

Submission  
No 48

## INQUIRY INTO ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS IN NEW SOUTH WALES

**Name:** Mr Mick Newman

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I would like to propose a number of ideas in response proposal regarding animal cruelty and I have added some ideas I feel should be considered in regards to breeding

The news frequently broadcasts stories on animal cruelty, Neglect and dog attacks. I feel that these are all linked and the common denominator is people that do not have the skills, expertise, desire, morals or financial means to look after the animals

There was recent story of a woman who didn't loosen her pup's collar resulting in it cutting into the dogs neck. Another woman that left her dogs to die locked in a laundry that gets off with a \$144 fine. <https://au.news.yahoo.com/tragic-story-behind-photo-dogs-dead-others-arms-062049442.html>.

A man ties up his dog's muzzle with cable tie, <https://www.rspcasa.org.au/muzzle-cable-tie-case/>

The was a little girl killed by who own South African Boerboel <https://www.theage.com.au/melbourne-news/berwick-dog-attack-family-pet-destroyed-after-attack-on-girl-10-20180305-p4z2v4.html> This is the same breed of Dog I introduced to Deputy premier John Barilaro in my local park which he remarked was a great natured dog. The never ending stories of puppy farms and dogs living in squalid conditions and so and so on. I am an ex-NSW Fisheries Officers and I find it suprising and disgusted that we spend more money on the protection of fish than we on Man's best friend and other pets. I feel laws can be proposed to stop the cruelty and arguably a number of psychopaths started of with killing and torturing animals before they moved on to humans. i feel that these measures should be considered so as to ...

1/ to reduce the numbers of dogs being euthanized in shelters around Australia and

2/. Ensuring the integrity of individual Breeds. I have also adopted an idea from what I was told occurred in Germany. The NSW government had to reverse the ban on greyhound racing but I think my ideas will gain your party votes without any substantial negative feedback. But First I have to make the following very clear so that it is not debatable in the future. The ideas I have are mine and suit my current position both family and financially. We are not breeders and confess I don't understand and yet to comprehend the problems that a Breeder may have. I hope a reputable Breeder may contribute. Either agree or disagree, I don't care, just explain your decisions.

My ex-Partner and I are both employed. We have no kids. I have an above average wage. Between us we own a de-sexed Burmese Cat. Two male South African Boerboels both desexed. We bought these dogs from registered breeder but I now regret my decision and fully support the idea of adopting and not shopping. I have had a rescue dog 20 years ago and he was great. (Pitbull X) and not at all aggressive.

We have the Dogs registered with local council and have RSPCA Pet Insurance. I live on a ¼ acre Block the majority surrounded by a 1.8 metre colour bond fence the remainder a 6 foot paling fence. After Considerable thought we have decided that in the future our dogs will be rescue dogs as long as we are of an age that is able to keep dogs and provide a healthy environment. We will consider and most likely down size our choice of breed as we get older. I realise that those people with the cost of a family may not agree with my ideas. I am declaring my financial/family position so that it is not a matter of discussion in the future. I understand that those people in different family circumstances may not agree with my ideas. Reputable Breeders may not agree either for reasons not yet known, but I hope they contribute. Feel free to comment. These are only ideas. With some "toing and froing" they may be improved and added to. I only hope people will contribute constructive criticism and not just plain abuse of my ideas.

So Here Goes.....

1. Ban Backyard Breeding, Puppy Farms and unregistered breeders imposing strict penalties for contravention. I understand this is the case in Germany, a nation that has provided the world with iconic Breeds such as the German shepherd, Rottweiler, Doberman and German Short Haired Pointer, Dachshund, just to name a few, all with genetic defects here in Australia and around the world. The first time I heard the term Hip-Displasia was concerning German Shepherds which at the time was Australia's most popular Breed. This explains that anyone that has owned what is termed as either, Mongrel, a "Heinz 57" or an "Abitza" hasn't had problems.

2. Limit the number of breeders per breed, regulating the price of pups so that price is not a considering factor for a prospective buyer, only the integrity of the breeder and their breeding program. Limit the number of dogs per Breeder? But I think a Breeder will naturally find a limit when the other proposals such as 125% x average number in litter were to be implemented.

