

**Submission
No 90**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Puppy farms and kitten farms are currently unregulated. It seems that anyone can set themselves up as a breeder. Sadly many dogs and cats used for breeding purposes are kept in poor conditions resulting in multiple health problems, as documented in recent high profile media coverage . Their offspring are then sold for exorbitant prices in pet shops or via [REDACTED]. Meanwhile there are large numbers of unwanted animals dumped into inadequately funded pounds throughout the state. It is largely through the work of volunteer animals rescue groups that a small percentage of these animals are rehomed, often after having had extensive vet work and behavioural rehabilitation. Surely with so many animals desperate for homes there is no need for puppy/kitten farms. Rather, there is a need for government funded de-sexing programs together with public education programs on responsible care of domestic animals. There is also a need for adequate funding for the efficient administration of pounds throughout the state so animals who are placed there can maintain their health and be rehomed. Pet shops should be able to sell rescued animals, and all animals sold should be de-sexed, wormed, flea treated and micro chipped. This investment in the above mentioned programs now would mean less stray and unwanted animals in the future.