

**Submission  
No 3**

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

**Name:** Mr Phillip Evans  
**Date Received:** 20/05/2015

I have been involved in companion animal training, husbandry and regulation since 1975, I currently manage the [REDACTED] Companion Animals Shelter making me both a consumer and supplier in the companion animal industry. In this capacity I regularly deal with the results of poor breeding practices.

The importance of the breeding environment, socialising and selection in the husbandry of companion animals going into pet homes is incredibly understated in this debate.

Large scale breeding establishments often paint themselves as an agricultural enterprise. They are NOT like farmers and graziers breeding protein for the table, these animals are going into families homes, nor are they subject to a Code of Ethics and regulation in the way that breeders registered with organisations such as Dogs NSW are.

Ban them and resource animal welfare agencies with adequate legislation and funding to enforce it.

I support responsible breeders who:

- \* Do not sell their pups to or through pet stores. Instead, they personally screen and select homes for their puppies, advise people on caring for the breed, turn away people whose lifestyle, commitment or home situation does not fit the breed, test for and guarantee the health and temperament of their puppies, have detailed documentation of their pups' lineage, demonstrate knowledge about canine health, genetics, socialization and development, and take back their animals at any time and age if the buyers cannot keep them.
- \* Do not sell multiple breeds of dogs, since they specialize in one or two breeds.
- \* Demonstrate extensive knowledge of the breed's history, traits, temperament, and conformation because they have years of experience with the breed.
- \* Are involved in the showing of purebred dogs. This can take the form of respected dog shows, and competitions involving obedience trials, Agility and other dog sports . Show and performance events enable responsible breeders to ensure that their dogs display the desired physical and behavioral traits desired for the particular breed.
- \* Value their reputation for seeking to improve the breed. They do not sell pups as a for-profit business. Indeed, many reputable breeders lose money, since breeding and caring for puppies in a responsible, quality-focused manner is typically expensive. They breed only dogs that are themselves good pets and fine representatives of their breed.
- \* Evaluate the health of their pups using sound, standardised genetic and other testing recommended for the individual breed. Thorough genetic screening enables responsible breeders to minimize their chances of producing a health-compromised puppy.
- \* Provide full, lifetime written guarantees covering genetic disease and temperament problems.
- \* Take back the dog at any point in his or her life for whatever reason the purchaser no longer wants or can care for the animal.
- \* Place all pet quality animals with a contract requiring the purchaser to spay/neuter the pup.
- \* Provide advice and guidance to purchasers, placing pups only with people who demonstrate they can provide safe, responsible homes.
- \* Breeds from mature dogs only and in accordance veterinary advice on the number of times bred.
- \* Line up qualified buyers in advance of birth of a litter and rarely ever advertise.
- \* Do not separate a pup from the mother and litter before 8 weeks of age.

When the commercial breeding industry can support, endorse and fulfill these standards then look at regulating and properly auditing them but until that day comes BAN THEM!