

**Submission
No 49**

INQUIRY INTO PUPPY FARMING IN NEW SOUTH WALES

Organisation: Hunter Animal Watch Inc.

Date Received: 20 February 2022

I am writing to express the views of Hunter Animal Watch Inc., an animal charity based in Newcastle and serving the lower Hunter. We offer subsidised pet desexing to pensioners and low income earners. To date we have given help to desex over thirty five thousand (35,000) animals since 1998, when we commenced our work. We are aware that many of the people who come to us for financial assistance have obtained pets from the internet, from third parties, from pet shops, but never directly from a puppy/kitten farm. In fact, they are completely unaware that such places exist.

We have looked at the Animal Welfare Code of Practice for the Breeding of Dogs and Cats in NSW. There are numerous Standards in which the word MUST occurs. Then there are the Guidelines, where the word SHOULD occurs.

Clearly the Standards are largely not adhered to, nor the Guidelines.

We presume MPs are provided with suitable background material.

There is no limit on the number of female dogs a breeder may use, nor a limit on how many litters a dog may be forced to produce. There are no mandatory vet checks, there are no mandatory staffing ratios. The conditions in which the animals exist can be squalid - concrete, cages, lack of hygiene, lack exercise. In other words, we are looking at extreme deprivation and cruelty, which can continue until an animal can no longer produce, and can be put down.

The Five Freedoms do not exist in puppy farms, and the RSPCA and Animal Welfare League are opposed to puppy/kitten farms. So is Hunter Animal Watch Inc.

On behalf of Hunter Animal Watch Inc.

Olga Parkes,
Hon. Secretary.