

**Submission
No 245**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 15/06/2015

Partially Confidential

To whom it may concern

We would like to submit this document for review by the Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW.

We are a small family pet shop operating in [REDACTED]. Firstly, we would like to provide our support of the enquiry into Companion animal breeding practices in NSW. We agree there are a number of changes required in the industry to stop sub-standard breeding of dogs and cats in what is commonly known as "Puppy/Kitten Farms".

However, we strongly oppose the implementation of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores.

Banning the sale of puppies and kittens in responsible pet shops will terminate the only transparent part of the industry and drive the sale of these animals into an unregulated market, making it much harder to enforce regulations and ensure animal welfare.

As a current pet store owner, we would also like to highlight some of the key reasons why selling of dogs and cats in pet stores is a positive for the industry and government.

1. We are visible to the public. We are open to scrutiny and audit regimes as we are in full public view. We have documented procedures and record keeping of where our animals are purchased from and we regularly visit our breeders to see where our puppies are coming from. We are also required to work under strict regulations.
2. Being a small business, we support the economy through the employment of a number of young Australians. Pet shops are a good career starting point for young Australians to help them move forward into future careers such as Vets, Zookeepers, Animal Welfare agents.
3. Being a registered business, we support the government by collecting GST on the sale of all our animals and of paying business tax each financial year.

We would also like to dispute some the claims being made about pet stores.

1. Our location does not support impulse buying of puppies and kittens as we are not located in a high traffic area where there are a lot of walk in's. Anyone wanting to buy one of our animals has to specifically come to our store.
2. We have enclosures for our puppies that substantially exceed the minimum requirements. All our runs are open air 2.9m long x 1m wide pens allowing ample space for all puppies to run and play freely. We even have a "large" pen (2.9m long x 1.5m wide) for any larger breed pups that we have in store

We believe there is a more reasonable solution to end puppy factories across Australia by introducing a self-funding licensing system for all breeders and pet shops. The fee charged will cover the cost of independent inspectors to visit breeders and pet shops to enforce compliance. This will ensure that animal welfare is the focus when either breeding or selling puppies and kittens.

This will also provide a more transparent and accountable system for **everyone** in the industry no matter what channel is being used to sell the animals – pet shop, online services or direct from registered breeder.

Thank you for taking the time to read our submission.

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[REDACTED]
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