of respondents strongly supporting the initiative. Dog breeder groups expressed the highest opposition with an average score of 52%.



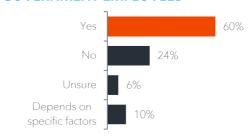
Figure 5: Purchase a Health Checked Rescue Dog

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

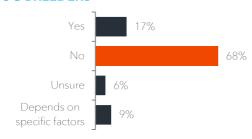
DOG OWNERS



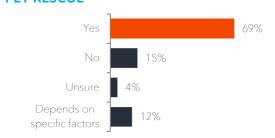
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



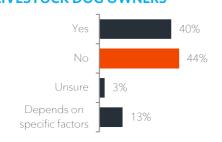
DOG BREEDERS



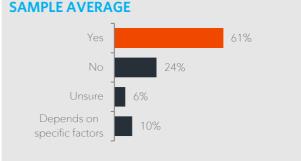
PET RESCUE



LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS



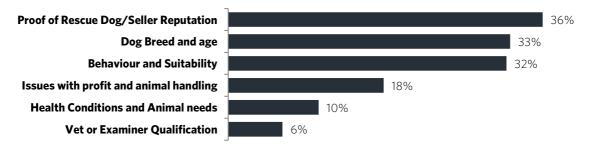
SAMPLE AVERAGE



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,798

Figure 6: Factors that Influence the Decision

Please describe the factors that would influence your decision.



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 479

Overall, around 61% of respondents would purchase a behaviour and health checked rescue dog. Important factors that would influence the respondents' decision to purchase a rescue dog were whether there is proof that they were purchasing a rescue dog and the overall reputation of a seller. Dog breed, age and history were also frequently mentioned.



Figure 7: Information Provided about Rescue Dogs

What information should be provided to a purchaser of a rescue dog from a pet shop?

| | DOG OWNERS | GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES | DOG BREEDERS | PET RESCUE | LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS | SAMPLE AVERAGE |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Confirmation of the dog's sterilisation and vaccination status | 97% | 98% | 94% | 99% | 97% | 97% |
| Confirmation of the health and behaviour assessment | 94% | 96% | 94% | 95% | 96% | 94% |
| Age of dog | 93% | 95% | 93% | 94% | 94% | 93% |
| Confirmation that the rescue organisation or shelter is properly accredited | 87% | 89% | 86% | 86% | 84% | 88% |
| Name of the rescue organisation or shelter from which the dog was sourced | 82% | 82% | 85% | 87% | 83% | 82% |
| Temperament / any known behavioural issues | 65% | 67% | 77% | 57% | 74% | 62% |
| Behaviour towards children, other dogs and other animals | 64% | 66% | 73% | 55% | 70% | 61% |
| Location of the rescue organisation or shelter from which the dog was sourced | 61% | 61% | 73% | 65% | 69% | 61% |
| Grooming, socialisation and exercise needs | 58% | 61% | 66% | 50% | 67% | 55% |
| Breed/s | 56% | 58% | 69% | 47% | 69% | 53% |
| Dog's history | 56% | 54% | 69% | 46% | 64% | 53% |
| Level of training | 51% | 52% | 64% | 44% | 67% | 49% |
| Share of profit from sale of dog returned to rescue organisation and share provided to pet shop | 45% | 46% | 56% | 40% | 57% | 43% |
| Other - please specify | 7% | 11% | 15% | 11% | 13% | 7% |
| n | 2,299 | 202 | 124 | 550 | 70 | 2,611 |

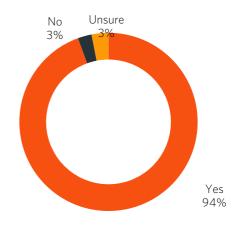
The most common information that respondents believed should be provided to purchasers of rescue dogs were the confirmation of the dog's sterilisation and vaccination, confirmation of the health and behaviour assessment and age of the dog. These outcomes appeared to be relatively consistent across groups. Among other reasons, the return policy and micro-chip status were frequently mentioned.



There was overwhelming support for pet shops to register with a relevant authority to sell dogs.

Figure 8: Pet Shops Register with an Authority (Total Sample)

Should pet shops have to register with a relevant authority if they sell dogs?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 1,312

4.2 Pet Shops Specific Questions

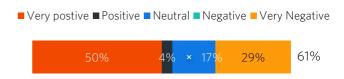
Under the new proposal, pet shops will only be able to source puppies and dogs for sale from 'properly accredited' rescue organisations or shelters. Dog rescue organisations and shelters will be accredited by the State Government.

Pet shops were asked to indicate what impact they believe the proposal will have on their business. 28% of respondents stated that the impact will be very negative. The majority of respondents though suggested that the impact will be very positive. It is important to clarify that many respondents in the pet shop group were pet shops that do not currently sell dogs, their business consists of selling dog food and other dog products.

At the end of the transition period, around 35% of pet shops will cease to sell dogs and 40% will likely source and sell dogs from accredited dog rescue organisations.

Figure 9: Pet Shop Impact

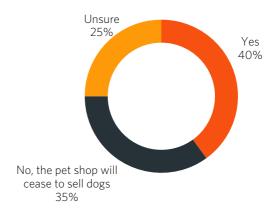
As a pet shop owner or operator, what impact do you expect this proposal will have on your business?



Culture Counts 2018; Pet Shops; n=24; average scores are to the right

Figure 10: Pet Shops Future

At the end of the transition period, is your pet shop likely to source dogs from accredited dog rescue organisations and shelters?



Culture Counts 2018; Pet Shop Responses; n = 20



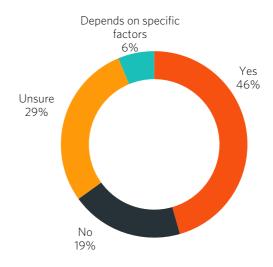
4.3 Pet Rescue Specific Questions

Just below half of pet rescue organisations are likely to apply to be accredited to provide dogs to pet shops.

Almost a fifth of all responses indicated that the cost, time and labour surrounding the application process were likely to be the major influences or uncertainties surrounding whether they would apply. Further issues, such as the level of care provided for the animal and the difficulty surrounding the process, were mentioned.

Figure 11: Application to Provide Dogs

Is your organisation likely to apply to be accredited rescue organisation or shelter that can provide dogs to pet shops?



Culture Counts 2018; Pet Rescue; n = 415



5 MANDATORY DOG DE-SEXING

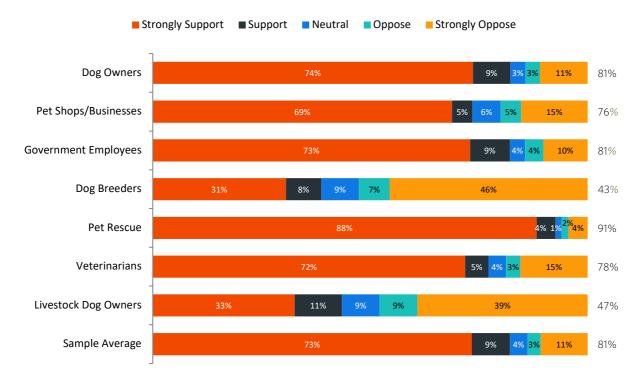
INITIATIVE

Currently, dogs are not required to be de-sexed in Western Australia. It is intended to introduce mandatory de-sexing of dogs by the time they reach a particular age unless the dog is used for breeding purposes or an exemption is requested for reasons stated by a registered veterinarian.

5.1 Overall Sample

Figure 12: Mandatory De-sexing for Non-breeding Dogs





Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3637; average scores are shown to the right

Support for dog de-sexing varied somewhat across groups, however, the majority of respondents are in favour of de-sexing being mandatory. Pet rescue groups expressed the highest level of support with an average score of 91%. Dog breeders and livestock dog owners mainly oppose the proposal with average scores of 43% and 47% respectively.

