

**Submission  
No 184**

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

Name: Name Suppressed

Date Received: 13/06/2015

*Partially Confidential*

NSW is now out of step in comparison with other jurisdictions in Australia. Victoria have just banned puppy farming as a response to overwhelming public outcry about the terrible and cruel circumstances many dogs in these facilities are being subjected to.

If breeding dogs for sale is going to be at all completely humane then there must be a limit on the number of animals allowed to be kept by breeders. And the living conditions of these animals must be the same as all domestic/ family dogs. As a true civilised society we cannot on the one hand say that the expectation is that family dogs are treated compassionately and humanely but that breeding dogs shouldn't afford the same protections/ expectations.

There must be a breeder's licensing system established without exception. For example there should be no exceptions for members of breeder associations. The Companion Animals Register should be updated to capture breeder licence information for each animal record.

Compulsory microchipping of cats and dogs prior to transfer must be mandated and the breeder's details must be attached to the animal record on the microchip register.

Part of this process should include the banning of the sale of dogs and cats in pet stores as this would result in the eliminating many of the welfare issues that exist in these stores. This would also shut down a major avenue for the sale of puppies and kittens from puppy and kitten farms and it would promote the adoption of rescue dogs and cats. This should be a model that Finland uses where dogs and cats cannot be purchased from breeders if there are any available rescue dogs and cats available.

There have got to be some changes to Legislation. The NSW Animal Welfare Code of Practice - Breeding Cats and Dogs needs to be amended so that existing guidelines become ENFORCEABLE standards. Enforceable standards for other species must be developed. All sellers should be required by legislation to display an animal's microchip or the licence number of the breeder of the animal in all advertisements and at the point of sale. The Companion Animals Registration should be amended to remove the existing provision that allows recognised breeders to sell unmicrochipped cats or dogs to pet shops. Monitoring and enforcement of operations should be shared between local government, animal management officers and state and territory RSPCA Inspectors. A targeted Inspections Regime including both proactive (unannounced) inspections and reactive inspections should be developed. State and territory animal management and welfare legislation must provide mechanisms for the relevant prosecuting agency to apply for effective court orders relating to the ongoing ownership of the animals, the costs associated with ongoing care of the animals, and the prohibiting the defendant (s) from continuing to engage in breeding activities whilst the matter is before the court.

The conditions that currently exist in many breeding facilities around NSW are completely unacceptable. I know of numerous stories around my area where facilities have been inspected by the RSPCA. Conditions have been absolutely abhorrent, and animals are living in the most cruel horrendous circumstances, living lives of suffering, but because current legislation is so weak, the RSPCA have not been able to act and remove animals.

Companion animals bring so much love, joy and company to so many people in our society. In many cases they prevent people from suffering loneliness, depression and they are used to support people suffering major conditions such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. We hear stories of people with PTSD that may have probably committed suicide had it not been for a therapy dog. Given how important companion animals are in our society and how much they contribute to the well-being of individuals and our society it is disgusting that there are breeding dogs around NSW living the abhorrent lives of suffering they are. I have two dogs. I consider them part of my family. They make our house a home and I couldn't imagine life without them. They provide so much happiness. This is the least human beings owe the dogs that are being bred. As a civilised, compassionate, humane and supposedly evolving modern and progressive country of the 21st Century, it is time that we ensured all animals bred to provide companion animals can live lives of dignity and respect, where like the puppies they produce, they are loved, walked,

fed properly, cared for and feel part of a family. It is not acceptable they are seen merely as profit providing machines in the modern world. It is time to revise and bring into the 21st Century Companion Animal Breeding Practices in NSW.