

Hon Lisa Baker MLA

Member for Maylands

Parliament House, Perth. WA

I was much relieved to, last week, hear David Templeman announcing \$250,000 in funding for a public consultation process (and working group chaired by yourself), to look into introducing legislation for mandatory dog desexing (save for those of licenced breeders); improved breeding standards (for licenced breeders); standardised registration and tracking, and; removal of puppies from pet shops. Pets – especially cats and dogs - should never be the subject of impulse buying.

Subsequent to compulsory cat desexing, this progressive step of compulsory dog desexing was inevitable. Indeed, I would argue it is even more essential – particularly as there is a disturbingly increasing trend of people keeping large and savage dogs in their back yards for ‘personal security’. However, these dogs are often not trained, socialised or exercised and - desperate to get out - they may jump fences or break gates. Unfortunately, they are all too often not desexed – and with an aggressive temperament. Once at large, and having been brought up to be little more than savage, they are – effectively - a four-legged lethal weapon.

I understand that many in our community continue to hold inherited beliefs that they have some sort of birthright to own a large or savage dog. However, people are increasingly unprepared to take responsibility for the damage their dogs inflict, and councils are often poorly resourced to deal with these monsters (as are our courts).

Moreover, we have a duty to protect law abiding small dog owners, children, the frail and the disabled (including guide dogs) from these death traps.

I would argue that only those driven by greed - and not animal welfare - would oppose compulsory dog desexing, or advocate for the retention of puppy farms and backyard breeding.

Perhaps you could even consider licensing based upon the size of the dog – especially given that some bigger dogs have a greater carbon footprint than a dozen little ones. And, the issue of compulsory muzzles in some public places might also be worthy of consideration.

If there is anything I can do to be off assistance, please let me know. I live in David’s electorate and am confident he would vouch for me.

Kind Regards

Angela Smith