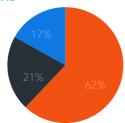


Figure 13: Mandatory Dog De-sexing

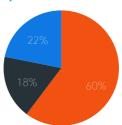
Should mandatory dog de-sexing apply to all dogs or just dogs born after a particular date?

- All existing dogs in WA from a specified period after the new provisions come into effect
- Just dogs born after a specific date
- Unsure

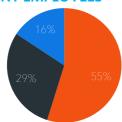




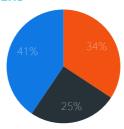
PET SHOPS / BUSINESSES



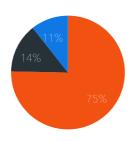
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



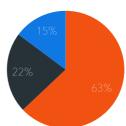
DOG BREEDERS



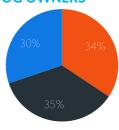
PET RESCUE



VETERINARIANS



LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS



SAMPLE AVERAGE



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,198

In aggregate, all stakeholder groups except dog breeders and members of dog breeding associations felt that all existing dogs in WA should be subjected to mandatory de-sexing. High proportion of unsure responses from dog breeders and livestock dog owners indicates their overall higher level of opposition towards mandatory de-sexing.

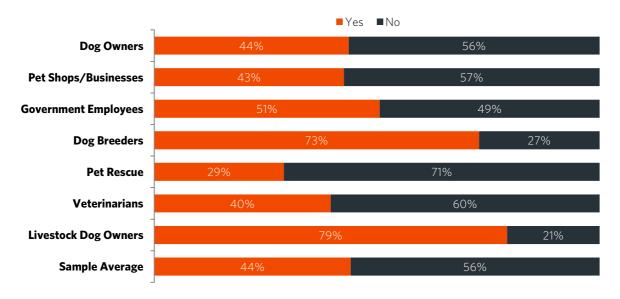


5.2 Exemptions from Mandatory De-sexing

Exemptions for mandatory de-sexing will apply for health and welfare reasons as assessed by a veterinarian, or if the dog owner is a registered breeder. Greyhounds that are registered with Racing and Wagering WA will also be exempt from the requirement.

Figure 14: Exemptions - Livestock Working Dog Exemption

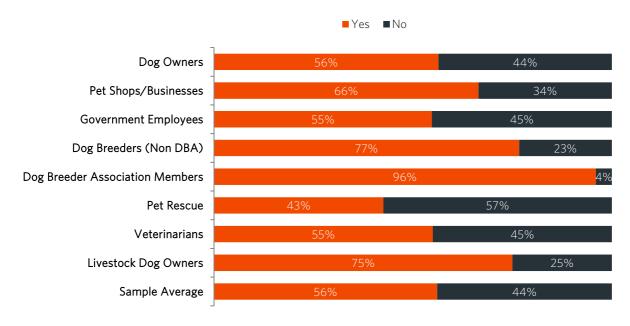
Should livestock working dogs be exempt as a class from mandatory dog de-sexing?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,270

Figure 15: Exemptions - Dog Breeder Association Exemption

Dogs held for breeding purposes will be exempt from the requirement for de-sexing. This could be applied at the level of the individual owner or by membership of recognised organisations. Should members of recognised breeding associations be exempt from the mandatory de-sexing requirement through their membership status?



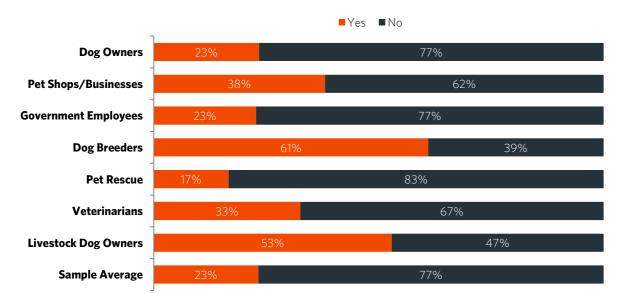
Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,280



Dog breeders and livestock dog owners expressed the highest support for both exemptions. Overall, respondents did not think that livestock dogs should be exempt from the mandatory de-sexing, whereas members of recognised breeder associations should through their membership status.

Figure 16: Exemptions - Other

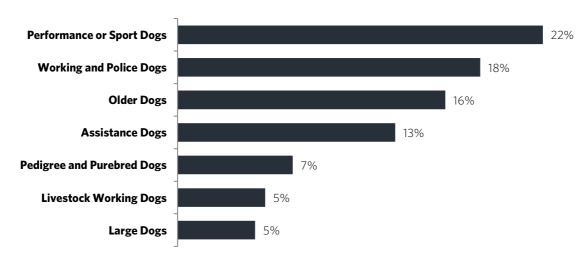
Is there any other class of dogs that should be exempt from mandatory de-sexing?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,182

Figure 17: Please Specify

Is there any other class of dogs that should be exempt from mandatory de-sexing?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 660

Most respondents did not think there were any other classes of dogs which should be exempt from mandatory de-sexing. Dog breeders had the largest proportion of agreeing respondents, whereas pet rescue had the highest proportion of negative responses.

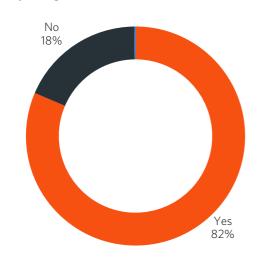
Respondents who suggested other classes of dogs to be exempt from mandatory de-sexing mainly mentioned performance or sport dogs, working and police dogs and older dogs.



5.3 Dog Owners and Livestock Dog Owners Specific Questions

Figure 18: De-sexed

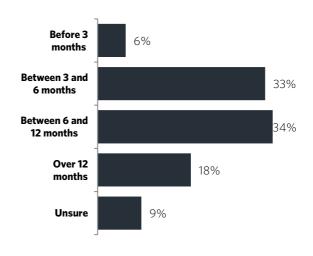
Is your dog de-sexed?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 2,989

Figure 19: De-sexing Age

At what age was it de-sexed?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 2,412

The majority of dogs are de-sexed with the most common age of de-sexing being between three and twelve months.



6 CENTRALISED REGISTRATION SYSTEM

INITIATIVE

Currently, all dog owners must register their dog with their local government if the dog is aged three months or older. Every local government in WA maintains their own record of dogs registered in their district. Under the proposal to introduce a centralised registration system, existing local government dog registers would be transitioned and absorbed into a centralised registration system.

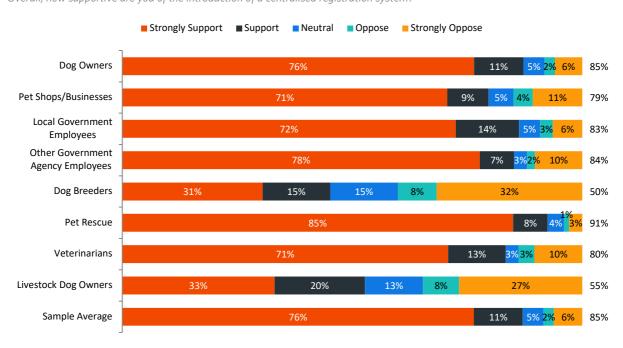
There is currently no government register that records dog breeders in WA. Dog owners are not required to notify or obtain permission to breed dogs. If a centralised registration system was introduced, every person who has a dog that breeds, or a dog intended to be used for breeding purposes, would be required to register as a dog breeder.

The objective of introducing a centralised registration system would be to allow authorities to identify and monitor all dog owners and dog breeders for compliance with all relevant laws.

6.1 Overall Sample

Figure 20: Introduction of a centralised registration system

Overall, how supportive are you of the introduction of a centralised registration system?



