

**Submission
No 315**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Vivien Ward

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Joint Select Committee
on Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW
Parliament House
Macquarie Street
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Sir / Madam

As a member of the public I am pleased that this inquiry is being held. There have been reports in the media showing negligent, even cruel, treatment of dogs in 'puppy farms'. It is surprising that it is difficult for authorities to act even when there are clear cases of inhumane animal management practices.

The automatic assumption I had was that people who breed dogs must have a great fondness for their animals. Certainly there must be people who are passionate about particular breeds and are devoted to maintaining those breeds at the highest possible standards. Similarly I would expect that breeders of popular mixed-breeds would be equally caring. However it seems that this is not always the case.

There could surely be no objection to a **strict system of licensing for pet breeding businesses**. All those breeders doing the right thing would surely welcome this as well, to remove any sense of stigma against the industry as a whole. **An enforceable system based on a high standard of animal caring and allowing for inspections - and loss of licence if necessary - seems to be required.**

I would think that in Australia there is an ethical expectation that animals are treated well, in all situations. A lot of people nowadays seem to have 'rescue' animals for their pets. There is a widespread wish to be kind to animals. I see no problem in breeding animals for pets as long as we can be certain that **enforceable regulations ensure humane treatment and outcomes for all the animals that are a part of that process**. Such protections should extend to the sale end of the whole process if pet shops remain as outlets.

Perhaps enforceable regulations could also help when undesirable backyard breeding operations come to light (e.g. for fighting, certain hunting and mixed 'dangerous' breeds). I would very much support that.

Yours sincerely


Vivien Ward