

**Submission
No 233**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Ms Amanda Davis

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Submission to the Joint Select Committee on companion animal breeding practices in NSW

June 15 2015

Dear sir/madam

I am writing to express my views for consideration by the committee.

I am the owner of [REDACTED], we are a family owned business and have been in the [REDACTED] since 1993. We have an excellent reputation within our industry, and with the local veterinary practices – who often refer clients to us.

We do keep a small number of puppies and kittens in our store -as I am writing we have two puppies and two kittens available for adoption.

I have several points to make:

1. The number of animals being kept by a breeder SHOULD be limited! This surely is a matter of common-sense, however not everyone has common sense, so rules need to apply. This should vary by the size of a property, but a sensible limit needs to be settled.
2. Regarding the call to implement a breeder's licensing system – WHO will regulate this?

Purebred dog breeders are registered within their own organisation. Does anyone police their practices? There are many breeders who produce dozens and dozens of puppies a year. What constitutes puppy farming??

[REDACTED] registers companion animal breeders – again – who polices their practices? I was offered puppies by an [REDACTED] member who proudly told me she had 100 breeding bitches! I was HORRIFIED!! How is that not puppy farming?

3. Banning the sale of puppies and kittens through pet shops is, I feel, a very short-sighted response to a major problem. It simply puts the problem out of sight. The VAST MAJORITY of puppies sold in NSW are sold ONLINE. Have a look at any of the following websites on a daily basis, today's results:

[REDACTED] (today advertises Pit Bull puppies- supposedly banned!)

[REDACTED]

And finally

[REDACTED] - 962 advertisements today for dogs and puppies.

This was the FIRST page of Google when I asked to buy a puppy in Sydney. There were dozens more websites offering a link to puppies sold online. Each website has literally hundreds of ads offering puppies for sale.

The biggest problem here is that these breeders go unmonitored by anyone. Where are they? How are their dogs kept? How many do they have? All they have to do is

put together a pretty website, and people believe what they see. The awful reality is that these websites allow puppy farmers to hide from public scrutiny.

No one checks on them – indeed, who is going to?

How will banning the sale of puppies and kittens in pet shops address these concerns?

In short – it won't!

It will just put the general public's mind at rest with the sad misguided belief that all dog breeders do the right thing, and the pretty websites mean that all those hundreds of dogs are well cared for.

How silly!

PLEASE –

- restrict the number of dogs a breeder can keep (and MONITOR this)
- require a breeder to be licensed by all means, but put into place a way of MONITORING that breeders comply with regulations!!!
- Look at the internet as the real way puppy farmers market their puppies!!! This is where the focus needs to be.
- Work WITH the Pet Industry – who, as a whole, are trying to ensure that animals sold are coming from reputable breeders and have a lifetime re-homing guarantee.

As a Pet Shop owner, I am very frustrated by the idea that our industry supports puppy farmers! The majority of stores that do keep puppies and kittens are owner operated, and are run by people who genuinely care for their animals. They are not just a commodity to be bought and sold. Puppies and kittens become a part of someones family, often being treated as a child, and we are able to be a part of that journey. We are there to help them throughout the life of their pet, and we want their experience of adopting a pet through us to be a joyful one. We are constantly under public scrutiny, as the animals in our care can be seen on a daily basis.

There are certainly some shops that, in my opinion, have far too many animals at once. Perhaps our industry also needs further regulation. Why not restrict the number of puppies and kittens a store can keep?? Like a day care centre, numbers can vary depending on size of store and number of staff. Oh, how sensible!

It would be far more reasonable to work with pet stores to ensure puppies and kittens come from reputable breeders, are well cared-for in the store, and are going to good homes with all the correct information, than to simply ban the sale of animals in stores and leave all those things to chance!

Thank you for your consideration

Kind regards

Amanda Davis

