

**Submission
No 265**

COMPANION ANIMAL BREEDING PRACTICES IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Name: Name Suppressed
Date Received: 15/06/2015

Partially Confidential

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this submission in response to the inquiry into companion animal breeding in New South Whales. I would like to request that this submission remain confidential.

I am a state government employee, hold a Bachelor in Animal Science and have worked in the Companion Animal Industry for more than twelve years. I volunteer with various organisations and community groups, such as Assistance Dogs Australia and Team Dog, and have had extensive exposure to private business, animal boarding facilities and regulatory enforcement of animal-related legislation.

I, along with other members of the community, am encouraged by Parliament's use of terms such as "licensing system" and "limit": it proves that there is genuine concern driving this inquiry. With extensive exposure to the hysteria and propaganda around companion animals, I am not fond of anecdotal arguments. I am supportive of a movement towards reasonable, research driven legislation that ensures the humane treatment of animals, as companions and as animals used for trade.

I would encourage the Committee to invest their resources in developing a tiered licensing system: one where companion animal breeders can be classified into categories, so that even "hobby" breeders are able to be regulated. One of the main aims I see in a structure like this is forcing accountability for ones' actions. I do not buy in to the media hype around "over-population" and I am not opposed to the breeding of companion animals for a purpose, including streamlining of positive genetic traits. I am opposed to a lack of regulation on unethical business and the unethical treatment of animals (including over-breeding of individuals and poor living conditions).

It would be a positive step for animals if those in control of their wellbeing were (at the very least) required to adhere to more reasonable, defined terms. These terms, if considerate of an animals' quality of life, and the ethical use of animals for profit, the Australian community might be more forthcoming with support for humane, practical breeding of companion animals.

Thank you for your time in considering this submission.

Kind Regards,

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