

**Submission  
No 246**

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

**Name:** Miss Ashley Avci  
**Date Received:** 15/06/2015

Dear Joint Standing Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Inquiry into Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales.

Intensive breeding of animals is inhumane. Companion animals continue to be abused in intensive breeding facilities around New South Wales with investigations revealing a lack of veterinary care, unhygienic conditions and overcrowding. Many people in New South Wales continue to purchase dogs from intensive breeders with little information about these terrible conditions.

I therefore call on you to introduce the following to protect our animals:

1. A legislated breeder licensing program in New South Wales that sets strict standards on adequate housing, exercise, socialisation, hygiene and food. It must require not only an initial certification but also annual inspections by established Independent Office of Animal Welfare inspectors to ensure the standards are being met. There must be significant penalties for anyone breeding animals outside the breeder licensing system.
2. Establishment of a Government funded Responsible Pet Ownership Program.
3. Breeders must provide the purchasers with information on responsible pet ownership, information on general natures of the breed of animal in order to enhance the chance of the animal not being returned or surrendered.
4. A limit on the number of animals a registered breeder can have on their property, to ensure better animal welfare outcomes. I suggest a maximum of four breeding animals in accordance with estimated litter rates. Litter numbers generally consist between 4 and 6 animals. Thus, 24 companion animals could be for sale at any one time. Due to the high rate of euthanasia in Australia, this number is more than enough.
5. A limit on the number of times an animal can be bred in its life, as well as protections for animals that have reached the end of their breeding cycle.
6. Mandatory de-sexing of companion animals that have reached the end of their breeding cycle.
7. A total ban on the sale of companion animals in pet shops, or at least a requirement that only animals from approved rescue shelters be allowed in pet shops.
8. A ban on the selective breeding of animals for characteristics that are physically or psychologically harmful to the animal itself or to others, for example breeding that makes a dog more aesthetically pleasing but compromises their health.

9. Breeders must provide their permit number when advertising on unregulated sites such as [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. This will prevent backyard breeders and unlicensed breeders from selling the animals.
10. Mandatory desexing of companion animals before the final sale.
11. The inclusion of these restrictions on kittens and breeding of cats.

Overall, I am exceptionally saddened to continually see the high numbers of companion animals surrendered and further euthanized at the local pounds in Western Sydney. Too often are volunteers under mental, physical and financial stress trying to rescue the influx of animals surrendered weekly; which included myself. Something desperately needs to be done.

Yours Sincerely,

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Member of the Law Society, Young Lawyers, Animal Law Committee.

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