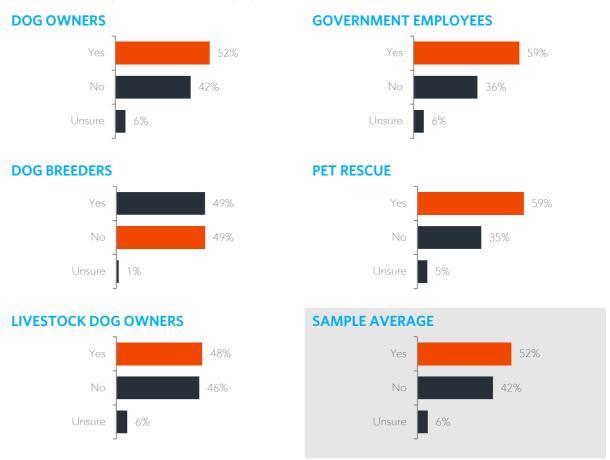
Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,541; average scores are shown to the right

Support for a centralised registration system in the sample is strong with an average score of 85%. Similar to other initiatives, dog breeders and livestock dog owners generally opposed this policy.



Figure 21: Lifetime Registration

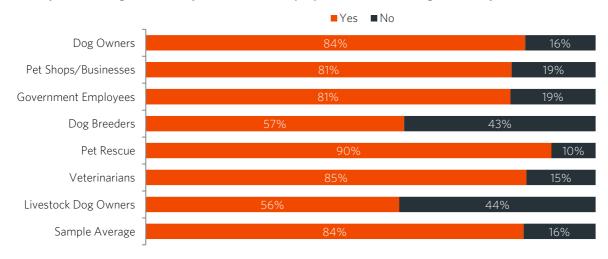
Is your dog currently registered with a lifetime dog registration (i.e. you never have to renew their registration)?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 2,621

Figure 22: Re-enter Details in Centralised Registration System

Would you be willing to re-enter your details in the proposed centralised registration system online?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 1,116

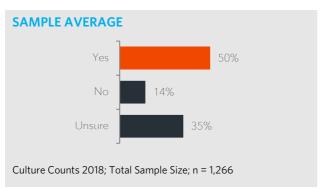
Most dog owners, except dog breeders have their dog registered with a lifetime dog registration. Overall dog owners are willing to re-enter their details in the proposed centralised registration system online.



Figure 23: Dog Breeding Association Membership Number

Should the membership number of a member of a recognised dog breeding association be used as their Government dog owner number?

DOG OWNERS PET SHOPS / BUSINESSES 56% Yes 51% Yes No Unsure Unsure **LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OTHER GOV. AGENCY EMPLOYEES** 46% 43% Unsure Unsure **DOG BREEDERS PET RESCUE** 44% Unsure 18% 42% Unsure **VETERINARIANS** LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS 48% Yes 42% 16% No No



Unsure

42%

It is proposed that under the centralised registration system, each dog will be issued a 'dog registration number' (as currently happens), and all dog owners will be issued with a 'dog owner number' that is unique to the owner.

Unsure

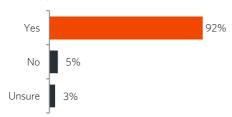
Respondents typically agreed or were unsure about the proposition to use the membership number of a recognised dog breeding association as their government dog owner number. Dog breeders largely supported the initiative.



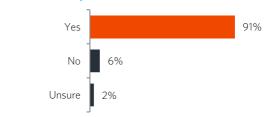
Figure 24: Dog Breeder Registration Restrictions

Should there be any restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder?

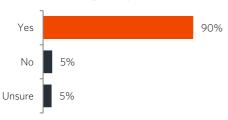
DOG OWNERS



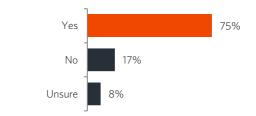
PET SHOPS / BUSINESSES



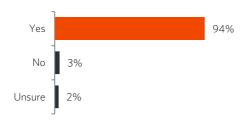
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



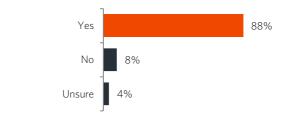
DOG BREEDERS



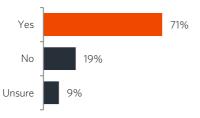
PET RESCUE

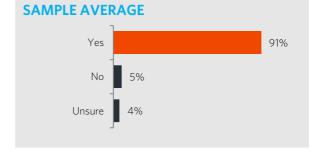


VETERINARIANS



LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS





Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,533



Figure 25: Dog Breeder Restriction Inclusions

What should these restrictions include?

| | DOG OWNERS | PET SHOPS BUSINESSES | GOV EMPLOYEES | DOG BREEDERS | DOG RESCUE | VETS | LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS | SAMPLE AVERAGE |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| No history of animal neglect or abuse | 99% | 99% | 99% | 95% | 100% | 100% | 92% | 99% |
| Appropriate property conditions (e.g. clean, enough space for animals) | 92% | 95% | 88% | 83% | 98% | 98% | 77% | 91% |
| Other background checks (such as working with children or police clearance checks) | 77% | 70% | 80% | 41% | 80% | 72% | 54% | 76% |
| Other - please specify | 25% | 44% | 22% | 37% | 32% | 26% | 27% | 25% |
| n | 1,887 | 94 | 166 | 217 | 311 | 101 | 74 | 2,081 |

There was a universal agreement that there should be restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder. The statement, 'No history of animal neglect or abuse', was selected as the most important restriction to include in a dog breeder registration. 'Appropriate property conditions' were also highly prioritised.

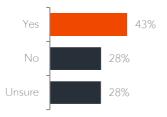
High proportions of pet shops/ businesses and dog breeders indicated that other considerations should be included in dog breeder restrictions. These included, expertise of breeders, financial stability of breeders, number of breeding pairs and litters per dog. Additionally, multiple dog breeders mentioned that only members of registered groups should be allowed to breed dogs, with ANKC and Dogs West mentioned in the commentary.



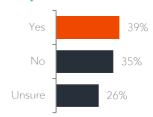
Figure 26: Local Government to Enforce Dog Breeder Registration

Local governments are currently responsible for processing, approving and enforcing dog registrations. Do you think local government is best placed to enforce dog breeder registration?

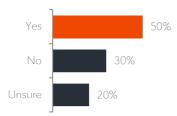
DOG OWNERS



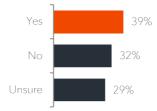
PET SHOPS / BUSINESSES



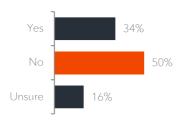
LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



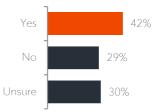
OTHER GOV. AGENCY EMPLOYEES



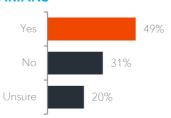
DOG BREEDERS



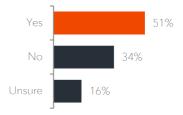
PET RESCUE

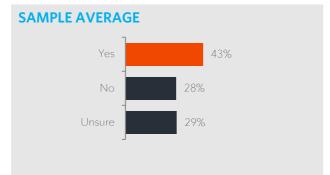


VETERINARIANS



LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS





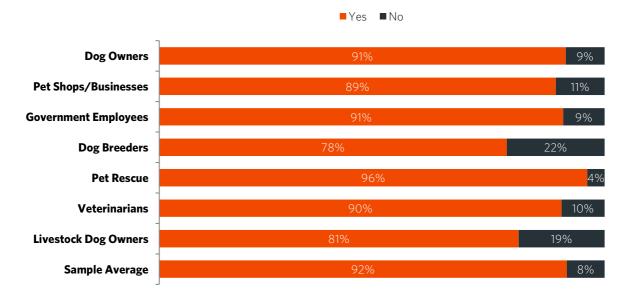
Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,240

While no group appeared to have over half of respondents agreeing that the government was the best placed to enforce dog breeder registration, the majority of respondents, except breeder groups, have mainly agreed with the proposal.



