

**Submission  
No 40**

# **COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

**Name:** Mrs Joanne Andersen

**Date Received:** 2/06/2015

This is a critical issue that must be addressed by the Parliament.

Unfortunately a lot of the general public believe that by purchasing a puppy through a pet shop they are supporting genuine licensed breeders that have the animals welfare at heart. We all know that this is not the case. Our pounds are overflowing with unwanted animals, many of these come from puppy farms, purchased as babies and discarded once they have reached the "no longer cute" stage of their lives. The simplest way to arrest the number of unwanted and discarded dogs is to close down illegal and unscrupulous puppy factories. These puppy factories have no regard what so ever for the health and well being of the breeding dogs. They are shown no human kindness, some never see the light of day and are kept in appalling conditions. Then once they are no longer suitable for breeding they are destroyed and discarded. This practice has to stop. The loop hole in the current legislation that grossly restricts the powers of the RSPCA to act against these hideous puppy factories needs to be amended asap.

Pet shops should not be allowed to sell puppies. They should be compelled to only offer dogs and puppies that are available through local pounds or legitimate rescue groups.

Dog breeders also need to be licensed (not be breed societies but governing bodies) and must adhere to strict guidelines that can be developed in conjunction with the major welfare organisations ie RSPCA, Animals Australia, Animal Welfare League etc. The RSPCA must be granted stronger powers to enter premises and take the appropriate action against any person/persons found to be breaching the new guidelines. The process of seizing animals deemed to be at risk must also be must simpler and less intrinsic, with the welfare of the animals being the number one priority.

Times are changing and so must this out of date legislation that denies legitimate animal welfare organisations the power they require to protect some of the most vulnerable and misused animals God put on this earth.

We require a strict registration process for all dog breeders. The RSPCA must have the ability to inspect premises and conditions on a regular basis. If strict conditions are not being adhered to a breach notice is issued. Breeders will have a limited time to correct the breach. At re-inspection if the breach has not be adequately corrected the RSPCA will be given the power to close the premises down and seize any animals present until all breaches have been satisfactorily adhered to and corrected.

It is obvious that breed organisations etc do not the legal capabilities to force breeders to adhere to guidelines nor the resources to carry out random inspections of premises. The staffing levels of the RSPCA must be increased accordingly to allow this critical process to be adhered to .

Society as a whole is becoming more and more aware and non accepting of animal abuse, and these farms in their current form are some of the worst forms of animal abuse we are likely to see.