COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Date Received: 14/06/2015

11th June 2015

Dr Marie Louise Dreux

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To: NSW Parliamentary Inquiry Investigating Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW.

To Whom it May Concern:

I would like to draw the Committee's attention to recent changes in these practices in other jurisdictions, which better reflect the need for ensuring animal welfare and avoiding animal cruelty. At present NSW is lagging behind in these matters. This in no way seeks to impact on reputable breeders, but on those breeders who disregard animal and community welfare in so-called „puppy mills".

Implementing a breeder's licensing system would protect reputable breeders, while impacting on the disreputable and criminal. The Companion Animals Register should be updated to capture breeder licence information for each animal record. Many nations now have a centralized, computerized data base of animals, which both protects the animals and the community. The enforcement of microchipping laws, where animals may be readily identified, would protect the community from animals identified as dangerous, and animals themselves from exploitation or loss.

Likewise banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores would result in many of the animal welfare issues stemming from this practice disappearing. While the majority of pet stores no longer sell dogs and cats, a minority continue the practice resulting in serious animal welfare issues and suffering, and significant costs for local and state government.

Changing legislation must be backed up by enforceable standards, otherwise they become nothing more than guidelines ignored by the unscrupulous. This must include state prosecuting agencies having the power to apply for effective court orders relating to the ongoing ownership of animals, including costs and the prohibition from animal ownership by those engaging in exploitation and cruelty.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my submission.
Yours Sincerely,

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Marie Louise Dreux