

**Submission
No 247**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal
Breeding Practices in New South Wales
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Committee

Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales

Submission

The current breeding practices of companion animals in Australia are in serious need of reform. The backyard breeder is currently entitled to breed indiscriminately with little to no consequences. As a Vet Nurse and Ranger I am given a unique opportunity to see first hand the consequences for the animal itself. The majority of companion animals being processed through the pound system daily comprises of cross bred animals that are unidentified by the way of microchip. The person responsible for this occurrence has no accountability for the life they produced. New South Wales like other states in Australia has a requirement for all litters to be microchipped before sale or 12 weeks of age. This is evidently not occurring based on the fact that most dogs that arrive at the pound are young and again unmicrochipped. The other issue we see at the pound is companion animals that have been used to produce litters, and are then dumped when their usefulness is worn off. As a vet nurse I often see the unfortunate side effect of unlicensed and unregulated breeding. Neurological issues, conformation issues and behavioral issues are a common side effect of people breeding from unsuitable animals. There is no regard to the suitability of crosses, genetics or conformational faults.

If we were to implement a registering body or licensing system to regulate the breeding practices of companion animals I believe it would be a step in the right direction. Compulsory desexing of companion animal being kept as pets also needs to be considered. Factors that need to be considered in a licensing system are welfare issues such as the amount of animals breeders are allowed to keep; age and health of the bitch, amount of litters per year, and the principle of supply and demand should not be a contributing factor, designer trends and suitability of breeds to be crossed. For example we are seeing Terriers being crossed with Australian Cattle Dogs at an increasing rate; little regard is being given to the fact that neither breed is benefiting from this cross. I also see especially in dogs the increasing need for emergency caesareans to be performed. People are often unaware what type or size of dog has impregnated their bitch and the resulting complications that may occur. Consideration also needs to be given to the housing

and life styles of the animal kept solely for breeding purposes. Along with the licensing factors educational programs also need to be implemented.

There is the massive issue of over breeding occurring all over Australia. It is seen as a persons right to own a dog or cat and to breed as they see fit. Social media is allowing people to advertise the use of their dog or bitch as a suitable breeding prospect simply because they think there pet is amazing and it would be so cute if they had offspring. The over supply of Staffordshire Bull Terriers and there crosses in the pound/rescue system is reaching breaking point. In fact the over supply of companion animals in total in the pound/rescue system is becoming unsustainable. There are more animals euthanized daily as more and more people continue to allow their pets to breed indiscriminately. Just one litter, desexing is too expensive, it's not manly to remove my dogs testicles are excuses I hear everyday. How do you explain that to the dog you have no choice left but to euthanize?

I don't think Pet Shops need to be totally banned from selling companion animals. I would like to see Pet Shops support rescue groups by holding adoptions days, and not purchasing juvenile animals off puppy farmers or backyard breeders. It is the responsibility of the animal industry as a whole to become more responsible.

Without change in the breeding practices of companion animals pounds will continue to have no choice left but to euthanize healthy animals. Until the responsibility of litters is put back onto the breeders, indiscriminate breeding and over supply of animals will continue. In conclusion I support a breeders' licensing system to be established. It can only lead to fewer animals paying the price for their irresponsible owners.



Yours faithfully

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RANGER
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