

**Submission
No 253**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed

Date Received: 15/06/2015

Partially Confidential

Re: Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales

In response to the terms of reference

a) No opinion on this point other than to say that Victoria has succumbed to pressure of a small handful of minority extremist groups.

b) I agree with this point within reason. If a licensed breeder (local authority registered and compliant) has the means to keep more dogs then this should be assessed on a case by case basis. Breeders are of differing ages and physical ability. They have different land holdings and access to labour to aid in the provision of care (to meet physiological and physical needs of dogs). So a family or small business should have the same restrictions as a sole operator.

c) We fully support a licensing system.

d)

- Pet stores are the only re sellers (registered breeders aside) that offer the consumer full recourse in the event of any claim related to the purchase of a companion animal. Latest 2014 figures from the Australian National Kennel Council reveal that there are some 4.2M pet dogs in Australia with an estimated mortality rate of 10% so demand is estimated at 420,000 dogs per year. Registered breeders (ANKC) account for only 70,000 dogs bred each year or 20%. So the other 350,000 are bred by individuals that are not. Of the total estimated dogs bred each year the Pet Industry Association of Australia put pet shops sales at around 10% or 42,000. This is a drop in the ocean by comparison to the some 70% (ANKC is 20%, pet shops 10%) or almost 300,000 bred in backyards by inexperienced nameless faceless tax dodging individuals around the nation.
- Pet stores are increasingly aware of their moral obligations to pair the right dog with the right owner as a returned pup is a negative experience for everyone involved. A pup sold from a backyard that does not work out is likely to wind up in a rescue (already overloaded) as there is no recourse in law or basic morals and ethics. It is a fact that pet shops do not increase to volumes of dogs at shelters. Since the introduction of the PIAA rehoming program in 2013 there have been only 3 dogs turned in at shelters across all of NSW and QLD. I think the pet retail industry deserves a pat on the back!
- By restricting the sale of dogs in pet stores it almost a certainty that there will be no noteworthy impact as pet shop sales only account for 10% of dogs bred and sold. What you may see is backyarders increase trade to pick up the volume lost which will only serve as a detriment to the consumer as there is no reputable shop front or recourse. More backyard breeding means more tax dollars lost.

- By making it 'cool' to rescue a dog it may just be perpetuating the problem. Rescues, on the whole, seem to be carrying behavioural issues that burden the new owner rather than enrich their lives as a companion animal should. Many are sold the dog as a 'fix it' project or work in progress. I fully support the hard work rescue shelters do but I think the core problem is further down the chain. Pets should be neutered and registered as per requirements for cats. Heavy fines should be handed down to individuals who do not abide.
- There are a few bad eggs in any and every industry. I think the community (mostly under the influence of a handful of extremist groups) has lost sight of what constitutes a puppy farm or mill. They will have you believe that any dog that is pictured behind a grill is suffering a slow and painful death. All dogs need to be contained or they would end up squashed on the road or wild. They will also only give you part of the story or a story that is totally misleading. They seem to have lost all better judgement and can no longer distinguish between the good and the bad. They are trying their hardest to convince the general public that any dog sold in a pet store is a 'farmed' puppy.
- Our breeders strive for healthy well tempered dogs. They do this as they know that if this is not what is provided then there will be recourse just as there is full recourse for our customers. Well natured healthy puppies have well natured healthy parents, period. Over bred poorly cared for dogs produce small litters. To mistreat breeding dogs is counterproductive for any breeder. However, there will always be rogues.

e) No opinion

f) No opinion

Regards

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