Figure 27: Cat Registration and Breeder Inclusion

Do you think the system should also be expanded to include cat registrations and cat breeder registrations?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 1,413

The expansion of the system to include cat registration and cat breeder registration was strongly supported.



Figure 28: Inclusion on the Centralised Registration Systems

Do you think any of the following additional information should be included on the centralised registration system?

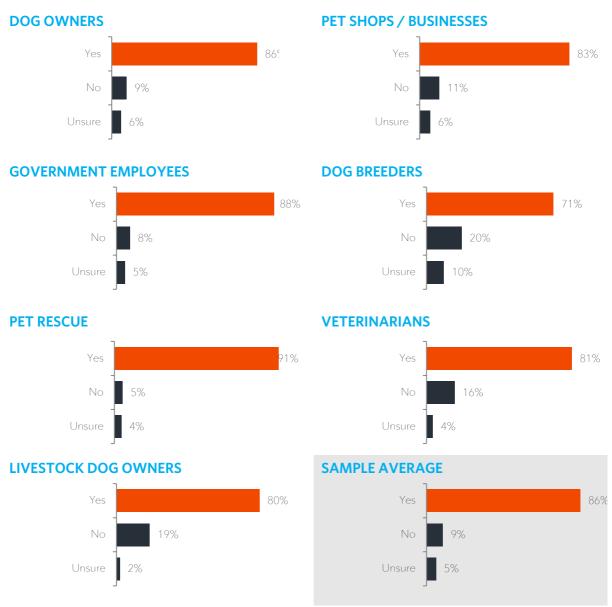
| | DOG OWNERS | PETSHOP BUSINESS | GOVT EMPLOYEES | DOG BREEDERS | PET RESCUE | VETS | LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS | SAMPLE AVERAGE |
|--|---------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Dog owner's subject to Court orders or convicted of particular offences | 77% | 76% | 79% | 67% | 81% | 75% | 69% | 78% |
| Pet shops that sell or transfer dogs | 78% | 74% | 75% | 64% | 84% | 78% | 63% | 78% |
| Approved kennel establishments | 76% | 74% | 81% | 56% | 83% | 72% | 58% | 76% |
| Dangerous dogs | 70% | 69% | 76% | 68% | 67% | 80% | 73% | 70% |
| Dogs involved in a dog attack | 66% | 65% | 68% | 65% | 66% | 75% | 71% | 66% |
| Dogs that have been seized by the local government | 63% | 65% | 66% | 54% | 66% | 64% | 63% | 63% |
| Dog management facilities | 62% | 59% | 64% | 45% | 70% | 57% | 46% | 62% |
| Dogs that are subject to a destruction order | 57% | 55% | 61% | 52% | 57% | 61% | 56% | 58% |
| Dogs that have not been controlled by the owner | 52% | 49% | 55% | 45% | 54% | 55% | 58% | 53% |
| Dogs that have caused a nuisance or are subject to a nuisance complaint | 43% | 44% | 46% | 39% | 42% | 48% | 40% | 44% |
| Other - Please specify | 11% | 11% | 12% | 16% | 11% | 8% | 15% | 11% |
| n | 1,007 | 148 | 243 | 298 | 584 | 130 | 52 | 1,161 |

The most popular items to be included on the centralised registration system are dog owners that that are subject to Court orders or convicted for particular offences under particular Acts, information about pet shops that sell or transfer dogs and approved kennel establishments.



Figure 29: Veterinarian Inputting Details in the System

Do you think veterinarians should be able to update and input dog's microchip and sterilisation details into the system?



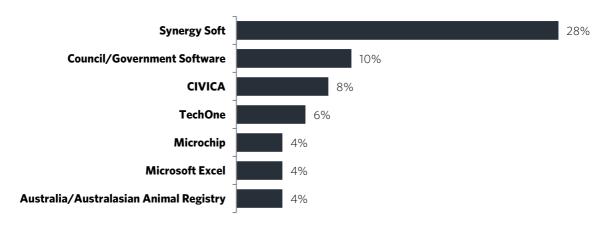
Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 1,255

All groups largely agreed that veterinarians should be able to update and input dog's microchip and sterilisation details into the proposed system. A significant 81% of veterinary nurses or veterinarians in the sample agreed with the proposal.



Figure 30: Dog Registration Software (Local Government Question)

What software do you currently use for your dog register?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 50

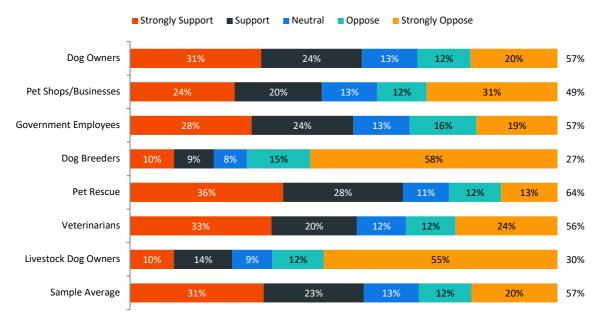
The most commonly used registration software was Synergy Soft, with around 28% of respondents commenting that they use it. Council software was the second most popular.

6.2 Source of Funding

Respondents were asked to indicate their level of support towards increasing dog registration fees for various groups to fund a streamlined centralised registration system.

Figure 31: Increasing Dog Registration Fees to Fund a Streamlined Centralised Registration System

Overall, how supportive are you of increasing dog registration fees charged to dog owners to fund a streamlined centralised registration system and to fund enforcement activities?

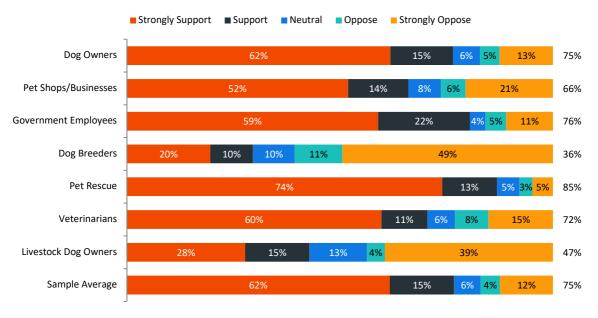


Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,104; average scores are shown to the right



Figure 32: Increasing Dog Registration Fees for Owners For Dogs that are Not De-Sexed

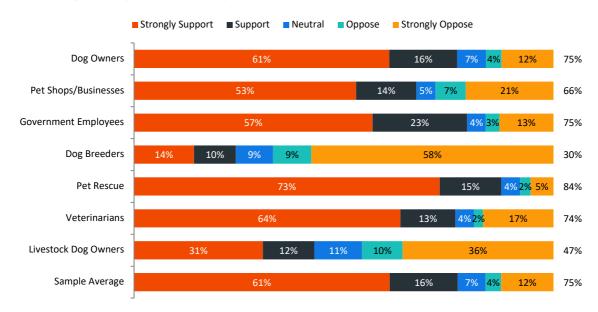
Overall, how supportive are you of increasing dog registration fees charged to dog owners for dogs that are not de-sexed to encourage de-sexing?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,179; average scores are shown to the right

Figure 33: Introduction of an Annual Registration Fee for Dog Breeders

Overall, how supportive are you of the introduction of an annual registration fee for dog breeders to fund a streamlined centralised registration system and to fund enforcement activities?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,166; average scores are shown to the right

