

**Submission
No 55**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

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To the Joint Selection Committee,

In relation to your invitation to make a submission to the inquiry on companion animal breeding practices in NSW, I put forward the following in relation to the terms of reference.

- a) As a nationwide organisation our members are often exposed to the differences in practices across all states and territories in the country. As a person who deals across the states and territories on a daily basis I most often see that there is little to compare on a day to day basis in relation to living with, working with, and breeding dogs. The one exception at present is in Victoria, where new companion animal laws and breeding practices are being introduced as knee jerk legislation without proper input from all parties involved and affected by the code of practice. Many parts of the industry have been completely ignored, and many experienced and ethical businesses have been affected by the legislation introduced. As an example of this, some breeding practices have been forced 'underground', and people have become more aware of the legislation, and how to work around it. Creating such scenarios is highly undesirable because it make it much harder to police such activities. What is needed is good legislation, that is fair to all, that people want to willingly accept and conform to.
- b) Limiting breeders to a specific number of animals will not reduce the number of animals bred in ways that are already tolerated and legal. There are already multiple ways people in Victoria are getting around the limitations set in place, with specific reference to the numbers of animals per property set, to the point where people have even subdivided properties to create their own legal loophole to sidestep the legislation. Responsible, ethical breeders limit themselves. They breed for the betterment of the breed, and always have homes awaiting their animals. The idea of the "puppy in the window" ready to go to anyone willing to walk in and pay is abhorrent to them. Having people set themselves limits by having a licensing system that can be tiered, and catered to individuals, is far superior to simple limits on numbers based on property sizes, as a giant breed requires a vastly different care system to a miniature breed, yet basing numbers on property size does not cater to this.

- c) A breeder licensing system would be highly desirable, but only if introduced with other key factors involved in the licensing. An example would be making it compulsory for breeders to hold a license to implant microchips, implanting their own animals under license, thereby tying that animal to the breeder for all time of the compulsory registration of the animal with the NSW DLG. The breeder license number could also be included as part of the P1A form, requiring license numbers to be included on microchip forms for them to be registered correctly. With other regulations in place linked to the licensing system, animals could be tracked for their entire lives based on such information, and accurate statistics gathered on what animals end up in council impoundments, where they come from, what breeds, etc.
- d) No pet stores should be allowed to sell any companion animals. Period. No registered, ethical breeder would ever allow their animals to be put in a glass fronted window and treated as a sack of potatoes would be at a supermarket. The only implications would be that the bottom line of unethical backyard breeders and puppy farms would be affected, which is actually a highly desirable outcome of implementing such bans.
- e) Legislative changes are required across the board, and an entirely new code of practice brought in. Knee jerk changes to current legislation, which are near impossible to implement in a managed fashion should be avoided at all costs.
- f) The matter of education in schools, and to the general public in relation to responsible purchasing of pets, and the breeder licensing system should be looked at, as well as expansion on current education in place to promote responsible pet ownership.

Kind regards,



Carey Edwards - Director
Australian Working Dog Rescue

