

**Submission  
No 302**

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

**Name:** Dr Harry Cooper  
**Date Received:** 15/06/2015

Good Morning David,

My name is Dr. Harry Cooper. I have been a veterinarian for almost 50 years, practising in both N.S.W. , Tasmania, and in the U.K. During that time I have been exposed to both the best and worst examples of dog breeding, and the associated facilities.

In light of my experience I would like to make the following recommendations.

- 1] The only practical way to control dog breeding in this state is by regulation. It matters not whether these premises breed pure bred dogs for show purposes, pure bred dogs for general sale to the public, or cross bred [the so called 'designer dog'] dogs. This should involve a licensing system and include regular appraisals from members of the veterinary profession. Individuals who breed native animals such as birds and reptiles are bound by such a licensing system, with the necessity to submit annual reports.
- 2] All dogs housed in such licensed premises must be microchipped for means of identification, and have a suitable record of vaccinations, worming procedures etc. to ensure good health is maintained.
- 3] All females in these premises should be limited to one litter per annum. [ I believe this is the current policy in place with most pure bred societies].
- 4] All puppies offered for sale must be microchipped prior to sale or at the point of sale, once again for identification purposes, in much the same way as cattle are identified by tail tags]
- 5] All such premises should have a name, registered with an appropriate authority, and pay an annual fee.
- 6] Persons involved in breeding activities at these premises must show some reasonable knowledge of animal welfare and animal husbandry.
- 7] A limitation on the number of breeding females on the premises should be set.
- 8] Consultation with the current committee examining Greyhound Breeding may serve as 'model'
- 9] Trace-ability is the only way in which unscrupulous establishments can be eliminated from the industry.
- 10] A public education programme to educate clients that only microchipped puppies should be purchased should go hand in hand with any legislation.

#### COMMENTS

There has been over the last few years a campaign to ban the sale of puppies from pet shops. I fully agree that those premises which purchase puppies from so called 'puppy farms', and whose animal husbandry standards are below what is acceptable should be prevented from so doing. Again this is a question of regulation, both of supply and on going management whilst in the shop. It would be a pity to ban the practice in an 'ad hoc', manner as there are many high quality pet shops serving the public ,

whose puppies emanate from controlled environments where they have individual attention and all needs such as medical, physiological and mental are well attended. Furthermore these shops are the shining lights of the industry, and if these standards are taken up by the government and used as an example of the way in which the industry should be run then the outcome will once again eliminate those who fall below these standards, from the trade. My major concern is simply that if the breeding is not regulated then the industry will go underground and puppies will continue to be sold, sight unseen over the internet or through local newspapers, and puppy farms will continue uncontrolled

I am,

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. H.L. [Harry] Cooper BVSc MRCVS OAM.

Dr Harry Cooper BVSc MRCVS

**Arcadian Welsh Pony Stud**

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