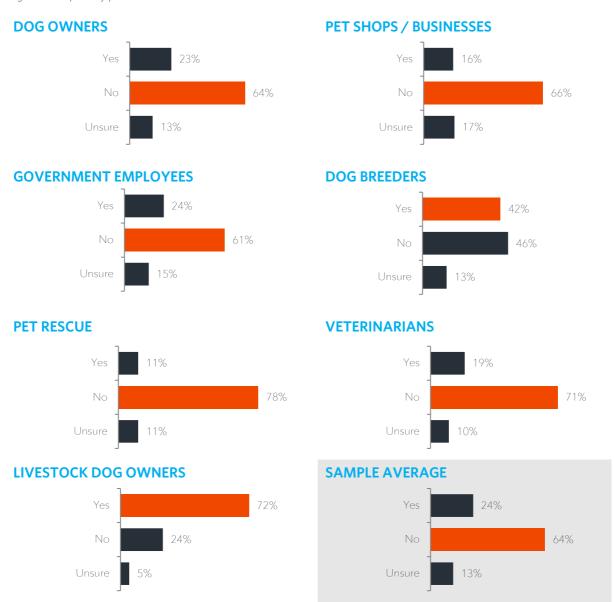
Overall, there was a mixed level of support for the increased registration fees for all dog owners. A proposal to increase registration fees to non de-sexed dog owners was met with higher support, with an average score of 75%. The same average score was achieved for the proposal to introduce an annual registration fee for dog breeders. Dog breeder groups generally opposed all registration fee propositions.



6.3 Dog Breeder Registration Exemptions

Figure 34: Exemptions - Primary Producers

Should primary producers in WA be exempt from registering as dog breeders where they breed and transfer livestock working dogs to other primary producers?

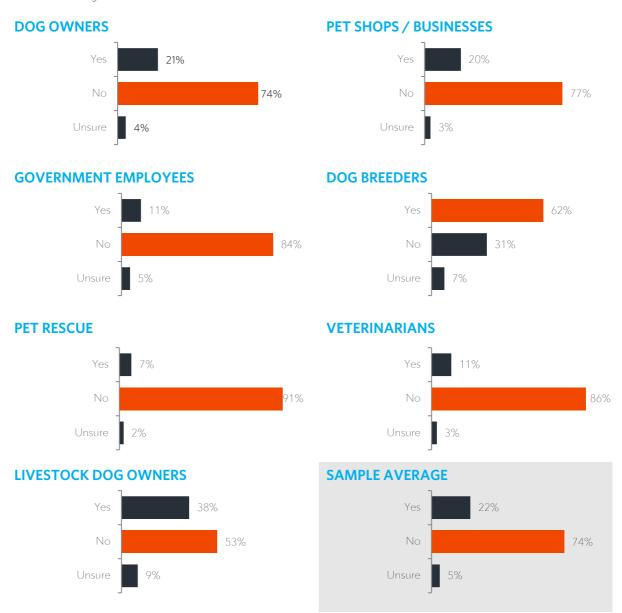


Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 1,291



Figure 35: Exemptions - Members of Dog Breeding Association

Should particular dog breeders that are members of particular dog breeding associations be exempt from registering with the Government as dog breeders?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 1,299

Overall, respondents have indicated little support for exempting primary producers and members of dog breeding associations from registering as dog breeders with their local government. Livestock working dog owners were the only category that supported an exemption for primary producers, whilst dog breeders were the only category that supported an exemption for members of dog breeding associations.



7 MANDATORY STANDARDS

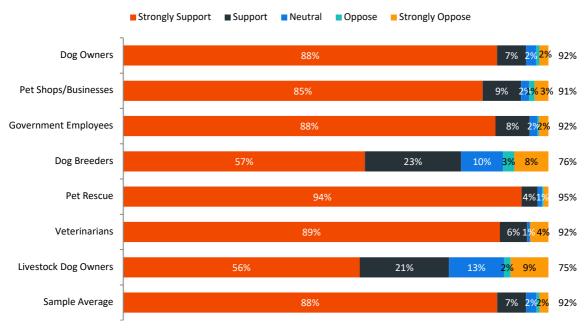
INITIATIVE

Western Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Dogs are currently under development by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). These standards will establish the minimum level of care and management required to meet dog welfare, safety and health needs and encourage the humane treatment of all dogs kept in WA.

7.1 Overall Sample

Figure 36: Introduction of Minimum Standards that People who Breed Dogs must Comply with to Ensure the Health and Welfare of their Dogs

Overall, how supportive are you of the introduction of minimum standards that people who breed dogs must comply with to ensure the health and welfare of their dogs?



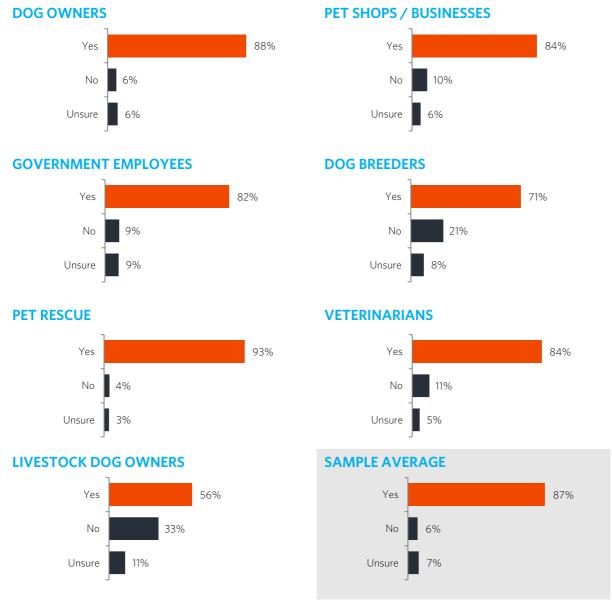
Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,488

The proposition to introduce minimum standards for dog breeders to comply with, in order to ensure the health and welfare of dogs, was the most supported initiative. All stakeholder groups except dog breeders and livestock working dog owners expressed an overall support level of over 90%. In addition, there were large proportions of very supportive respondents in all groups.



Figure 37: Number of Litters

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



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,379

Overall, respondents agreed that the number of litters that a bitch can produce should be restricted by law.

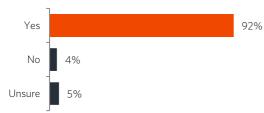


7.2 **Additional Standards**

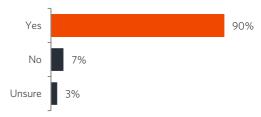
Figure 38: Additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards

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

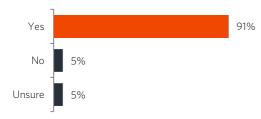




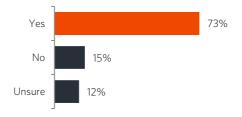
PET SHOPS / BUSINESSES



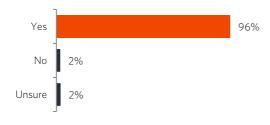
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



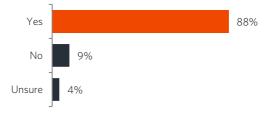
DOG BREEDERS



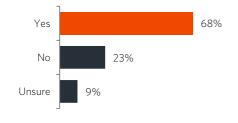
PET RESCUE



VETERINARIANS



LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS



SAMPLE AVERAGE



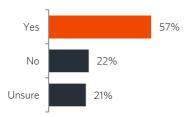
Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 3,217



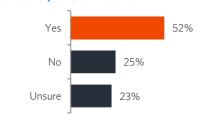
Figure 39: Basis for Additional Standards

Should these additional standards be based on the number of breeding dogs?

