

**Submission
No 254**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed

Date Received: 15/06/2015

Partially Confidential

Dear Committee,

Please consider and recommend banning the sale of animals in pet shops, and any other measure that would stop unscrupulous people from breeding animals for profit who do not ensure the safety and wellbeing of those animals.

I am the owner of a rescued dog. I rescued her from Animal Welfare League after she had been in their shelter for about 6 months. I would rescue more animals except that I am a tenant and it is too difficult to find housing with multiple animals.

Many of my friends also have animals rescued from pounds or shelters, and work actively to try to reduce the amount of animals in those shelters.

However, no amount of effort will reduce the animals in those shelters while backyard breeders can continue to sell animals they have bred to pet shops, and owners buy animals on impulse from pet shops without proper consideration as to whether they care for that animal for the next up to 15 years.

While people are buying animals from pet shops, other people who made a similar purchase earlier are abandoning those animals at shelters. Shelters are full. There is enormous energy spent on dealing with the consequences of pet shops being allowed to sell animals, and that energy is generally not being spent by those pet shops. I applaud the actions of those pet shops who only sell rescue animals. It is not clear to me why every pet shop couldn't do the same. But for the shelters, they have to deal with the abandoned animals, which means vet costs, and food costs, and utilities costs, and volunteer hours costs, and sheer misery cost when animals at shelters are killed because there is not enough room for them.

I can see it being raised as an argument against any of these measures that it will affect pet shop owners' profits if they cannot sell animals. I don't think this argument can be sustained. I do not buy any pet products from pet shops that sell animals. I buy my pet products from PetBarn, which is the big yellow building which can now commonly be seen near major shopping centres. PetBarn do not sell puppies and kittens at their shops. And yet they still appear to be making a significant profit. The argument that you can't run a pet shop and make profits without selling animals is clearly not correct.

Banning the sale of animals in pet shops will not solve the problem. But it is certainly a very good first step.

Other States have taken or are considering this step. NSW really needs to too.

Yours sincerely

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