

**Submission
No 312**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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Dear Sirs

DoggieRescue wholeheartedly supports all the points below and provides the following points for consideration:

Companion Animal breeding practices in NSW

Current Situation in NSW in comparison with other jurisdictions

- NSW has the largest area of demand for pets in Aust. We understand that many of the puppy farms are located in adjoining states in close proximity to the Sydney market and overseas demand in southeast Asia.

Limit on Number of Animals kept by breeders

- This needs to be regulated effectively
- Needs to be transparent to consumers

Implementation of Breeder's licencing system

- This needs to be effectively monitored. Annual renewals should be required with signoff on annual licencing documents that lists standards for compliance. Independent audits should be a requirement as well as annual fees similar to public annual company reporting requirements.
- Breeders may try to avoid licencing requirements by giving an address in other states.

Implication of Banning Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Stores

- Partnering with rescue groups to adopt dogs and cats is a successful practice overseas and should be implemented in Australia. Indeed some pet stores eg Petbarn have already led this process throughout Australia.
- Such a practice would in no way diminish income to pet stores but rather attract additional customers who are always keen to spend when they have a new pet.
- Consumers largely show a preference to stores not involved with companion animal sales
- Banning sale of dogs and cats in NSW will alleviate a lot of pressure on animal welfare organisations.
- Banning sale of dogs and cats in NSW will make breeders look for other avenues of sale in other states of Aust and overseas.

Legislative Changes that are Required and Other Related Matters

- Public confidence needs to be addressed and transparency to consumers, so it is not seen as another smoke screen.
- Changes that are made in NSW will be monitored by other states so this needs to be done well.

Monika Biernacki
CEO
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