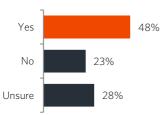
DOG OWNERS



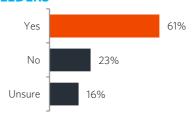
PET SHOPS / BUSINESSES



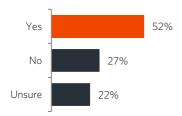
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES



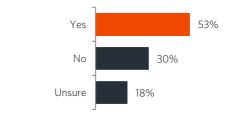
DOG BREEDERS



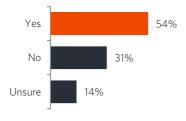
PET RESCUE



VETERINARIANS



LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 2,884

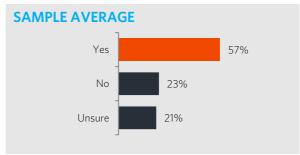
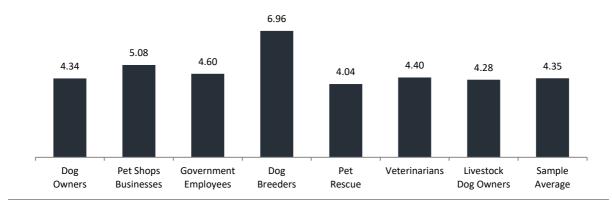




Figure 40: Number of Dogs for Additional Standards

What number of breeding dogs?



Culture Counts 2018; Total Sample Size; n = 1,199

Figure 41: Other Criteria that Should Inform Additional Standards

Are there any other criteria that should inform additional standards?

| | DOG OWNERS | PET SHOPS BUSINESSES | GOV EMPLOYEES | DOG BREEDERS | DOG RESCUE | VETS | LIVESTOCK DOG OWNERS | SAMPLE AVERAGE |
|--|---------------|-------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Maximum number of litters per year for each female breeding dog | 96% | 96% | 92% | 88% | 95% | 94% | 87% | 95% |
| Minimum standards for breeding environment (appropriate care/food/shelter) | 95% | 95% | 96% | 82% | 95% | 94% | 85% | 95% |
| Maximum age for breeding | 95% | 96% | 91% | 88% | 96% | 95% | 80% | 94% |
| Minimum space requirement | 94% | 93% | 95% | 75% | 94% | 94% | 90% | 94% |
| Mandatory vet checks | 93% | 89% | 89% | 64% | 94% | 95% | 70% | 93% |
| Mandatory inspections (conditions, number of litters per dog, etc.) | 91% | 86% | 91% | 60% | 94% | 95% | 73% | 91% |
| Maximum number of dogs per breeder/employee | 86% | 84% | 85% | 58% | 89% | 82% | 67% | 86% |
| Other - please specify | 13% | 29% | 10% | 17% | 18% | 14% | 15% | 13% |
| n | 1761 | 94 | 158 | 190 | 339 | 100 | 60 | 1,916 |



A vast majority of respondents support the introduction of the additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards for people who breed dogs for commercial gain. Just over half of them agreed that the standards should be based on the number of breeding dogs. The number of breeding dogs was largely consistent among stakeholder groups and averaged around four dogs. Dog breeder groups suggested that the standards be based on almost eight dogs. The other top responses to inform additional standards included, a maximum number of litters per year for each female breeding dog, minimum standards for breeding environment and maximum age for breeding.



8 CONCLUSION

The survey is part of a broader Community Consultation process conducted by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural industries to seek views from the public on the stop puppy farming initiatives, its implementation and impact. Four main initiatives proposed:

- Transition of pet shops into adoption centres that will only sell puppies and dogs from approved rescue organisations and animal shelters
- Mandatory de-sexing of dogs unless an exemption is requested for breeding purposes or for reasons stated by a registered veterinarian
- A centralised registration system to ensure every dog and puppy can be identified at the point of sale or adoption, including in advertisements for sale
- Mandatory standards for dog breeding, housing, husbandry, transport and sale

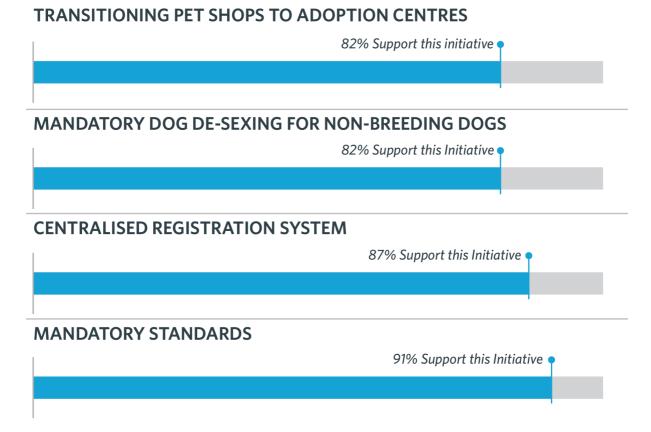
Overall, 3,944 responses were received through the online survey and on-site surveying at events. Seven main stakeholder groups were represented:

- Dog owners
- Pet shops/ businesses
- Government employees
- Dog breeders
- Pet rescue
- Veterinarians
- Livestock dog owners

The majority of respondents (87%) have identified themselves as dog owners, so average sample results are largely influenced by this group's responses.



The results of this survey demonstrate that overall there was a high level of support for all four initiatives.



Dog breeders and livestock dog owner groups generally opposed the initiatives, except for the Mandatory Standards initiative. This initiative had the largest approval with all stakeholder groups supporting the proposition.

The survey results summarise stakeholder's opinions on the way the initiatives should be implemented, give an indication of what impact they may have on the general public and businesses, and outline various options to fund the initiatives. The findings are intended to assist the Department in the development of optimal implementation options.

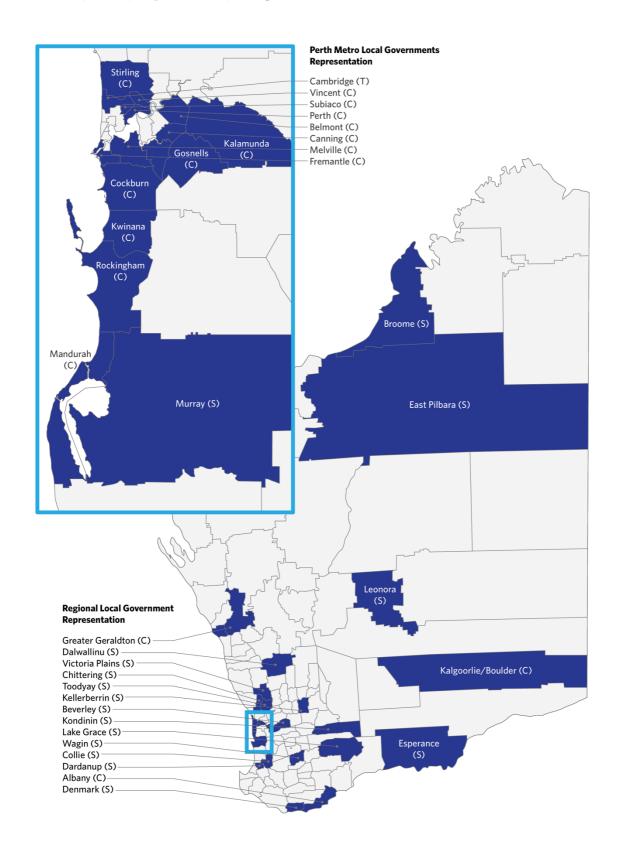


9 APPENDIX 1: STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

| STAKEHOLDER GROUP | RESPONSES SELECTED | NUMBER OF RESPONSES | |
|-----------------------|---|---------------------|--|
| Dog Owners | Dog owner | 3,104 | |
| Dog Owners | Past or planned dog owner | 556 | |
| Pet Shop / Businesses | Pet shop owner/operator | 40 | |
| | Pet business | 156 | |
| Government Employee | Local government employee or elected member | 125 | |
| Government Employee | Other government authority | 191 | |
| Dog Breeder | Dog breeder | 276 | |
| Dog breeder | Member of dog breeder association | 358 | |
| Dog Rescue | Shelter or recue organisation employee or volunteer | 491 | |
| | Dog foster carer | 397 | |
| Veterinarian | Veterinarian | 67 | |
| v etermanan | Veterinary nurse | 96 | |
| Livestock Dog Owner | Livestock working dog owner | 147 | |



