

**Submission  
No 291**

# **COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

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I wish to address the breeding of companion animals from the point of view of the pet dog buyer. I have had a dog in my life for all of my life and that spans 70 years. The majority of pet dog buyers could be assumed to be animal lovers and therefore interested to some degree in the wellbeing of companion animals. It follows then that most pet dog buyers would wish their purchase to contribute to the general wellbeing of animals rather than detract from it. Puppy farming and racing greyhound breeding both detract from the wellbeing of companion animals. With puppy farming it has been shown time and again that unscrupulous people churn out puppies for profit only, with little or no care for the wellbeing of the producing bitches who often live in shocking conditions and are overbred till they can breed no longer and are then discarded. With racing greyhound breeding there is no regulation around how surplus puppies are disposed of. Likewise, dogs who do race have no regulation around their disposal when their racing career is over and most racing dogs do not race past the age of 4 or 5.

Regarding puppy farming, this industry is simply unnecessary. The pounds and rescue organisations all over the country are full of companion animals who can easily supply the needs of prospective pet dog buyers. I would hazard a guess that if a two year moratorium on ALL breeding of companion dogs were to be instituted as a result of your enquiry, it would have an entirely beneficial effect in emptying the pounds and, in so doing, save the lives of the existing population of dogs by not bringing into existence thousands of new dogs. This would also allow time for an entirely new set of regulations to be brought in in order to make the breeding of any companion dog or racing greyhound (many of whom end up as companion dogs when rescued from euthanasia, as is happening exponentially as knowledge of their suitability as pets becomes more widespread) an industry governed by very strict guidelines. Regulation of how often bitches can be bred from and registration with a government body of every single puppy born in this country regardless of breeding. This would be necessary because to make the breeding of companion animals safe for the animals concerned it would be essential to be able to follow the movements of the animals just as with the movement from owner to owner of motor vehicles. This would make the new regulations enforceable because there would be a tracking process. This is a procedure which could provide valuable information with which to develop rules and regulations to reflect the required improvements in companion animal welfare and could provide a system which would also benefit the racing greyhound industry to show transparency. Most people would agree that they wish the companion animal breeding industry to provide humane conditions for their breeding stock but I would go further and say that we need to make the breeding of companion animals a tightly regulated industry with requirements of high husbandry levels, of being open to the public for purposes of transparency, of restricted numbers of breed bitches, of restricted numbers of litters per bitch, of registering of all puppies and of tracking of all animals, breeders and pups. The same regulations could just as well be applied to the breeding of racing greyhounds with no pup or dog being euthanised except for medical reasons.