

**Submission
No 305**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

My comments on motions moved by Mr Anthony Roberts,

A/ Having more paperwork, costs and restrictions is only going to make it harder to spend the time caring for our dogs, we need that time for their general wellbeing, exercise, socialisation etc. It should not be mandatory to keep dogs on concrete or locked up all the time, there should be a choice for each individuals circumstances. The more human interaction and closer contact with dogs/pups has to be better for the dogs.

Spaying and desexing should not be compulsory for the breeders of purebred dogs. There are possible health issues in relation to age and timing.

B/ Having a limit on the number of bitches kept is only going to encourage some to breed more litters from a smaller number of females. Allowing breeders to have more bitches lets them keep prospective young stock to see how they grow and decide if they are suitable for breeding stock or not. When you are trying to breed the best possible dogs for your breed you do need to keep dogs on from different lines so you can bring them in at certain stages of your breeding program. Being limited with the number of bitches you can keep is a lot more likely to lead to lines being too closely bred where no other out crosses can be found. Bitches may be bred from when they should be given more time to mature or older bitches will be bred from at an age when they should be retired. It would be far better to regulate the number of litters allowed rather than the number of bitches kept if need be. There are already council restrictions on the number of dogs kept so this should be enough.

C/ There are already sufficient regulations for member of Dogs NSW and some other breed associations as these associations have their code of ethics that have to be adhered to by members. These relate to care of the dogs, number of litters from bitches, age of breeding etc. The breeding of unregistered and cross bred dogs do need some form of regulation but these should not be added to registered breeders who are already following guidelines.

D/ Banning the sale of dogs and cats from pet shops could be a good idea. Pet shops do not regulate who buys their animals, if you have the money you take the pet home, regardless of if they will suit your family or circumstances. Good breeders are careful of who buys their puppies and ask numerous questions to ensure the new owners know what they are getting and that they are able to care for their new pet. With a pet shop there is no contact down the track for re-homing a pet if the need arises, unlike with a reputable breeder. It is usually the cross bred, mass produced or "free to a

good home” dogs who become a nuisance to the public or who end up in shelters needing to be rehomed.

E/ There should be a body to regulate all backyard breeders and puppy farmers but it should be an unbiased organisation, following it's own regulations not someone like the RSPCA or other animal welfare groups. Dogs NSW and other breed association members with their own strong code of ethics should not have another set of rules imposed on top. Concentrate on the people who are doing the wrong thing instead of adding extra pressure to those who are following the rules now.

There needs to be more public education so people are made aware of the measures registered breeders of purebred dogs do as opposed to what the backyard breeders do not do! A good breeder screens their dogs for any possible hereditary diseases, uses breeding stock of sound temperaments and they provide on going assistance for any buyers. Many backyard breeders are using inferior breeding stock and there is a lot of false information being given out about crossbreds. For example that all the poodle crosses are good for people with allergies where in fact it is only a small percentage and they have to be tested before you can make such a claim. If more advertising was done to make sure people knew more about the pros and cons of these cross breeds it should make them aware that they are not as good as it is made out, hence stopping the huge market encouraging unethical backyard breeders to breed for money.

I have been breeding/showing dogs for 20 years and currently have one of the top winning dogs for my breed in Australia, he having gained numerous championships in other countries as well, with out the option of keeping the different lines of dogs for breeding in the future I would not be able to keep all the options open for having the best possible dogs I can. I also have experience with breeding beef cattle and stud horses so do understand that when breeders are trying improve their stock there should not be added restrictions to hole them back. Responsible breeders want to do their best to improve their chosen breed and eliminate health issues.

Sharon Gilkison

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