10 APPENDIX 2: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATION





11 APPENDIX 3: RESPONSES BY DEMOGRAPHICS

Two core trends have emerged across all four initiatives:

- Female respondents have expressed a higher level of support compared to male and in another way groups
- Younger age demographics (under 20 to 39 year old) were significantly more supportive than older demographics (40 to 60+ years old)

11.1 Transitioning Pet Shops to Adoption Centres

Figure 42: Transition pet shops to adoption centres - Gender Comparison

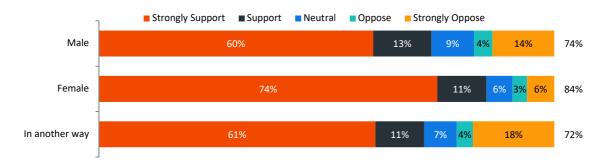
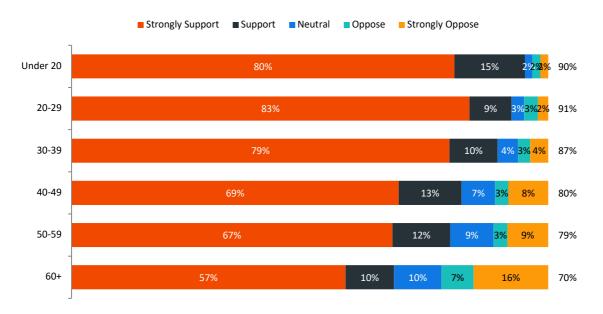


Figure 43: Transition pet shops to adoption centres - Age Comparison





11.2 Mandatory De-sexing for Non-breeding Dogs

Figure 44: Mandatory de-sexing for non-breeding dogs - Gender Comparison

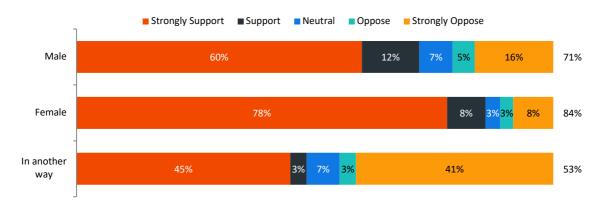
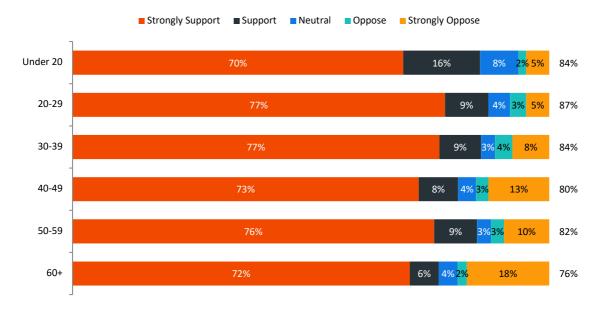


Figure 45: Mandatory de-sexing for non-breeding dogs - Age Comparison





11.3 Centralised Registration System

Figure 46: Introduction of a centralised registration system - Gender Comparison

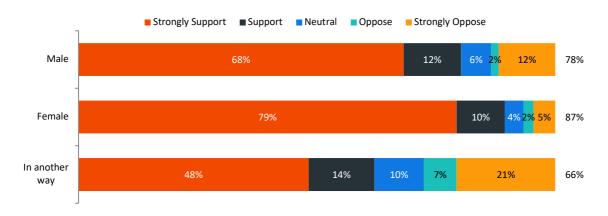
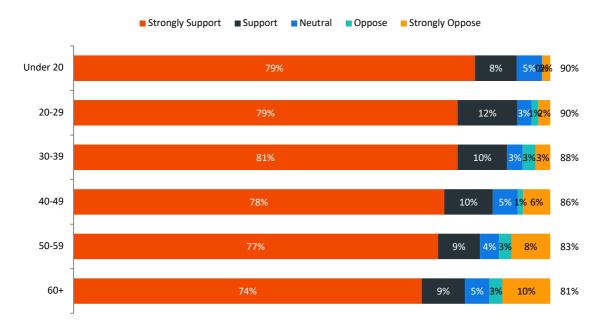


Figure 47: Introduction of a centralised registration system - Age Comparison





11.4 Mandatory Standards

Figure 48: Introduction of minimum standards that people who breed dogs must comply with to ensure the health and welfare of their dogs

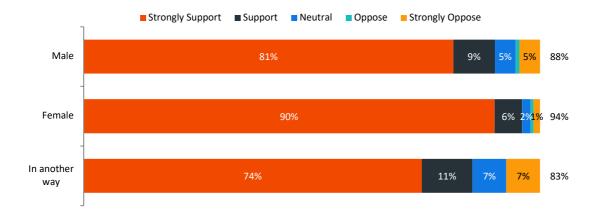
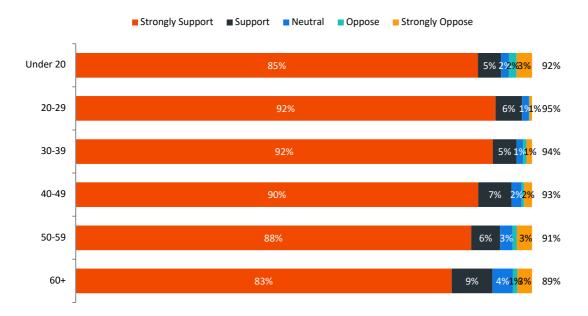


Figure 49: Introduction of minimum standards that people who breed dogs must comply with to ensure the health and welfare of their dogs





12 APPENDIX 4: SURVEY QUESTIONS

- 1. Do any of the following apply to you?
 - Dog Owner
 - Livestock Working Dog Owner
 - Pet Shop Owner Or Operator
 - Pet Business
 - Veterinarian
 - Local Govt. Employee Or Elected Member
 - Other Government Authority Or Agency Employee
 - Dog Breeder
 - Member Of A Dog Breeder Association
 - Shelter Or Rescue Organisation Employee Or Volunteer
 - Dog Foster Carer
 - Veterinary Nurse
 - Dog Lover
 - Past Or Planned Dog Owner
 - Other Please Specify
 - None Of The Above

Custom - Multiplechoice

2. Please specify.

Custom - Shorttext

- 3. Could you provide the name of the local government authority that you represent?

 Custom Shorttext
- 4. Currently, there are no restrictions on where pet shops can source the dogs they sell. It is intended that pet shops will be transitioned to adoption centres. Pet shops will only be able to source dogs from accredited dog rescues or shelters that have been properly assessed for health and behaviour.

Custom - Message

- 5. Would you purchase a behaviour and health checked rescue dog from a pet shop?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
 - Depends On Specific Factors Please Specify

Custom - Dropdown

6. Please describe the factors that would influence your decision.

Custom - Freetext

- 7. What information should be provided to a purchaser of a rescue dog from a pet shop?
 - Age Of Dog
 - Confirmation Of The Dog'S Sterilisation And Vaccination Status
 - Confirmation Of The Health And Behaviour Assessment
 - Name Of The Rescue Organisation Or Shelter From Which The Dog Was Sourced
 - Location Of The Rescue Organisation Or Shelter From Which The Dog Was Sourced



- Confirmation That The Rescue Organisation Or Shelter Is Properly Accredited
- Dog's History
- Breed/S
- Temperament / Any Known Behavioural Issues
- Behaviour Towards Children, Other Dogs And Other Animals
- Level Of Training
- Grooming, Socialisation And Exercise Needs
- Share Of Profit From Sale Of Dog Returned To Rescue Organisation And Share Provided To Pet Shop
- Other Please Specify

Custom - Multiplechoice

8. Please specify other background information that you think should be provided.

Custom - Freetext

- 9. Overall, how supportive are you of the proposal to transition pet shops to adoption centres?

