

**Submission
No 177**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Lyn Fowler & Dr Edward Walker
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12 June, 2015.


The Members,

Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales,
Parliament House
Macquarie St
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Members of the Joint Select Committee,

Re: Enquiry on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales

We have for many years been concerned about the unregulated practice of puppy breeding in New South Wales, which has resulted in a failure to correct cruel practices towards animals, including the mistreatment of female dogs kept solely for breeding, in confined, crowded and dirty places and the treatment of the puppies raised in the same conditions without proper interaction with their mothers and humans and denied adequate veterinary care.

We see the result of this failure to regulate, to be an oversupply of puppies produced for the commercial market and the practice of selling them in pet shops, as commodity goods, to reach a large consumer base. These animals are kept in small cages without their mothers or human contact, and without exercise. They are confined in these cages overnight in dark and empty shops and shopping complexes which must be a frightening experience for the puppies.

These practices must impact badly on the good name and businesses of those dog breeders who act responsibly and respect their dogs. They sell from their own premises and the members of the public that visit can see that the breeding dogs and puppies are raised in a good and healthy environment.

We submit that there is an urgent need to legislate to regulate the puppy breeding industry to stop puppy farming and other intensive breeding of animals and to ban the sale of any live animal in pet shops. We further submit that the legislation should provide:

1. That breeders be required to be registered/licensed following completion of appropriate training and regulated by a body independent of the **pet industry** which has enormous political power and influence in NSW.
2. Adequate powers be given to the independent body which is established, to regulate registration, regularly inspect and certify breeding establishments, investigate complaints, other than cruelty complaints which fall within the jurisdiction of the RSPCA, prosecute breaches and conduct education programs for breeders and the general public

3. Regulations to impose enforceable standards as to the conditions of raising animals for sale, the numbers of breeding animals that a breeder is allowed to keep and the keeping of proper records on the breeding and sale of each animal.
4. Amendment to the Companion Animals Register to include the breeder's licence number .
5. The compulsory micro chipping of cats and dogs prior to sale or transfer and that the breeder's details be attached to the animal record on the microchip register.
6. All sellers be required to provide an animal's microchip number or the licence number of the breeder of the animal, in all advertisements, and at the point of sale.
7. The prohibition of the sale of live animals, including reptiles, birds, dogs and cats in pet stores.
8. Require that all government and private organisations, which euthanize unwanted dogs and cats, keep records of each animal euthanized and the breeder's licence number for the purpose of preparing statistics on the number of bred animals that are euthanized.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Edward Walker



Ms Lyn Fowler, Solicitor and Life Member of the RSPCA 