

**Calculations in relation to Puppy Farms Bill Effects – data requested by the Vic Parliamentary Committee into the “Puppy Farms” Bill**

The Committee requested data in two areas:

1. The likely effects on supply in Vic of eliminating pet shops and commercial breeders as a significant source of puppy/dog supply, and
2. Data to support the assertion that shortage of dog supply in WA was driving up prices.

**SECTION 1 Overview:**

Section 1 (below) outlines a number of scenarios based on known facts in relation to likely effects on supply of pups/dogs in Vic, and the effects of licensing at backyard breeder level.

Notably, because of the Code of Practice and high audit requirements required by the Code and the public, Pet Shops source from currently audited, licensed and registered breeders and are not thus considered here as a separate entity to those breeders.

**Results:** The data clearly shows that:

1. There is already a significant shortfall of puppies/dogs in Victoria beyond that supply from commercial breeders, purebred breeders and adoptions. Part of this shortfall is from interstate transport of tiny pups/kittens, a situation that will be significantly exacerbated if the Bill proceeds. This will result in a worse average animal welfare status for puppies and kittens.
2. The sheer extent of current supply from unlicensed, unregulated, and potentially poor quality “backyard breeders” of substantially less than 10 breeding females has taken even these researchers by surprise. Not only does this render the proposed “10 breeding female” limit scientifically useless, but will require considerable additional Council resources just to manage the current situation, much less any future scenario of the backyard breeder looking to make a quick buck as prices rise. This will result in a worse average animal welfare status for puppies and kittens.
3. Implementing this Bill will NOT result in the shortfall being met within Victoria, even illegally.

**SECTION 2 Overview:**

In an effort to better map shortage of supply issues, Pets Australia took a month-long survey of WA Gumtree dog/puppy advertisements – a state with a worsening dog supply. The parameters of the survey are shown in Section 2 (below).

**Results:** The data shows that, in a supply restricted market

1. “Dog Wanted” advertisements represent more than 50% of total advertising for puppies. This represents families that have made a conscious decision to obtain a pet dog but cannot find the pet of their choosing, OR families that have made a conscious decision to obtain a pet dog but cannot afford a pet of their choosing.  
In other words, supply shortages deny families the pet of their choosing.
2. The average price of a puppy is now more than \$1450.00, and this is significantly biased by working dog breeds and Mastiff crosses fetching much lower prices. Average prices for small dogs are significantly higher than this. That, plus many advertisements actively stating that they seeking low cost pets for families, clearly demonstrates that when supply is restricted and prices rise, working families suffer.

## SECTION 1 – LIKELY EFFECTS ON SUPPLY

### **A) Calculate annual Vic dog/puppy requirements**

1. Assume 4.1 Million dogs in Australia PLUS 15% to allow for those dogs that are owned but not registered (base data Mars 2015 is based on registered dogs only), which is conservative.

**EQUALS 4.7 Million dogs in Australia**

2. Divide dogs according to population density  
Vic = 25% of Australian population (<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/3101.0>)

**EQUALS 1.2 Million dogs in Vic.**

NOTE this is probably an underestimate ratio due to the prevalence of high quality periurban and rural/regional areas in Vic. Note also the ease of transport of livestock along the eastern seaboard.

3. Assume dogs have a 10 year average lifespan – there is no national Australian data on this and is size dependent, but on average around 10years is the norm if puppy deaths are included. Assume that dogs that are lost are replaced

**EQUALS 120,000 puppies/dogs required for replacement annually in Victoria**

### **B) Remove known sources**

4. Remove: DogsVic estimates that there are 1600 active breeders ON THE REGISTER, averaging 8 pups per litter survive, 1.5 litters per year  
EQUALS – approx 19,000 pups per year
5. Remove: DogsVic members producing puppies NOT on the register  
ESTIMATE – approx 10,000 pups per year
6. Remove: production from known commercial, registered, audited breeders  
EQUALS: approx 15,000 pups per year
7. Remove: RSPCA and other adoptions  
EQUALS: 3000 dogs/year (this assumes RSPCA is 60% of all adoptions, but all adoptions are dropping)  
<http://rspcavic.org/about-us/publications/annual-reports/annual-report-2016> )

Current known/identified/regulated supply approx 47,000 pups/dogs/annum

### **C) TOTAL CURRENT SHORTFALL (currently supplied by interstate, backyard breeders and substandard breeders) EQUALS 73,000 Puppies/Dogs per year.**

Assume approx 20% of these are supplied from interstate, others from “backyard breeders”.  
EQUALS 14,600 transferred across state boundaries.

### **D) Bill Adoption Scenario 1. Punish the visible, audited and registered operators:**

Commercial Breeders reduced by 90%  
Purebred breeders reduced by 50%  
Non-registered purebred breeders reduced by 50%

New current supply from currently audited/registered outlets= 19,100  
**TOTAL FUTURE SHORTFALL MINIMUM EQUALS 100,900 Puppies/Dogs/year**  
**This assumes current demand.**

In this scenario more puppies will be sourced from across state boundaries (est 3X) plus illegal breeders.

**E) Bill Adoption Scenario 2: Punish the above PLUS reduce substandard and backyard breeders**

Assume eliminate 50% of backyard and substandard small breeders

New current supply from currently audited/registered outlets= 19,100 BUT illegal operators reduced by 50%

**TOTAL FUTURE SHORTFALL MINIMUM EQUALS 100,900 Puppies/Dogs/year BUT backyard breeders reduced by 50% - resulting in up to 73,000 pups/dogs being shipped from interstate.**

This scenario assumes current demand

**F) Bill Adoption Scenario 3: Punish as above PLUS reduced supply due to higher costs**

Assume that pet ownership drops by 30% as a result of high prices and difficulty obtaining a pet.

