

**Submission
No 133**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Submission

Companion Animal Breeding Practices in New South Wales (Inquiry)

I am strongly opposed to the current commercial animal breeding practices in NSW. I am also strongly opposed to the sale of animals in the pet shops.

Companion animals are very important for people. They offer friendship and support to people. They are a source of joy love and happiness in life for many people including children. The current practices resemble a slavery system of a past era. No one has the right to mistreat another living being.

- **Currently situation in New South Wales**

1. Animal breeders are breeding animals for easy profit regardless of animal welfare and any basic human decency. The current practice is without any regard and feelings for animals and the people who are concerned with animal welfare.
2. Some money-hungry people are making a living out of the pain and suffering of animals. Particularly some people from Asian countries have practices that are abhorrent and unacceptable to the majority of people in Australia.
3. As a result there is an over-breeding of animals for profit and a vast number of animals is being slaughtered, euthanised or dumped and neglected.
4. **On the other side numerous organisations and individuals are investing, struggling and donating funds to save these animals, attempting to find a home for them. This is a hard, heart breaking and loosing battle. The current lack of regulation or even a decent system for animal care requires a major change. Enough is enough.**

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

This number should be limited to 0.

The only organisations to be involved in adoption of animals should be the RSPCA and animal welfare organisations. Any business interest must be excluded. This cannot be a money making activity. Adoption practices have to be tightened where people are buying these animals like toys and when they grow they dump them in shelters to be rescued by other people who care for animals. This is completely unfair and unjust and it has to stop.

- **Calls to implement a breeders' licensing system**

1. It is well known that pure breed animals are of a poor health with numerous genetic disorders and and diseases.
2. Until all shelters are completely empty and every animals is happily adopted no breeding should be allowed.
3. Breeding is not a business and must not be taken as business. These are living beings and our companions that we are talking about.
4. Please understand that breeding of animals cannot be seen as a "small business", it is in effect a serious crime.

I am personally sick and tired from having to rescue and care for animals that are dumped or abandoned by others. I am even more heart broken for those that I could not rescue.

- **The implications of banning the sale of dogs and cats and all other animals in pet**

stores.

The benefits of banning the sale of animals in the pet stores in enormous:

1. Avoid rushed decisions by people who are not inclined to look after animals properly in the long term. Think of the situations of a Christmas puppy or kitten where the novelty wears off and animals are dumped heartlessly.
2. Banning sale of animals in the pet shops will reduce the number of animals dumped or placed in pounds once the novelty wears off and the animal reaches adulthood.
3. This will reinforce the idea that a puppy or a kitten is not a toy or present but a life long friend and commitment.
4. Leaving animals in tight enclosures all day long is cruel and sad. I cannot forget a little rabbit in the [REDACTED] store some years ago who died in front of my eyes. Then a rude and insensitive shop assistant said that "The little rabbit is just fine".
5. The action of banning sale of live animals in pet shops was attempted a couple of years ago as it was clear that the practice is completely wrong and cruel. I sincerely hope that this time common sense and human decency will prevail. I urge you to ban the sale of animals in the pet shops for ever.
6. Pet shops have plenty to offer without selling live animals. They should be concentrating on educating owners on how to care for animals, establishing a point of advice for the pet owners, together with selling pet food and other products.

- **Any legislative changes that may be required**

1. Limit the number of organisation dealing with animal adoption to RSPCA and Animal welfare organisations.
2. Make the sale of animals illegal.
3. Make any profits from such an activity completely illegal and punishable.
4. Establish policing regime and impose strict and considerable fines for every individual involved in breeding and selling animals.
5. Increase fines for animal cruelty and mistreatment.
6. Provide additional government funding for voluntary organisations saving animals.

- **Any other related matter**

1. Improve regulation of animal food to ban toxic ingredients and preservatives.
2. Regulate fees for Veterinarian services to a reasonable level so that low income pet owners can afford to look after their companion animals. This is very important as grieving owners are regularly ripped off by wealthy hard nosed veterinarians.
3. Promote the value and wonderful impact that companion animals have on lonely and elderly people, children and the general population.
4. Teach people to be humane and responsible in dealing with animals.

Companion animals should be treated with care, love and compassion. Every animal has a right to a happy and healthy life. Breeders should be stamped out from this society. A responsible adoption program should be carried out only by RSPCA and animal protection agencies e.g. Animal Welfare League, Cat protection society and similar organisations)who are doing it purely for love, not financial interest.

In the end cruelty to animals is linked to criminal behaviour in people. Educating children to love and care for animals makes them better and more compassionate people and better parents in the future.

For a lawful and harmonious society both people and animals need to be looked after and cared for

Jasmina Moltter

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