

**Submission
No 108**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Paula Rose

Date Received: 8/06/2015

To: The Joint Select Committee on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW

Re: Inquiry into Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales

Every year thousands of dogs are churned out of puppy factories which show little regard for their health and welfare or pet over-population.

The breeding dogs generally spends most of their lives in pens with very little social interaction or exercise. Puppy factories will sell to anyone, wholesale and retail, and by any means, on-line, through pet shops, via newspapers and car boot sales or by using a false house as a "shop front". Some puppy factories actually operate the pet shops in addition to their breeding facility, where they then sell their puppies to the unsuspecting public.

Puppies born in puppy factories often have long-term health and behavioural problems as a result of poor housing conditions, poor maternal nutrition and a lack of adequate socialisation during the crucial first few weeks of life. Other problems associated with puppy factories include over breeding, in-breeding, minimal veterinary care and high mortality rates for puppies.

RSPCA Inspectors have seized dogs from puppy factories where hundreds of breeding females have been kept in cages in appalling conditions. Both crossbreeds and purebreds can be mass-produced in puppy factories (although the purebreds are unlikely to be registered as pedigree dogs).

Puppy factories are legally permitted to operate under local council permits despite serious animal welfare concerns. Legislation only dictates the most basic of animal welfare standards, which are not acceptable to the community.

The laws governing puppy factories are inadequate at best, and need to be completely overhauled. The NSW State Government has a responsibility to fix this problem and has the power to make it harder for puppy factories to operate.

The NSW Government should require all breeders to obtain a state government licence to breed dogs. Make licencing conditional on compliance with a Code of Practice outlining enforceable standards.

*This should include a Veterinarians clearance certificate yearly for each dog. Also an agency like the RSPCA should be funded to carry inspections once a year and that this visit should not require a notification to be given to the breeder of this visit. (I do not mean that the RSPCA can sell their approval (tick) to the breeder but the RSPCA is to report to the licencing body of the NSW Government).

*Strengthen Codes of Practice to better protect the health and welfare of animals in these establishments for example limiting the number of dogs allowed to breed; limiting the number of litters one dog can have; strict description of their housing requirements; feeding; and daily exercise/social interaction time for each dog.

End the sale of dogs and cats in pet shops â only allowing stores to facilitate adopting through rescue groups.

Curbing the indiscriminate trade of dogs and cats in pet shops will also help address our countryâs companion animal overpopulation crisis, which sees countless animals ending up in shelters each year and thousands killed simply because there arenât enough homes to go around.

Puppies should be desexed prior to being sold.

NSW legislation should be amended to prevent puppy farmers from continuing their business while any legal proceedings against them are underway.

I appeal to the committee to always have at the forefront of your minds the welfare of the animals when considering these submissions.

Kind regards

Paula Rose