3. As they do in Germany, Implement the position of Breed Wardens per Breed which insure the integrity of the breed reducing the chance of Genetic defects such as Hip Dysplasia, Blindness etc etc, and the breeding of Dogs too closely related. The position of the Breed Warden per Breed is someone familiar to the respective breed, to monitor and keep records of breeding lines as to ensure the integrity of the Breeding and "Breed out" genetic defects. The minimum relationship of Dogs permitted to breed specified by veterinary advice.

4. Breeders must have obtained receipted and provided proof or even submitted a "Refundable Bond" to the relevant "Breed Warden". A non-refundable deposit per dog that equates to 125% of an individual Breeds average number of pups. This ensures there is a market for the dogs and they are not bred just hoping for a buyer. For example a bitch of a particular breed may have an average of 8 pups per litter. The registered Breeder must have 10 non -refundable deposits of say \$500 just in case there is an abnormal increase in the number of pups. This ensures non wanted pups are not destroyed. If there are less pups or the breeding is unsuccessful only then is the deposit refundable. Or maybe the deposit will go to another future breeding already approved by the "Breed Warden" The Breeder may nominate a number of future pups to be future Sires and Bitches of their breeding program reducing the "125%".

I am sure that the idea of paying a deposit first will have some resistance but I am sure that people will eventually agree once people have faith in the "Breed Warden's" position and the strict breeding standards Breeders will have to abide by.

5. Breeders must submit a proposal of prospective breeding between two dogs providing information so that the respective Breed warden can look at the previous breeding lines and approve/deny the application. The cost of application yet to be decided although it is understood that the Breed Warden of a popular Breed would earn more than that of an obscure one. However the genealogy of a popular breed would require more extensive research. I suggest a portion of the Breeding application be put aside for supporting/promoting the particular Breed.

6. Pet Shops forbidden to sell dogs. This encourages prospective buyers to travel to the breeder and to investigate for themselves the breeding conditions. Helps stop illegal Breeding, example "puppy farms"

7. Provide one public website where prospective buyers can see such things as infringements, number of genetic defects in relation to a Breeder. Information on the Breed, etc etc. On the same website make it compulsory for vets to report cases of genetic defects etc etc. implement a "5 star rating" or similar for breeders

8. Reduce the price of spaying/neutering and make it compulsory for non-breeders.

9. Compulsory Pet Insurance???? ( I am not sure about this one)

10. No more “Free to good home Dogs” as they only provide an avenue for people not really considering the cost of a pet to “get out again with no real financial loss.” Possibly abandoning their pet etc etc. People should be sure before they buy. Instead of getting a free pet only quickly shooting it or giving it away “Free to Good Home” when they find out how much they really cost. Dogs not able to be advertised on Gumtree, Facebook etc. etc. and unwanted pets must be surrendered to a registered Shelter with a cost equating to two weeks of food, or sold back to the respective Breeder at for example, say only 75% of the original price. Remember you must be sure before your take on the responsibilities of pet ownership, hence the financial penalty.

11. Deaths of dogs, Pets should be recorded to ensure that a dog was not simply destroyed as they couldn't afford it. Not able to pay the Vet Bills is not a reason to destroy a dog. I met a breeder that killed all but the strongest of 8 pups because that is the number of teats the mother has. Has he not heard of bottle feeding. Some breeders are not dog lovers but only in it for financial gain.

12. Nationwide wide compulsory registering and microchipping of Pets to ensure the quick return of a lost loved one. Get rid of the local council registering and standardise regulations regarding dogs.

13. Free registering of Rescue Dogs. Regulate the price of Rescue dogs.

14. A campaign encouraging big companies, such as Pet Barn, Woolworths etc to discount pet products to owners of Rescue Dogs. I am sure that a large corporation would love to have loyal customers and to be the sole provider of food etc as long as they provide a substantial discount to the owner of a rescue dog/cat.

