


**Submission  
No 324**

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

Name: Name Suppressed  
Date Received: 16/06/2015

*Partially Confidential*



Date - 15<sup>th</sup> June 2015


To The - **JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES**



**Re – Submission for the Parliamentary Enquiry on – Puppy Factories**

To – The Joint Select Committee

Like all ethical retail operators, we too welcome this enquiry and are grateful for this opportunity to contribute during this period of review in the lead up to the final report and recommendations in August. The outcome here must result in the greater visibility and accountability of all facets of our industry and the associated stakeholders. As this will ultimately lead to improved animal welfare standards and allow for well informed decisions to be made in the future.

 is small family owned and established business. We have been operating for almost 10 years and employ approx. 9 staff. We pride ourselves in our non-compromising approach to delivering the highest standards of animal care within the Retail Pet Industry – as we do so to comply with the standards as laid out by the PIAA and Code of Practice – Animals in Pet Shops. By operating within the scope of these documented requirements – every animal transaction, health and hygiene requirement, dietary need, housing and enrichment requirement are delivered; AND open to daily scrutiny from any concerned party – The Public, Animal Welfare, RSPCA etc. The model that we operate within offers visibility and accountability and will assist in the Banning of Puppy Farms.

We are very selective when accepting animals for resale through our store. I prefer that our animals be sourced from local families who share our ideals and the PIAA's directive on welfare and breeding, but we may also purchase from ethical commercial breeders who comply with the PIAA Breeder Requirements. When our customers come to us, searching for the new addition to their family, we are able to supply a puppy that has come from a loving environment. To source from complying breeders may mean that my supply of puppies is somewhat restricted and inconsistent – often our enclosures are empty - this is our ethical choice.

As a compliant operator I can honestly state that my business would not be viable without the ability to sell puppies in-store. And as we can be scrutinised at any time and without notice – not conforming would simply jeopardise my current operation and my ethical stance. We offer visibility and accountability across the entire process - Compliant Retail Operators have to be seen as the solution to the matter of BANNING PUPPY FARMS.

PRIVATE IN CONFIDENCE

### **Development thus far – Compliant Retail Operators**

- Operate within the PIAA Animal Welfare Code of Practice NSW DPI – Animals in Pet Shops, and are regulated.
- Satisfy the requirements of the PIAA Dogs Lifetime Guarantee Policy on Traceability & Re-Homing. Animals sourced from us have come from Compliant Breeders and are Guaranteed to have a Home For Life (will never burden the RSPCA and Animal Welfare Shelters)
- Maintain log books and document all transactions. Our puppies are sold Microchipped only. We offer open book visibility of the process.
- Cannot purchase from Puppy Farms

### **The implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores (Discussion Point D)**

Like all Compliant Retail Operators I am gravely concerned that if the sale of dogs and cats is banned from pet stores, then the surge on demand will push the supply underground and hence add to the whole unregulated dilemma. As it is, there are insufficient resources to police back yards – and authorities have no visibility of unscrupulous operators. This could only lead to greater Animal Welfare issues and further burden the RSPCA and Animal Welfare Shelters.

### **Opportunities for the PIAA and their members**

- Review the current Code of Practice for opportunities to improve current standards, as we become better educated we need to share best practice and benchmark levels of care. Invite comment and recommendations from all stake holders and industry professionals
- To become a self-funded/regulated body. This will allow the PIAA to enforce compliancy and OR help fund the current authorities.
- Support the motion for a Licencing Model, for the Sale of Animals in Pets Shops. Licence granted only to Compliant - PIAA Retail Member Operators. Funds raised through licencing and membership growth may assist in funding the regulating process.

This is a matter that no ethical Pet Retail Operator takes lightly. Sadly the enquiry is warranted, but I'm confident that a logical solution that delivers on addressing Welfare Issues can easily be reached. And that the current Code of Practice and the PIAA Dogs Lifetime Guarantee Policy on Traceability & Re-Homing could be part of the solution – long term.

We thank you again for this opportunity and are happy to be involved in any further consultation regarding this matter.

Kind Regards

