

**Submission
No 10**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW

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Our family bought a pup at a pet shop in [REDACTED] in 2009. We strongly suspect this pup came from a "puppy farm" for the following reasons:

1. The pet shop staff refused to give us the name of the breeder.
2. When I complained about the pup's health problems, they did not get back to me.
3. The pup had multiple health problems which indicated likely intensive breeding and poor care:

-mites in the ears

-shaved leg consisted with IV access for possible dehydration

-bilateral dislocating patellae, and bilateral dysplastic hips causing her pain and reduced mobility. This has cost us several thousand dollars (for vet bills, physiotherapy and surgery).

We bought this pup on impulse, and I feel herein lies the problem with selling animals in pet shops. I have grown up with animals (my father was a vet), and so was prepared to care for the pup no matter what, and we had talked about getting a dog. But there is a real danger that impulse buys from pet shops will result in people unprepared to care for the animal when they get t home.

I am opposed to companion animals being sold at pets shops because of:

-impulse buying

-lack of ability to verify the animal's background

Banning dog and cat sales in pet stores can only be positive. People will need to consider their options when purchasing such a pet. The sale of animals through newspapers etc should also be banned.

I strongly support a strict licensing system for breeders. Every effort should be made, in this civilised society, to protect defenceless animals from exploitation and cruelty fuelled by greed. There needs to be a transparent situation where all breeders of animals purchased can be contacted, and premises inspected if needed. We do this for food production, and the welfare of animals is just as important.

