

**Submission
No 149**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: This letter represents 24 submissions
Name: Name Suppressed
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Partially Confidential

The key points set out below are critical to stop puppy farming and other intensive breeding by ensuring breeder identification, traceability and adherence to enforceable standards.

1. Proposals to limit the number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders

Limiting the number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders is supported

2. Calls to implement a breeders' licensing system

A breeder licensing system should be established without exemption. For example, there must be no exemptions for members of breeder associations.

The Companion Animals Register should be updated to capture breeder licence information for each animal record.

Compulsory microchipping of cats and dogs prior to sale or transfer must be implemented. The breeder's details must be attached to the animal record on the microchip register.

3. The implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores

Many of the welfare issues in pet stores would disappear

An avenue for the sale of puppies and kittens from puppy and kitten farms would be removed

They may promote the adoption of rescue dogs and cats

4. Any legislative changes that may be required

The NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice – Breeding Dogs and Cats should be revised to ensure that the existing guidelines it contains become enforceable standards. Enforceable standards for other species must be developed.

All sellers should be required by legislation to display an animal's microchip number or the licence number of the breeder of the animal in all advertisements, and at the point of sale.

The Companion Animals Regulation should be amended to remove the existing provision that allows recognised breeders to sell unmicrochipped cats or dogs to pet shops.

Monitoring and enforcement operations should be shared between local government animal management officers and state and territory RSPCA Inspectors. A targeted inspections regime including both proactive (unannounced) inspections and reactive inspections should be developed.

State and territory animal management and welfare legislation must provide mechanisms for the relevant prosecuting agency to apply for effective court orders relating to the ongoing ownership of the animals, the costs associated with ongoing care of the animals, and prohibiting the defendant(s) from continuing to engage in breeding activities while the matter is before the courts.