

**Submission  
No 135**

## COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed  
Date Received: 11/06/2015

*Partially Confidential*

Our Ref: [REDACTED]

11<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Mr A Marshall  
PO Box 77  
ARMIDALE NSW 2350

Dear Mr Marshall

**RE:** [REDACTED]

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We refer to the above matter and acknowledge that we have been instructed by our client to write this letter to you and your office in the hope it may change your approach in regards to the proposed changes to the Companion Animals Act 1998. The fear our client has is that NSW will follow the example of Victoria and limit the amount of animals that the breeder can have.

Our client's run a respectable dog breeding establishment which breeds Spoodles, Cavoodle, Cavalier, Miniature Poodle, Shoodle, Purebred Cocker Spaniels and Labradoodles. These animals are well cared for and are housed in maintained shelters which are on cement floors, which make cleaning the area easier. These shelters are cleaned with high pressure washers twice a week.

The dogs are kept in groups of 5-6, with each group of the dogs having a sheltered area, this area then has a "doggy door" which allows the dogs to get out into a grassed area. Our clients ensure that the animals receive appropriate nutrition this is done through feeding them high quality pet food and all enclosures have self-feeders which are filled with quality dog biscuits. All of these goods are purchased from local shops and stock agents and therefore the money stays local.

The pregnant females and recently birthed mothers are kept away from the other animals so that the animals remain safe and they are fed morning and night on quality chicken roll and chicken necks and the pups once being weaned from their mothers are fed with beef mince.

Once the female breeding dogs have been bred they are then found new homes at 5 or 6 years so they have time to enjoy the family life. Our client is able to furnish your office with a list of people and their phone numbers to check if your office requires this information.

The legislation which has been agreed to by the Victorian Government is aimed at stopping the "puppy mills", our client agrees that these places should be closed. However the focus should not be done on number of animals, but rather a limitation on the amount of animals per pen and the conditions of those pens.

The current suggested changes to the legislation covers those animals which are not vaccinated or micro-chipped and again our client spends money to have all the dogs micro-chipped and vaccinated and the puppies are also checked by the vet and given first vaccinations before going to the buyer's home. Our client's therefore do not fall under this category and should the proposed changes to the legislation go ahead they will be punished by having the amount of dogs they can have reduced, even after doing everything in their power to ensure that they sell healthy and good natured animals.

The older animals are also tended and maintained by regular grooming and veterinary visits, they are washed regularly with a separate hot water system to facilitate this in a separate building. The animals have their own washing machine, refrigerator and grooming room separate to that of the clients. Our clients are not the type of people to have the animals subjected to the appalling conditions which are associated with "puppy mills".

Although our client does not wish to become part of the media circus, [REDACTED] would be willing to subject themselves and the breeding kennels to regular checks by authorities including the RSPCA and other organisations which have been established with the wellbeing of all animals in mind.

Our clients are members of the [REDACTED] which is a breeders group recognised by the Australian Government and our clients follow their strict rules and regulations in accordance to being a member of this group and also receive audits every year by local veterinarians. The president of [REDACTED] has submitted a proposal to the Victorian Government and would be happy to discuss this proposal with you.

In conclusion the proposed changes to the legislation which will limit the amount of dogs a breeder can have will destroy the income being produced from this breeding kennel. [REDACTED] are doing everything in their power to make sure the dogs are healthy and good natured. Dog breeding is a source of income, and limiting the amount of animals will also reduce their ability to create income. It is our client's instructions that we ask that before making the decision to limit the amount of animals a breeder can have, that first the government looks at other ways to improve conditions so that bona fide breeders are not punished for the actions of those people running "puppy mills".

Yours faithfully

[REDACTED]

Solicitor