15. Severe Penalties for Person/s reported for cruelty or neglect of animals. A life Ban on ownership of a dog/cat (pet) for anybody convicted of such an offence and an intermediary ban for any person in the same household whilst the person convicted of the Ban remains a member of that household. This prevents a person cheating the system by stating someone else in the household owns the dog when actually they do.

16. Farmers/landowners and “Working dogs” exempt of the costs and registering and breeding requirements as long as the pups remain on the farm or given sold to another farm and spend their life as a Working Dog. Breed Wardens should still be utilised to ensure the integrity of the Breed.

17. Specify the time period between and the number of litters a Bitch can have. Forcing a bitch to have a litter every six months is cruel. I would hope a minimum of a year, preferably 18 months.

And finally the ones that will get some real debate going...

18. A Dog licence free or otherwise ensuring you are a suitable person to own a dog and have the ability to look after a dog, specifying the size; small, medium, large, extra-large, active breeds/lap dogs etc. etc. considering such things as space, security etc etc. This to be address specific and will have to be revisited if you move. Too many people are being attacked by dogs not effectively trained, controlled and/or secured. Children are being killed. People are being permanently scarred. Recently some woman didn't even think of loosening her puppy's collar. There is current legislation with the licencing of reptiles and you have to a kept a class of reptile for 2 years before applying to

obtain a higher class licence. Maybe we need something like this before people that think looking after a Maltese dog is exactly the same as obtaining a breed such as a Bull Mastiff.

19. Teach children how to approach dogs in school. Children due to their height inadvertently look into a dog's eyes, which are sometimes deemed by the dog as a form of aggression invoking retaliation. They smile at the dog why staring at it baring their teeth not knowing this is taken by the dog also as a sign of aggression. I encourage children to pat my dog but I am quick to intervene when they are too quick to pat before allowing a closed fist (not all dogs are as friendly as mine and a closed fist prevents a dog grabbing a small finger) to be sniffed by the dog. They naturally go straight to the top of the head which can be interpreted to being hit by a dog that has been mistreated. A couple of hours, showing kids how to approach a dog (and definitely not one that is on the back of a ute) and talking about actions that could be interpreted as threatening and warning signs/postures, I think would be time and effort well spent.

20. Revoke Breed Specific legislation: 30 years ago I owned a Pit Bull X Mastiff and he was a fantastic gentle dog. Look more closely to the owner and the Breeder rather than the breed. The Honourable John Barilaro commented on the nature of my South African Boerboel which is a breed that is banned in some countries. It is how you bring up a dog not the individual breed. Unfortunately certain dog breeds attract a certain criminal element. Case in point Bikie Clubs that not only use dogs as protection but also breed them to launder money. See point 23

21. People wishing to start breeding a future "yet to be recognised Breed". Have to provide multiple veterinary evidence of the success, design, need etc etc. There has to be a minimum number of people willing to breed the dog and promote and contribute to the success of the Breed. A Breed Warden has to be appointed/elected to monitor the breeding lines.

22. Implement a Statutory Authority to implement and enforce all of the above or improve and strengthen the RSPCA?????. As I said we spend more money on the protection of fish than we do mammals.

I know there is a lot to be considered especially the position of 'Breed Warden'. How is the position to be implemented? Is it a permanent position or could it be just for a term of say 2 years?. Can it be an elected position? What credentials does the person need to have. Maybe a retired Vet could be considered suitable? Or does it come from the breeders of that breed on a rotational basis?

Food for thought and I hope that some of my ideas have some merit provided by someone that has no credentials what so ever, only that has a love of dogs, and sick seeing all these dogs in shelters and occurrences of genetic defects with particular "popular breeds".

23 Please note that I believe that backyard breeding is a great way for the criminal element to launder money. I know a breed as small as a Maltese terrier can command prices of up to \$3000. If these prices of dogs are not regulated the criminal element has a great defence in explaining that large amount of cash in the house. There is no legislation to produce vet bills or even taking the dog to the vet if you can breed at home. The other side of the coin is an element people that cannot afford a dog but decide to breed to make a quick buck.