 Custom Slider
- 10. As a Pet Shop Owner or Operator, what impact do you expect this proposal will this have on *your* business?

Custom - Slider

11. Please explain why you have provided this response.

Custom - Freetext

12. Under the new proposal, pet shops will only be able to source puppies and dogs for sale from 'properly accredited' rescue organisations or shelters. Dog rescue organisations and shelters will be accredited by the State Government.

Custom - Message

- 13. Is your organisation likely to apply to be an accredited rescue organisation or shelter that can provide dogs to pet shops?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure
 - Depends On Specific Factors Please Specify

Custom - Dropdown

14. Please describe the factors that would influence this.

Custom - Freetext

- 15. If the proposal is to go ahead, at the end of the transition period, is your pet shop likely to source dogs from accredited dog rescue organisations and shelters?
 - Yes
 - No, The Pet Shop Will Cease To Sell Dogs
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown



- 16. Should pet shops have to register with a relevant authority if they sell dogs?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

- 17. Currently, dogs are not required to be de-sexed in Western Australia. It is intended to introduce mandatory de-sexing of dogs by the time they reach a particular age unless the dog is used for breeding purposes or an exemption is requested for reasons stated by a registered veterinarian.

 Custom Message
- 18. Is your dog de-sexed?
 - Yes
 - No.
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

- 19. At what age was it de-sexed?
 - Before 3 Months
 - Between 3 And 6 Months
 - Between 6 And 12 Months
 - Over 12 Months
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

20. Overall, how supportive are you of mandatory de-sexing for non-breeding dogs?

Custom - Slider

- 21. Should mandatory dog de-sexing apply to all dogs or just dogs born after a particular date?
 - All Existing Dogs in WA from a specified period after the new provisions come into Effect
 - Just Dogs Born After A Specific Date
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

22. Exemptions for mandatory de-sexing will apply for health and welfare reasons as assessed by a veterinarian, or if the dog owner is a registered breeder. Greyhounds that are registered with Racing and Wagering WA will also be exempt from the requirement.

Custom - Message

- 23. Should livestock working dogs be exempt as a class from mandatory dog de-sexing?

 Custom Yesno
- 24. Dogs held for breeding purposes will be exempt from the requirement for de-sexing. This could be applied at the level of the individual owner or by membership of recognised organisations. Should members of recognised breeding associations be exempt from the mandatory de-sexing requirement through their membership status?

Custom - Yesno

25. Is there any other class of dogs that should be exempt from mandatory de-sexing?

Custom - Yesno



- **26.** Please specify and provide reasons for your preference that this class of dogs is exempt. *Custom Freetext*
- 27. Currently under the Dog Act, the local government is responsible for keeping a record of dogs registered in their district. The local government issues each dog registered in their district with a registration number and a registration tag. Dog breeders in Western Australia are not currently required to register as 'dog breeders'. They are, like all dog owners, required to register their dogs with their local government.

Custom - Message

28. It is intended that a centralised registration system will be introduced to record dog registration, dog breeder registrations and any change in ownership of dogs or puppies. The objective of a centralised registration system is to allow authorities to identify and monitor all dog owners and dog breeders for compliance with all relevant laws.

Custom - Message

- 29. Overall, how supportive are you of the introduction of a centralised registration system? Custom - Slider
- 30. Overall, how supportive are you of increasing dog registration fees charged to dog owners to fund a streamlined centralised registration system and to fund enforcement activities?

 Custom Slider
- 31. Overall, how supportive are you of increasing dog registration fees charged to dog owners for dogs that are not de-sexed to encourage de-sexing?

 Custom Slider
- 32. Overall, how supportive are you of the introduction of an annual registration fee for dog breeders to fund a streamlined centralised registration system and to fund enforcement activities?

Custom - Slider

- 33. Local governments are currently responsible for processing, approving and enforcing dog registrations. Do you think local government is best placed to enforce dog breeder registration?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

34. Do you think the system should also be expanded to include cat registrations and cat breeder registrations?

Custom - Yesno

- 35. Do you think any of the following additional information should be included on the centralised registration system?
 - Approved Kennel Establishments
 - Dog Management Facilities



- Pet Shops That Sell Or Transfer Dogs
- Dangerous Dogs
- Dog Owner'S Subject To Court Orders Or Convicted Of Particular Offences
- Dogs That Have Been Seized By The Local Government
- Dogs Involved In A Dog Attack
- Dogs That Have Not Been Controlled By The Owner
- Dogs That Have Caused A Nuisance Or Are Subject To A Nuisance Complaint
- Dogs That Are Subject To A Destruction Order
- Other Information Please Specify

Custom - Multiplechoice

36. Please specify.

Custom - Freetext

- 37. Do you think veterinarians should be able to update and input dog's microchip and sterilisation details into the system?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

38. What software do you currently use for your dog register?

Custom - Shorttext

- 39. Is your dog currently registered with a lifetime dog registration (i.e. you never have to renew their registration)?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

40. Would you be willing to re-enter your details in the proposed centralised registration system online?

Custom - Yesno

- 41. Should primary producers in WA be exempt from registering as dog breeders where they breed and transfer livestock working dogs to other primary producers?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

- 42. Should particular dog breeders that are members of particular dog breeding associations be exempt from registering with the Government as dog breeders?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

- 43. Should the membership number of a member of a recognised dog breeding association be used as their Government dog owner number?
 - Yes
 - No



Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

44. Western Australian Standards and Guidelines for the Health and Welfare of Dogs are currently under development by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD). These standards will establish the minimum level of care and management required to meet dog welfare, safety and health needs and encourage the humane treatment of all dogs kept in WA.

Custom - Message

45. Overall, how supportive are you of the introduction of minimum standards that people who breed dogs must comply with to ensure the health and welfare of their dogs?

Custom - Slider

- 46. Should there be any restrictions on who can register as a dog breeder?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

- 47. What should these restrictions include?
 - No History Of Animal Neglect Or Abuse
 - Appropriate Property Conditions (E.G. Clean, Enough Space For Animals)
 - Other Background Checks (Such As Working With Children Or Police Clearance Checks)
 - Other Please Specify

Custom - Multiplechoice

48. Please specify.

Custom - Freetext

- 49. Should the number of litters that a bitch can produce be restricted by law?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

- 50. Should people who breed dogs for commercial gain be required to meet additional Mandatory Dog Breeding Standards?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

- 51. Should these additional standards be based on the number of breeding dogs?
 - Yes
 - No
 - Unsure

Custom - Dropdown

52. What number of breeding dogs?

Custom - Number



53. Are there any other criteria that should inform additional standards?

- Maximum Number Of Dogs Per Breeder/Employee
- Minimum Space Requirement
- Maximum Number Of Litters Per Year For Each Female Breeding Dog
- Maximum Age For Breeding
- Minimum Standards For Breeding Environment (Appropriate Care/Food/Shelter)
- Mandatory Inspections (Conditions, Number Of Litters Per Dog, Etc.)
- Mandatory Vet Checks
- Other Please Specify

Custom - Multiplechoice

54. Please specify.

Custom - Freetext

55. Thank you for completing this survey. Would you like to receive updates on the Stop Puppy Farming Project?

Custom - Yesno

56. Please provide e-mail address to receive updates on the project.

Custom - Email

57. Gender: How would you describe your gender?

- Male
- Female
- In Another Way

Demographic - Dropdown

58. Age: What is your age?

Demographic - Number

59. Postcode: What is your postcode?

Demographic - Shorttext