

**Submission
No 43**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Madeleine Joel

Date Received: 2/06/2015

Puppy farms need to be strictly regulated in particular to ensure the welfare of the bitches including but not limited to a strict limitation on the frequency and number of times a bitch can be used for breeding as well as a limitation on the age of the bitch before commencing breeding.

Appropriate levels of care to ensure the welfare of dogs should be imposed with inspections carried out without prior notice to ensure compliance. This would include the dogs regularly checked by a vet, having appropriate exercise and social interaction with other dogs and humans.

All puppies/dogs should have to be registered prior to sale and that information retained when the registration is transferred to the new owner so that there is adequate monitoring of the health of dogs from puppy farms, the number of dogs bred by puppy farms and information regarding the number of dogs that end up in the pound.

Such feedback (from vets and pounds) can then be used to impose restrictions and bans on irresponsible or non-compliant breeders as well as set limitations on the number of breeders can obtain registration/certification with the local council/breeding associations .

The breeders should be required to pay licensing fees to councils to cover cost associated with the management of the dog breeding regulations and pound expenses. The increase in fees may be passed on to purchasers which in turn encourage those who buy puppies/dogs from breeders to make a more informed decisions.

Hopefully such steps will reduce the significant number of dogs from puppy farms that end up in pounds and improve the living conditions of the bitches and health of puppies.