New annual demand = 80,000 pups/dogs

New current supply from currently audited/registered outlets= 19,100

NEW CURRENT SHORTFALL= 60,900 pups/dogs

This may be able to be met by illegal “backyard breeders” but is more likely to result in up to 30% shipped from interstate, or 20,300 supplied.

**G) Bill Adoption Scenario 5 – Examine additional licenses required, assuming the parameters in (C).**

Assume that an enterprising “backyard breeder” has a single bitch and has 1.5 litters/year of 8 pups per litter survive.

**CURRENT SHORTFALL IN SCENARIO 1 – 73,000 Pups/dogs/annum, less around 14,600 shipped across state boundaries = 58,400 pups/dogs required from “backyard breeder”.**

Therefore, number of backyard breeders requiring licensing for the first time = 4867 new breeder licenses required to be issued, and premises inspected, by Councils. This would conservatively equate to 62 new breeder licensed NOT INCLUDING those currently licensed, per Council.

NOTE THAT THIS WILL RISE DRAMATICALLY IF PRICES CLIMB.

**SECTION 2 – EFFECT ON PRICES AND AVAILABILITY WHEN SUPPLY BECOMES GENUINELY SHORT.**

Pets Australia mentioned in evidence that the supply issue in WA was now so drastic that there has been a marked jump in “Dogs wanted” advertising and a huge increase in prices.

The below is raw data from a one-month search NOTING THAT THIS WAS CONDUCTED IN NOVEMBER, which is the normal “peak period” for puppy supply/advertising as normal dog fertility cycles peak to produce pups in Spring.

NOTE: Average price is calculated on raw data ONLY – ie total advertised prices divided by number of advertisements in which a price is advertised. It is NOT corrected for the number of pups in each advertisement advertised at that price.

***Criteria of search: one month period on Gumtree, WA only, in order, Pups under 4 months only***

*Exclude: multiples from same advertiser. "Neg" prices phone & check  
THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE PET SHOPS OR BREEDERS WAIT LISTS.*

<b>breed</b>	<b>Waitlist</b>	<b>cost</b>
Cocker		\$1,800
Labrador		\$2,200
unspec	X	
Staffy		\$500
Malt/Shih		\$1,499
Husky		\$600
Bordeaux		\$2,000
Staffy		\$2,000
Dachs	X	
Malt/Shih		\$500
Cattle	X	shelter!
unspec	X	
Beagle		\$1,500
BCollieX		\$500
Staffy		\$500
Puppies		\$1,000
unspec	X	
Staffy		\$2,000
Beagle		\$2,300
Papilon		\$500
unspec		\$500
Staffy X		\$400
Spitz	X	
Bull	X	
ItalGrey		\$1,300
ToyPoodle		\$1,300
mastiff		\$800
Sharpei		\$500
Malt/Shih	X	
Chi		\$1,200
WhiteShep	X	
Husky	X	

<i>unspec</i>	X	
<i>unspec</i>	X	
<i>bully</i>	X	
<i>Schnauz</i>	X	
<i>Gshep</i>		\$2,500
<i>Sharpei</i>		\$1,500
<i>Malt/Shih</i>	X	\$1,400
<i>unspec</i>	X	
<i>basset</i>	X	
<i>Dachsh</i>	X	
<i>Spitz</i>	X	
<i>Corgi</i>	x	
<i>ToyPoodle</i>	X	
<i>Pug</i>	X	
<i>Spoodle</i>	X	\$1,500
<i>Bcollie</i>	X	
<i>Bulldog</i>		\$1,600
<i>Weimar</i>		\$1,200
<i>AustShep</i>	X	
<i>Cavoodle</i>	X	
<i>Staffy</i>		\$2,300
<i>Labrador</i>	X	
<i>CavKC</i>	X	
<i>unspec</i>	X	
<i>unspec</i>	X	
<i>JackR</i>	X	
<i>Maremma</i>		\$500
<i>Bichon</i>	X	
<i>Huntaway</i>		\$400
<i>mastiff</i>		\$400
<i>unspec</i>	X	
<i>Dane</i>		\$2,500
<i>Dane</i>		\$1,500
<i>Golden</i>	X	
<i>Malt/Shih</i>	X	
<i>Golden</i>	X	
<i>Dane</i>		\$2,500
<i>Golden</i>	X	
<i>StagHound</i>		\$350
<i>St Bern</i>	X	
<i>Chi</i>	X	\$3,500
<i>LabX</i>		\$500
<i>MinSchnau</i>		\$2,000
<i>Staffy</i>		\$3,000
<i>Gshep</i>	X	
<i>unspec</i>	X	
<i>StagHound</i>		\$350
<i>Dachsh</i>	X	
<i>Gshep</i>		\$2,200

Maremma		\$500
Ridge		\$500
unspec	X	
unspec	X	
smlbreed	X	
smlbreed	X	
Golden	X	
Gshep		\$2,200
Rott		\$3,000
JackR	X	
Staffy		\$500
StagHound		\$450
Pug	X	
Poodle	X	
Lab	X	\$1,000
Malt/Shih	X	
Pom	X	
unspec	X	
Chi	X	
Poodle	X	
Cocker	X	
bulldog	X	
Bcollie	X	
Staffy X		\$500
smlbreed	X	
AustShep	X	
FrenchBull		\$5,500
ridge		\$1,000
Pug	X	\$2,000
Bcollie	X	
Chi	X	
JackR	X	
lab	X	
FrenchBull		\$5,500
dachsh	X	
St bern	X	
Rott	X	
Amstaff		\$2,000
unspec	X	
Cocker	X	
smlbreed	X	
Tenterfield	X	
StagHound		\$450
JRX		\$500
Westie	X	
unspec	x	
Weimar		\$2,000
AustShep	X	