

**INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH  
WALES**

**Name:** Name suppressed  
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Partially  
Confidential

I would like to see the establishment of an animal cruelty register via enacted legislation in NSW for both companion and working animal offences, set up on the same lines as the current Sex Offender's Registry for convicted child-based sex offenders to be monitored for life and prevented from engaging in work or volunteer capacities with children. The aim of having an animal cruelty register at both state and national levels set up will help prevent convicted offenders ever owning or having ownership, control or care for animals again and will send a deterrent to the community about not protecting the sentient state of all our natural creatures, by the life-long repercussions of engaging in cruel and abusive conduct with animals.

To set up such a registry would involve using the knowledge and experienced staff of the RSPCA, AQIS, Department of Primary Industries (NSW,) senior veterinary staff in public and private employment, registered rescue association leaders and community panel members with relevant animal-related experience to administer the list of registered offenders - all convicted of animal cruelty offences under the Companion Animals Act 2008 and regulations, plus any other relevant animal legislation. This division or board would then be able to liaise with the Justice, Children's and Law Courts divisions where cases came before them for adjudication, to ascertain if the matter was serious enough to warrant inclusion on the registry.

This register would operate practically along the same lines as the human sex-offences one where convicted perpetrators are prevented from exercising further evil in the community by being restricted from contact with the subject (in this case, owning or working with animals). Qualification for inclusion on the register would come from cross-referencing all convictions sourced at local, state and federal levels either through securing private prosecutions or those involving public bodies - police, RSPCA inspectorate, government veterinary cruelty cases. Registration would be published and the database made available electronically to all vets, public and private veterinary facilities, veterinary research/university locations, animal medical facilities, all registered pet shop and breeder businesses, boarding and grooming businesses, equine breeding studs, zoos and sanctuaries, plus accessed by police, legal, child welfare and primary industries departments where animals are used/located/required for service.

The benefit of establishing this register is two-fold for the community: 1. Legally it stops more animals being unnecessarily hurt and abused via a deterrent facility if criminal convictions are raised - once you are on the register you are on for life. 2. Societally, by identifying people who engage in this conduct and establishing a known database of offenders for further research at academic level into juvenile animal cruelty/adult offences correlations. This pattern of behaviour is already well-known and researched through child psychology and juvenile offending programs, but the linking of convicted animal cruelty criminal offending and community identification of perpetrators is missing.

A Member's Bill to introduce this legislation is also non-partisan - all members who love animals and recognise that while we are the superior species genetically, we are not the best behaviourally will consider supporting and endorsing enactment.

My desire to see this legislation come to pass comes from my years of professional pet-sitting in Sydney, where I am lucky enough to have safe, secure and indulged pet clients to look after. Having also volunteered in feline rescue work I have seen the other side - of abuse, neglect, unwarranted suffering, injury and insecurity, and just plain nastiness by some of the lesser members of our community towards stray and unwanted creatures. We can help prevent this occurring and also reduce the instances of current suffering with a 'Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Register.