

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed
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Partially Confidential

I would like to see the 'puppy farms' closed down for more reasons than can be put here. I am disgusted at the appalling conditions animals are kept in and the way they are treated is abysmal - I would like to see the owners kept and treated like that but I don't think that is the point of this inquiry. I don't think the removal of puppy farms is the question...I think we all know that we have no choice but to do that. The question is how do we stop them and what can we put in place? I think there needs to be licensing for the breeding of companion animals, like there is for reptiles and amphibians (import/export licence). Breeders should be registered. Likewise, people purchasing animals wholesale should have a checklist regarding where the animal has come from and in what circumstances they were kept and this should be an auditable record. I am not trying to penalise backyard breeders who love their animals and breed them on an irregular basis. It needs to apply to those who have large numbers of animals and are making gross profits at the expense of the animals. Pet shops should be legislated that more than half of the animals they sell in pet shops have to be sourced from animal shelters. This would decrease the demand to puppy farms significantly. I also think more education needs to be done, and while I think the RSPCA has done a significant amount of education, there is room for more and it can be done in pet shops and by breeders.