

**Submission
No 216**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed

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Partially Confidential

As a PIAA (Pet Industry Association of Australia) Retailer we would like to address the implications of banning the sale of puppies and kittens in PIAA Pet Stores. Simply banning the sale of all puppies and kittens from Pet stores, will drive the sales on line where the real issues are. With no transparency in their dealings, it will be harder to police the breeders are abiding by any regulations.

PIAA pet stores inform potential customers of everything they need to know when purchasing a puppy or kitten and take care in ensuring the right decision is made. We are not going anywhere and the majority of our customers are local and come for ongoing advice and guidance. Banning puppy and kitten sales will mean the end of the independent pet store, while increasing online sales where they are able to ask any price for the animals they sell and less information supplied to customers which ultimately affects the welfare of the puppies and kittens sold.

We fully support stricter legislation to safeguard the good breeders and Pet Stores in the industry. PIAA Pet stores are transparent in all their dealings and abide by a code of ethics. PIAA'S dog traceability and lifetime rehoming ensures that all breeders used by a PIAA pet store have been vet checked annually to ensure they are responsible breeders. PIAA's proposal of a self funded licensing system administered by RSPCA or another Pet Industry Body, can ensure the good practices already in place by PIAA Pet Stores are adhered to.

Combining the vet audits with breeder licenses will ensure the breeders are abiding by best breeding practices. Any breeders advertising directly on line should require a licence to do so.