

**Submission  
No 69**

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

Name: Name Suppressed  
Date Received: 2/06/2015

*Partially Confidential*

[REDACTED]

I am a small animal veterinarian living and working in regional NSW. I have major concerns about the existence and practices of puppy farming and the massive overpopulation of dogs and cats in Australia.

The veterinary clinic I work in has the contract for the local pound to euthanise any animals that are not claimed after 7 days in the pound. This results in multiple healthy animals being euthanised every week in our clinic.

I believe there is absolutely no place or need for puppy farming in Australia. There are situations where both the breeding animals and the puppies often live in poor conditions and do not receive appropriate healthcare.

I believe it should be a legal requirement that all pet dogs and cats are desexed (as well as microchipped and registered) unless the owner has a licence to breed (eg registered breeders). The licence would include an inspection of the premises, the potential breeder showing they have a legitimate market for their puppies/kittens and include an annual fee. This would also reduce the number of 'backyard breeders' (people with no experience breeding that do it because they think they will earn some money by selling puppies or kittens and/or think that their animal needs to experience having a litter to be fulfilled in life). Backyard breeders are also contributing to the massive oversupply of dogs and cats and their needs to be stricter rules on pet ownership to limit this.

I also have major concerns about pet shops selling puppies and kittens. These pet shops often buy poorly bred dogs from both puppy farms and backyard breeders, encouraging breeding due to the financial incentive. The pet shops are often located in shopping malls and place puppies and kittens in front windows for people walking past to see. They rely on impulse buying due to the 'cute' factor of the young animals. This results in people buying animals for the wrong reason, often not because they have really considered a new pet but because they couldn't resist the cute animal they have just seen in the window. These sorts of purchases of animals are more likely to result in animals being rehomed, abandoned at the pound or RSPCA or euthanised when the pet becomes an adult.

I strongly urge the Committee to ban puppy farming in Australia and make it a legal requirement that all pet dogs and cats be desexed unless the owner is licensed for breeding.

[REDACTED]

Regards,

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